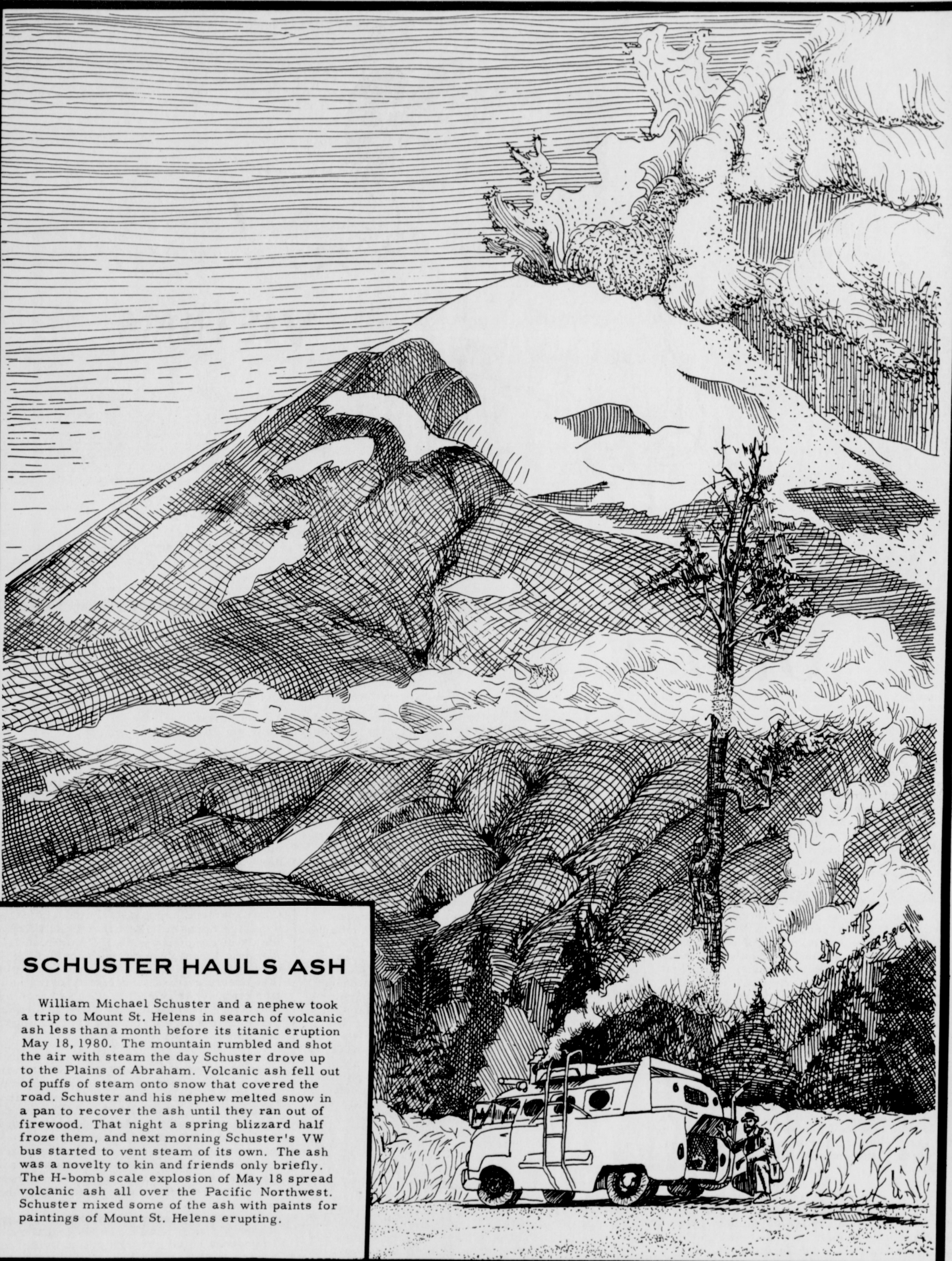
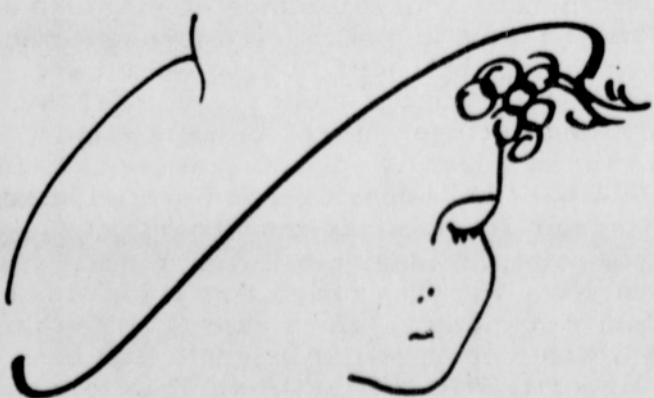


WM. MICHAEL SCHUSTER



SCHUSTER HAULS ASH

William Michael Schuster and a nephew took a trip to Mount St. Helens in search of volcanic ash less than a month before its titanic eruption May 18, 1980. The mountain rumbled and shot the air with steam the day Schuster drove up to the Plains of Abraham. Volcanic ash fell out of puffs of steam onto snow that covered the road. Schuster and his nephew melted snow in a pan to recover the ash until they ran out of firewood. That night a spring blizzard half froze them, and next morning Schuster's VW bus started to vent steam of its own. The ash was a novelty to kin and friends only briefly. The H-bomb scale explosion of May 18 spread volcanic ash all over the Pacific Northwest. Schuster mixed some of the ash with paints for paintings of Mount St. Helens erupting.



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