

Comm. Name POLLEYS, Howard E. No. 14093  
 True Name POLLEYS, Howard Eugene  
 Alias 16803

Sentencing Judge W. Lon Johnson  
 Date Of Sentence... 1-17-48  
 Crime Attempted Sodomy  
 Term NMT 5 yrs.  
 County Stevens Age 32  
 Received 3-9-49 Hght 5-6  
 M. Exd. 1-16-53 Eyes Hazel  
 Blood..... Hair Br.  
 Nativity Hardin, Mont.  
 Occup. Teacher  
 Released.....  
 X WSP 11/17



**Criminal Record**

SO, Colville, Wn. # 1318, 12-11-47, att. sodomy, /SP, Walla Walla Wn., #21591, 1-28-48, att. sodomy, 0-5 yrs. /St. Ref., Monroe, Wn., #14093, 3-9-49, attempted sodomy, 5 yrs.

**INMATES STATEMENT**

I was living at Hunters, Wn. During the first week in Dec. 1948 I had one of the boys on my basketball team stay at my house. At that time I was principal of, and coaching the basketball team for, the Columbia Union High School in Stevens Co. I slept with the boy who stayed at my home. Three or four weeks after he stayed at my house the team was broken up. After the team was broken up the boy complained to his father that I had attempted to commit an act of sodomy on him. The father brought the matter to the sheriff's attention Inmate's Statement and I was arrested on or about the 17th. of Dec., 1947. I was charged with attempted sodomy and the court appointed a lawyer for me. He advised me to plead guilty and I followed his advice and entered a plea of guilty. Before the Court passed sentence my lawyer died and the court appointed another lawyer for me. This one advised me that I should have not plead guilty but did nothing about the matter. On or about the 29th. of Dec., '47 I was brought before the court and the Judge asked me if I had any objections to being examined by a board of psychiatrists. I had no objections so an appointment was made. On approximately Jan. 10, '48 I appeared before a board of psychiatrists at St. Luke's Hospital in Spokane, Wn. (over)

**CERTIFICATION**

In accordance with RCW 40.14.030, I hereby certify that this is a true and correct 1-page copy of the record in the official custody of the Washington State Archives.

Source Governors, Clemency and Pardon Files

By G. Lopez Title Archivist

Signature [Signature] Date 11/13/2025



INMATES STATEMENT, (cont'd)

The object being to determine whether or not I was a sexual psychopath. The answer was in the negative. On Jan. 17, '48 I was sentenced to WSP.



Name POLLEYS, Howard

16803

No. 21591

Sentenced ~~6-18-48~~ 1-17-48

Board

Action

yrs.

Prosecutor's Statement

On Dec. 11th. 1947, the defendant was charged with the crime of attempt carnal knowledge of a male person age 15 by the anus. A plea of guilty was entered to the charge, and the defendant was sentenced to a term for a period of 5 years. The defendant has also had some trouble while teaching school up in Alaska, He was involved in three sex offense with young boys up there. The subject was discharged from the United States Navy, for Scandalous conduct. He served about two years in the Naval Prison and was given an Dishonorable Discharge.

Crime	Att. Sodomy	Term	5 yrs 6-5
County	Stevens	Age	30
Rec'd	1-28-48	H'ght	66
M. Exp.	1-16-53	Eyes	Grey
Nat'vty	Montana	Hair	Brown
Occup.	Teacher	Blood	



Record  
See WSR 14093  
Released a.p. 8-6-51

Inmate's Statement

There are too many facts leading to the fact that the defendant had been forced to plead guilty according to his inmate statement. There will be a copy of the Statement with this card. Trusting that it will prove satisfactory.





21591

Howard Eugene Polleys

~~XXXXXX~~  
1-19-48

File No. 16803

The circumstances of my case are as follows:

I was appointed as principal and athletic director of Columbia Union High School, at Hunters, Washington, August 15, 1947. The Students of this school are recruited from a large farming area. In the arranging of athletic contests it is necessary to billet participating boys in and around Hunters on the evenings that games are scheduled. This is a practice of long standing. On several occasions I had two and three boys staying at my home. These boys would sleep on a davenport in the front room, usually returning to their homes on the mail truck the following morning.

On December 5, 1947 we had a basketball game scheduled and all of the boys were either going home or billeted for that evening. However, one boy, Clyde Winnings, 16 or 17 years of age, failed to make connections and came to me requesting that he be allowed to stay over night. As I had an engagement with my fiancee, I sent him to my home where he went to bed.

After taking Betty DeWitt, my fiancee, home, I returned to my residence where I found Clyde asleep in my bed. Being unusually tired I slept in the same bed with him--this being the first time I had slept in the same bed with any of the boys--statement of the prosecuting attorney, notwithstanding.

Clyde woke me during the night by throwing his arm around me. I arose went to the bathroom and returning placed Clyde on his side of the bed and again fell asleep. I cannot definitely say that I did not attempt to commit this act, as I do not know. I can only say there was no orgasm and neither Clyde's underclothing nor my pajamas were removed. I am positive I would make no conscious attempt to commit such an act and feel that the situation evolved due to my pending marriage and the emotional excitability caused by sleeping with another person.

PCVA000318



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Howard Eugene Polleys

Jun. 10, 1947

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A few days later the third string basketball team, of which Clyde was a member, was discontinued, by orders of the superintendent. Clyde was intensely resentful, assuming I had dropped the team from practice, and to achieve, in his mind, justification, he told his father, not that I had attempted to commit sodomy but that I had fondled him during sleep. After discussing the affair with the prosecuting attorney Mr. Winnings swore out a warrant for my arrest.

The prosecuting attorney held me incommunicado for several days and talked to me at length--he offered to give me a suspended sentence if I would plead guilty and at my reluctance, offered to change the charge to "contributing to the delinquency of a minor." As I did not feel I had done such a thing the prosecutor then threatened to bring Betty, her family and practically the whole school, into court. He said he would see that I would never return to Hunters and never have an opportunity to marry Betty. He undoubtedly thought he was doing his duty however, he grossely misinterpreted information that I gave him concerning my work in Alaska and while in the navy. I have always tried to be honest and truthful and when he insinuated I had a poor work record and poor navy record I explained that I was involved in a minor difficulty in Alaska which resulted from a boy's being punished without his father's consent and that he could ascertain the extent by writing to the superintendent there, Mr. Pendleton. I hope that by the time my case comes before the board, information will have been acquired from Alaska that will rectify this misinterpretation. As for the navy incident, several men were involved with the son of a Captain, a maladjusted boy of 20, whom I was tutoring for an Annapolis examination. The boy was arrested ~~and~~ and all those

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Howard Eugene Polleys

Jan. 19, 48.

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connected with him. However, in my case after the facts were made known I was released. I am sure the report from the F.B.I. will indicate this, as this is the first time I have ever been arrested for anything.

I tried to employ an attorney to advise me and had ample funds with which to do so, however, there were only four in Colville and I was unable to contact any of them, the morning I was arraigned I was asked if I had an attorney and the court appointed Mr. Crinstead who advised me to plead guilty as I had no defense other than denial, and that as he had been the prosecutor prior to the present case he could assure me of probation. His assurance together with the abhorrence of forcing Betty through such an ordeal, resulted in my plea of guilty to the charge. The following day, Mr. Crinstead dropped dead. Mr. Tom Oakesott was appointed to enter a plea for clemency. At this time the prosecutor decided to enact the 1947 statute, concerning sexual psychopaths, in my case. Dr.'s Southcomb and Lewis of Spokane were appointed to examine me. Their report was that I was normal in all respects no evidence of any psychosis was present, and that if my conduct were considered reprehensible, it was normal in view of the approaching marriage and self imposed continency. Upon receipt of this report the judge and prosecutor informed me they would extend me every consideration. In his statement, a copy of which was given to me, I find he claims on 3 occasions I attempted to commit this act. This was a decided shock to me as nothing was mentioned during the investigation of other than the one boy, I had actually slept with. I have requested that statements from these boys be sent to this institution and am sure they will clarify the fact that no overt act or attempted overt act took place. It appears very unusual to me that if the opportunity

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presented itself as he claims, and still nothing occurred why should such an insinuation be made?

I am happy to say that Betty is standing by me in this difficulty and we shall be married upon my release. I love her very much and could not bring myself to subject her to the unpleasantness of a court trial.

In my heart I know I am not a criminal and neither do I have any criminalistic tendencies. I cannot honestly say I did not attempt to commit this act, I can only say that if I did, I did not do it willingly, and knowingly, and such conduct is abhorrent to me.

I would like an opportunity to discuss the above with the members of the board and answer any questions they may have. What ever action the Board deems fit to take in effecting my release, I can only state that I have and shall, maintain my self respect. I beg consideration and pray that I may be released as soon as possible, that Betty and I may start out life together and in our love assuage the grief that has been caused by this charge not only to us but those who are interested in us. Furthermore, I wish to state at this time, I hold no malice in my heart, I feel those responsible believing what reports they had, and in the short time involved being unable to investigate, did what they thought they should.

