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Man-Hunt Ends With Arrest

GRANTS PASS—(P)—An intensive four-day man-hunt ended last Thursday night in the wilds of Josephine County with the arrest of an escaped forger.

He was nabbed in the mountains 14 miles north of Grants Pass by a sheriff's posse after a hill resident tipped off police.

The escaped man was William A. Thomas, 27, who broke away from police just before he was to be sentenced for forgery Monday. He had pleaded guilty earlier to the charge.

Police said it was hunger that tripped Thomas. He showed up at the home of Steve Matusek in the hills Thursday and asked for something to eat. He was given some sandwiches. But Matusek recognized him from a newspaper description and telephoned Sheriff Lloyd Lewis.

The posse searched the area, finally found him in an old tent along the Southern Pacific railroad tracks four miles from the Matusek home. Thomas insisted he had nothing to eat in the four days until he got the sandwiches.

Police were doubtful, however, pointing out that Thomas had somehow acquired warmer clothing since breaking free.

The actual arrest was made by Ed Dailey, deputy sheriff from whom Thomas broke loose Monday. They had just entered the courthouse when Thomas jerked free and jumped through a plate glass door. Dailey caught up with him, and they fought in front of the courthouse until Thomas again wrenched free and escaped.

In the hunt that had been conducted since 14 state policemen, 10 city policemen and 20 members of the sheriff's posse had taken part.

Sheriff Lewis said Thomas had a long series of arrests and was wanted for a prison escape at Danbury, Conn.

Wine Tax Bill Passed in House

SALEM—(P)—The House approved and sent to the Senate Friday a bill to tax all wine 18 cents a gallon.

The present tax is 10 cents a gallon on bulk natural wines, 15 cents on bulk fortified wine, and 30 cents on all bottled wine.

Rep. Heyman P. Hendershott, Eugene, one of the sponsors of the bill, said he believes the present tax rate is unconstitutional. He said the state would keep on getting its \$150,000 a biennium in wine taxes.

GOV. SNELL'S MOTHER DIES
PORTLAND—(P)—Mrs. Mattie Snell Phillips, 77, mother of the late Gov. Earl Snell, died here Thursday in a hospital. Surviving are the widower, three daughters and three stepchildren.

Farm Prices Hit Peak; DA Agent Buys to Hold Economy Stable

CHICAGO—(P)—The sharp break in grain prices appeared to have been halted Friday as government agents bought heavily to prevent a dislocation of the national economy.

At the same time, however, a spot check across the nation showed that retail prices still were falling on some food staples, particularly meat.

The government's aim in making the huge grain purchases was not to hold prices up but rather to make certain that any decline will occur in an orderly fashion.

Farm Prices Are Key
If the price of farm products were permitted to fall headlong, the effect on the nation could be disastrous. The government would

lose millions of dollars under its farm loan program and the income of the nation's farmers would be far below that of industrial workers and other income groups.

With lessened incomes, the farmers' demand for industrial products would fall off and a major depression could result.

Peak Has Passed
Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan said Thursday that it looked as though the "peak" of farm prosperity has passed and that the main task of his department henceforth will be to protect the country against the dangers of a too rapid fall in prices.

As buyers for the commodity credit corporation purchased intensively Thursday, grain prices rose until May wheat closed 3 3/4 cents a bushel higher and May corn was up three cents. Hog and cattle prices steadied in the Midwest. Hides, coffee and cotton and cocoa futures declined on the New York Market but cottonseed oil and rubber futures moved upward.

The decline in prices appeared to stem chiefly from increased supplies of farm products with a stiffening of resistance to high prices on the part of housewives.

The National Association of Retail Meat Dealers offered figures showing that retail butchers have reduced prices since last summer's peak so that round steak has dropped 28 per cent, chuck roast and pork chops 26 per cent, rib roast 20 per cent, pork sausages 25 per cent, hamburger and leg of lamb 16 per cent and lard 28 per cent.

STRICTER FOR THE BIRDS

BAYONNE, N.J.—(P)—Police Chief Robert O'Connor, without going into details, Saturday ordered his men to enforce strictly a city ordinance which forbids pigeons to fly over Bayonne unless they are licensed.

MERCY FOOD BANNED

BERLIN—(P)—Businessmen have closed the Western borders to mercy food shipments brought into Germany by the United States and British Red Cross, American authorities said Saturday.

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