

Berserk Gunman Shot By Marksman After Killing Three In Freedom Bid

AMERICUS, Ga. (UPI) — A hulking convict fell to a marksman's bullet Thursday under a pecan tree a hundred miles from the Florida town where, a few hours earlier, he killed three men in a desperate bid for freedom.

His terrified 14-year-old hostage grabbed his pistol and shot him four more times as he slumped dying over the beginnings of the foxhole he was trying to dig.

He was Melvin Weaver, 23, a squat, 240-pound life-term convict who started his brief, bloody tour through the limelight at Marianna, Fla.

He had been taken to a hospital there after being overcome by smoke when he set fire to the bunk in his jail cell. He seized Deputy Sheriff Aaron Creel's pistol, shot him to death, and then killed Deputy Allen Fench when Fench rushed to Greel's aid.

Hubert Mayo, who was just visiting at the hospital, stepped into the corridors to see what was the matter and Weaver shot him to death.

Forced Entrance
Weaver bolted out of the hospital and forced his way into the home of Dick Sangaree. He told Sangaree to give him clothes, then forced the man, his wife and their 8-year-old daughter to drive him north.

He ordered the Sangarees out of the car at Colquitt, Ga., and continued north. Near Smithville, about 50 miles north of Colquitt, he saw three youths standing by U. S. Highway 19.

Screaming to a halt, he whipped up both the pistols he had taken from the dead deputies and told the youths "don't move."

Two highway patrolmen drove up and Weaver shouted "don't move or I'll blow your head off."

Adding their weapons to his collection, he got into the patrol car, looked at the youths and said "I need a hostage."

"I'll take the little one," he decided. He forced 4-foot-6 inch tall Ricky Hale, an orphan, into the car beside him.

Weaver's wild ride ended at a two-room shanty by the highway three miles north of Americus. When the woman inside refused to let him in, Ricky said he figured "I was done for."

Took Cover In Grove
But Weaver ordered him into the pecan grove behind the house just as cars full of officers began surrounding the field. Weaver ripped off several shots, grazing the scalp of a highway patrolman.

Francis Weaver began trying to dig a foxhole under a pecan tree. But highway patrol marksman Robert Benson, carrying a .30 caliber rifle, working his way behind Weaver.

Benson got to within 150 yards of the killer. "I figured it was the best shot I could get and shot." He drilled the digging killer through the heart.

Ricky said he thought the shot came from Weaver. "I looked at him and he was scrounged over with a pistol in his hand."

"I picked up the pistol and started shooting at him. I just pulled the trigger and started shooting until the gun was empty."

Ricky dropped the gun then ran across the field in terror and leaped over a fence. Officers caught up with him on the road and told him his ordeal was over.

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) — A bearded college laboratory technician is the latest person arrested in the smashup of what officers call the largest counterfeiting operation in the history of the U.S. Secret Service.

With the arrest Thursday of Eugene Allen, 36, of San Leandro, secret service agents and Oakland police vice squad officers reported they also seized another \$200,000 in "near perfect" \$20 and \$50 bills.

That raised the total amount confiscated to more than \$1.4 million in bogus bills.

Allen joined two alleged accomplices in Oakland city jail. The two are Guy J. Smith, 23, 270-pound tavern owner and Joseph A. task force of 10 Oakland officers and five Secret Service agents Wednesday night searched Smith as he stepped from his car outside of Memoli's restaurant.

They then battered their way into the restaurant office to grab Memoli and hundreds of fake identity cards. They also confiscated \$1.2 million in counterfeit money.

The officers said Allen led them to the counterfeiters' "mint," an inconspicuous house here.

Allen is an electronics engineer by training and is employed by Alameda State College, he told police.

A police spokesman said that two more men "who have long since departed" were also being sought in connection with the ring.

Tom Hanson, head of the San Francisco Secret Service office, told his superiors in Washington that the money represented the largest cache ever seized in the United States.

State Tax Referral Measure Gets Title

SALEM (UPI) — A ballot title and a statement of purpose for the referral of the 1963 legislative package were assigned today by Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton.

The title, filed with the secretary of state, reads: "Personal and Corporation Income Tax Bill."

The accompanying statement of purpose describes the measure: "To increase state revenues. Abolishes federal tax deduction. Lowers personal tax rates. Provides minimum tax. Increases expiration rates. Effective on or after January 1, 1963."

When asked to explain the part of the statement of purpose which states the tax measure "lowers personal tax rates," Thornton told UPI, "The bill increases revenues because the federal tax deduction is eliminated. The bill lowers the tax rates, but raises more money."

Thornton explained "any person who is dissatisfied with the ballot title can file an objection within the 20-day period."

Howard's group still faced delays before circulation of petitions could begin, however.

As soon as the secretary of state is notified of the title assigned for the measure, a 20-day appeal period begins.

Thornton said there is no legal time limit for the Supreme Court to approve or reject the title.

"In the past there has been the feeling that objections to ballot titles were deliberate attempts at the Supreme Court to determine."

Thornton said there is no legal time limit for the Supreme Court to act. Many feel this is a defect in the law and should be tightened up.

He explained there was no provision in the law for extending the time for circulation of petitions in case of delays caused by a challenge of the ballot title.

The law requires signatures to be gathered within 90 days of the end of the legislative session.

Jack Thompson, elections supervisor for the secretary of state, said the petitions must be turned in by 5 p.m. Sept. 1.

Sept. 1 is a Sunday, but Thompson said the office would be kept open that day if necessary.

Thornton, who earlier this week was attending an attorneys general convention in Seattle, said he had planned to fly back Wednesday afternoon to work on the ballot title, but his departure was delayed by a bomb threat.

It lowers the tax rates, but it doesn't lower the take."

A petition to refer the revenue measure was filed by J. Francis Howard, president of the Citizens Committee for economy and Equitable Taxation.

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Police Bullets Fell Escaped Convict

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (UPI) — An escaped convict turned killer tried to elude police in a huge crowd watching a circus parade Thursday but two detectives discovered him in a tavern and wounded him critically.

Michael Weston, 22, was sought by more than 80 police officers for the slaying of a youth who tried to protect a girl the fugitive had slapped during a quarrel.

Detective Inspector Harold Breier and Detective Sgt. Edward Shaffer found Weston on a bar stool in an Eastside tavern. Weston, 22, had a red handkerchief covering a revolver in his lap.

When Weston removed the handkerchief, the two detectives fired. One bullet struck Weston in the left arm and the other in the left chest.

Weston's father told a reporter: "He's my son but he's gone berserk."

Earlier young Weston, who had escaped from a prison farm five days ago, vowed he would go back to prison "on a slab."

Weston's father voiced regret he had not notified officers earlier that he was aware his son had escaped and knew his whereabouts.

Pasco Daily Quits
PASCO, Wash. (UPI)—The management of the Columbia Basin News disclosed Wednesday that it has discontinued daily publication.

The board of directors will meet over the weekend to decide whether to resume publication as a semi-weekly, tri-weekly or weekly.

Theft of Go-Kart Cleared By Arrest

Theft of a Go-kart from the Stephen E. Oakley home at 1446 SE Douglas St., Roseburg, has been cleared with the taking into custody of a 17-year-old youth, who has admitted the theft. He has been turned over to juvenile authorities.

City police report solving of the case involved a chain of events. Oakley reported the kart stolen from his garage June 11. Later a 12-year-old boy brought a kart into LeBlou Motors and sold it for \$18.

A representative of LeBlou contacted Oakley to assess the value of the kart, and Oakley identified it as the one stolen from him.

The boy who sold it said he acquired the kart in a trade with another boy for some model airplane motors. The other boy had obtained the kart from still a third one, who reported he had seen a fourth person dump it out along the roadside. The third boy knew the fourth boy had had the kart in his possession for quite some time, and in fact had helped him repaint it. None of the first three boys was aware it was stolen, according to police.

California Couple Survives Air Crash
DELTA, Utah (UPI)—A California doctor and his wife returned home by train today after their light plane made a crash-landing on a desert road 30 miles north of here Wednesday evening.

Dr. Ernest Beecher, Covina, said he and his wife were flying the 90-minute trip from Malad, Idaho, to Delta when his war surplus TE airplane developed engine trouble.

The engine began to run rather rough and then the whole plane vibrated. I cut back on the power, then went through the routine of checking the fuel, oil and other instruments," he said.

"Then when we couldn't gain altitude I looked for a place to land. The only visible area was the road. But when it was too late to turn back I saw fence posts beside the road," the neurosurgeon said.

Dr. Beecher said the right wing caught on the steel posts, pulling the plane into the fence and off into the sagebrush. He said damage to the craft was considerable. The plane sheared off 18 steel posts before stopping in the sagebrush.

"We were shaken and tossed around but fortunately didn't get hurt," he said. The couple was returning from a urological meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho.

City Police Reserves Sponsoring Teen Dance
A teen-age dance, featuring both "pop" records and live entertainment, will be held at the Elks Ballroom in Roseburg tonight from 8:30 to midnight.

The dance will be sponsored by the Roseburg police reserves, with funds to go for the reserves' uniform fund.

The live entertainment will feature a local group, Spring Inman and The Vipers. Television personality Dick Booth will serve as record host.

Grass Fire Doused
A minor grass fire was reported to the Roseburg Rural Fire Department at 3:21 p.m. Wednesday at 944 NW Hill Place. The fire was out when the firemen arrived, and no damage was listed. Partly burnt sparklers were found at the scene by the firemen.

No Damage In Blaze
The Roseburg City Fire Department quickly doused a small grass fire Thursday at 4:15 p.m. on the corner of Diamond Lake Blvd. and Stephens St. No damage was reported.

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Mickey Rogers,
1120 SE Fullerton, Roseburg
(Not Present for \$25)

Name of winner of Mystery Prize:
Bea E. Leach,
360 S. State, Sutherlin
(Not Present For Mystery Prize)

\$3246 has been given away already by Roseburg's Friday Night Merchants. You may be the Lucky Winner this Friday. (Eligible Only If In Store 5 Minutes).

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Port Of Umpqua OK's Exploration For Landing Strip

The Port of Umpqua Commission Tuesday at Reedsport gave its okay to a further exploration of the proposition for an air strip on the Umpqua south beach, south of the present Douglas County parking lot.

The engineering firm of Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield, Corvallis, is being authorized to make a detailed study, including a survey, cost estimates and potential usage determination. The action, which was without dissenting vote, followed a sometimes heated discussion in which Salmon Harbor Manager Harry Ludwig cited an increasing number of Salmon Harbor patrons from inland communities who have urged the installation of such an air strip.

Petition Ready
Ludwig said that a petition bearing 100 names has been obtained, and will be available as an indication of the user potential.

E. G. Dunn, Port chairman, voiced strenuous opposition to the beach air strip on various grounds, including a concern that the Elkton area voters will object to such an expenditure of Port District funds.

Dunn and M. H. (Hobe) Durbin, Gardiner, had opposed the beach location for a proposed air strip, and had advocated consideration of Steamboat Island in the Umpqua between Reedsport and Gardiner. A preliminary survey by Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield, however, cited excessive development and access costs to the island site, and lack of compliance with aeronautic standards. The survey indicated that most of the requirements were favorably met by the beach location, correspondent Dawn Peseau reports.

Coin Club Sets Meet
The newly incorporated Umpqua Valley Coin Club will meet Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Coral Room of the Umpqua Hotel.

Club President Clive Stevenson requests all members to attend to vote on the new articles of incorporation. Matters pertaining to the coming S.O.N.A. show will be discussed. An auction will follow.

Herbert M. Waldron
Herbert M. Waldron, 68, of Glen Cove, Maine, died suddenly July 4 in a Roseburg hospital. He had been visiting a daughter, Mrs. Forest C. Loghry at Myrtle Creek.

Innocent Plea Entered On Reckless Driving
Russell Sherman Hunt, 18, of Fullerton St., Roseburg, pleaded innocent to reckless driving on arraignment before District Court Judge Gerald H. Hayes Wednesday. His trial was set for July 30. Hunt was arrested on NE Stephens St. by city police late Monday night, after his car reportedly performed unusual antics near the north city limits at the Stephens-Winchester intersection.

Ledford Has Parole Evoked, Goes Back To State Prison

William Edward Ledford, 43, of Glendale, Va., who was returned to Roseburg earlier this week by Undersheriff Lyle Dickenson, had his probation revoked Wednesday, and he was sentenced to serve 12 months remaining of an 18-month sentence to the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Ledford pleaded guilty to obtaining money by false pretenses Nov. 18, 1959, but had his probation revoked by Circuit Court Judge Charles S. Woodrich on grounds he had absconded from probation supervision and had indulged in the use of intoxicants.

Probation Revoked
The probation of Johnnie Phillip Cooper, 23, Taft, also was revoked by Judge Woodrich Wednesday on grounds he had absconded from supervision. He was sentenced to serve six months remaining of an original year's sentence to the county jail for receiving and concealing stolen property. He had pleaded guilty Sept. 9, 1959.

Man Booked
Booked at the county jail is Ernest Lee Timmons, 44, of 751 NE Garden Valley Rd., on an assault and battery charge; Velma Parker Bell, 47, Salem, charged with obtaining money by false pretenses, and James Michael McDonald, 26, Ogden, Utah. The latter was bound over to the Grand Jury from Reedsport Justice Court of Orin B. Collier on a charge of malicious destruction of personal property.

dicted for non-support of three minor children.
Roger Lee Marine, 36, of Seaford, Del., has been returned to Roseburg from Wilmington, Del., where he was in custody, to face two charges here. He is accused of burglarizing Sandy's Tavern and larceny by bailee. Bail charges was set at \$1,500.

of a friend, reportedly loaned to Marine the night of the tavern burglary, was not returned and found abandoned later in Portland, the sheriff's office reports. Deputy Ernie Wentworth made the trip to Delaware to return him here.

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