

## 2 to Be Shot at Dawn After Six Years in Utah's Death Row

By HOWARD S. BENEDICT  
POINT-OF-THE-MOUNTAIN, Utah.—Two condemned killers who have spent an anxious six years on Utah State Prison's "death row" go before a double firing squad at dawn Friday.

Verne Alfred Braasch, 30, Reinbeck, Iowa, and Melvin Leroy Sullivan, 25, Kansas City, Mo., have been in the remote "death row" section of the prison near here since their conviction of the Oct. 22, 1949, murder of a Beaver, Utah, service station attendant. The prison is located 20 miles south of Salt Lake City.

**Spared Three Times**  
Since their conviction, Braasch and Sullivan have been spared by legal action from three previously scheduled executions. Once they received a new life only four days before they were to be shot.

Warden Marcell Graham said Thursday that the condemned men "are gloomy and not very happy" about their upcoming date with death.

"They are anxious to get it over with," Graham said.

Braasch and Sullivan spent their last day visiting with Sullivan's mother and sister and with two Catholic priests—Rt. Rev. Thomas Mearns, prison chaplain, and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Moreton, former prison chaplain.

**Relatives Claim Body**  
Sullivan's mother, Mrs. Grace Agnew of Kansas City, and sister,

Mrs. Lillian N. Andrew of Needles, Calif., will claim Sullivan's body after the execution and take it to Kansas City for burial.

None of Braasch's relatives was at the prison Thursday, but his mother, Mrs. Vane Sweet of Des Moines, Iowa, visited him last week. It was not known who would claim his body Friday morning.

Braasch and Sullivan ordered steak and mashed potatoes for their final meal Thursday night.

**Final Rites Scheduled**  
Father Mearns will administer final rites of the Catholic Church to the two men before they are taken to the prison compound for execution Friday morning.

They will be strapped in oak chairs and black hoods placed over their heads before Iron County Deputy Sheriff Charles Wells signals the two five-man firing squads to fire. One rifle in each squad will contain a blank—no one will know which.

Braasch and Sullivan were convicted of shooting Howard Manzone, 21, Beaver service station attendant, during a robbery.

**TO FINANCE PAMPHLET**  
NEW YORK.—The Fund for the Republic has announced it will finance free distribution of 50,000 copies of a Department of Defense publication entitled "Who Are Communists and Why?" The pamphlet is one of a number of publications to be distributed free by the fund.

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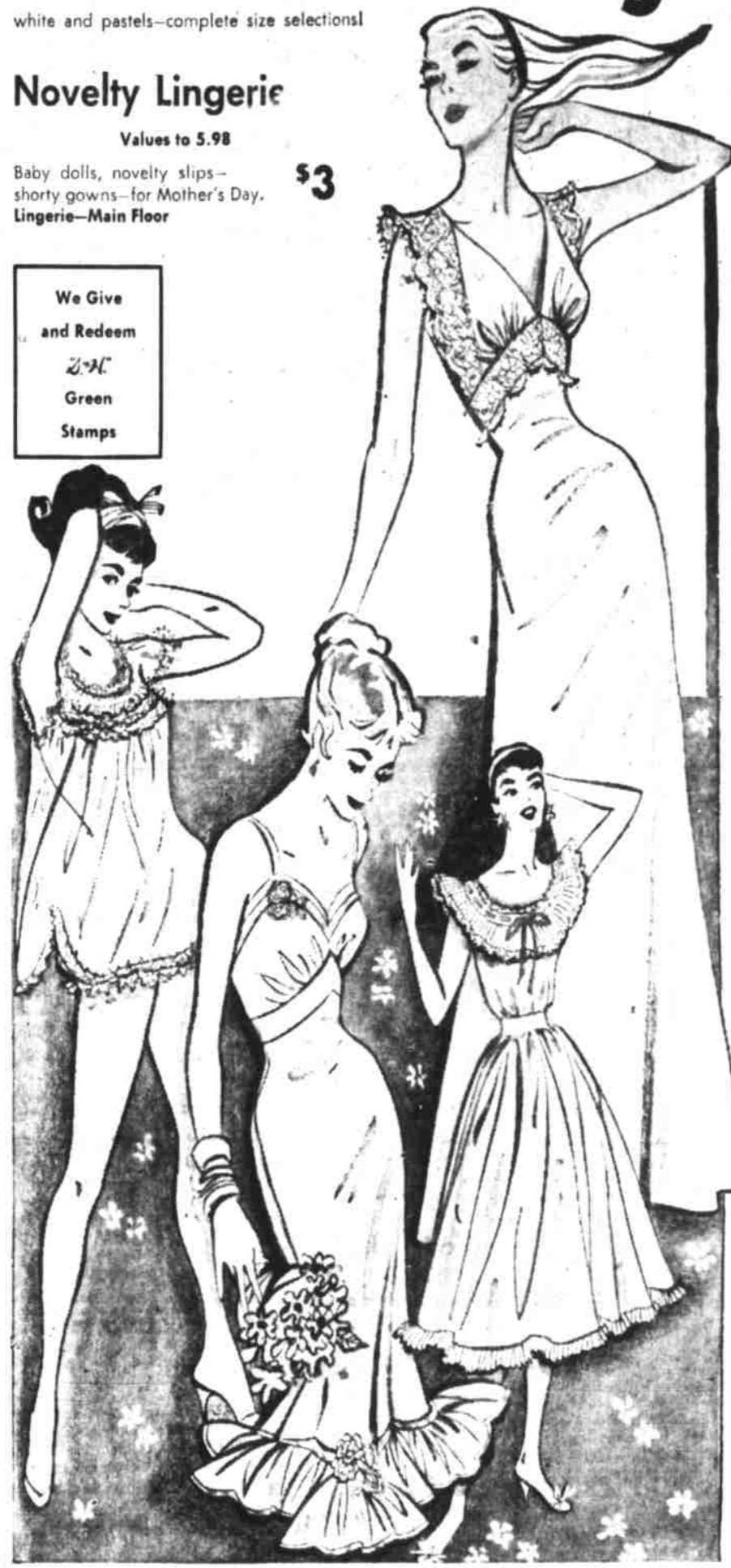
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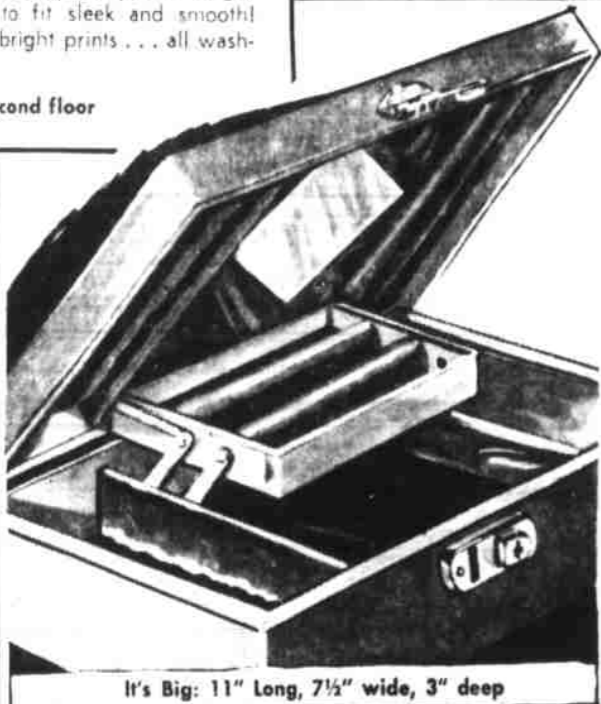


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