

Sheep Herder, 84, Climbs Mt. Hood

Forest Grove — (U.P.) — A hiking companion revealed during the week end that an 84-year-old former Indian fighter from Forest Grove climbed Mt. Hood last Thursday in fulfillment of a life-long dream and then hurried back down in time to herd his flock of sheep.

Thomas Morgan, who had lived in sight of the mountain since boyhood, said he wanted to climb the mountain to view the land where he was raised "from a new position."

Mrs. Harold Dyke of Maupin accompanied Morgan on his first climb along with guide Dale Thomas of Timberline lodge. Two Oregon State college students, Ron Reeves and Marian Swaggart, joined the party and paid tribute to Morgan's agility.

A check of lodge records after the ascent showed that no one approaching Morgan's age had ever registered as making the tough climb, part of it over ice.

In addition to raising sheep near Maupin, Morgan recently published a book locally called "My Story of the Last Indian War in the Northwest."

Subway construction was started in New York City as early as 1869.

Justice Department Orders Grand Jury Probe in Strange Death of Maj. Holohan

Editor's note: Italian witnesses have been flown to this country to testify this week at a grand jury investigation of the World War II slaying of Maj. William V. Holohan. The following dispatch tells why the government is reopening this 10-year-old case, one of the most bizarre murder stories in the annals of American Justice.

By LOUIS CAS/ELS
United Press Correspondent
Washington — (U.P.) — Few things trouble the Department of Justice so much as the thought that somebody is getting away with murder.

That is why the department has ordered a grand jury investigation, which will begin here next week, into the strange case of Maj. William V. Holohan. Thirteen witnesses have been flown from Italy to testify.

Holohan was a small, wiry, courageous OSS officer who was slain under mysterious circumstances while carrying out a cloak-and-dagger mission behind the enemy lines in Northern Italy on Dec. 6, 1944. He was in command of a small detachment of OSS men who were dropped by parachute near Lake Orta, on the Italian-Swiss frontier, to establish contact with Italian partisans who were harassing the Germans.

Holohan's unit carried about \$12,000 in cash, and radio equip-

ment to direct air drops of U.S. arms to the bands of partisans. He was reported lost in a skirmish and was considered a casualty of war until 1949, when his body was found in a weighted sleeping bag at the bottom of Lake Orta, with two bullet holes through the head.

Italian authorities began an investigation, which soon produced confessions from two Italian members of Holohan's OSS team that he had been murdered by his own men.

American Names
At a trial in November, 1953, an Italian court held that the murder was planned by two Americans — former Lieut. Aldo Icardi of Pittsburgh and former Sgt. Carl Lodolce of Rochester, N.Y.

Italy tried to extradite the two men but U.S. courts ruled they could not be forced to leave this country. The Italian court sentenced them, in absentia, to long prison terms.

Because of a loophole in the law that existed during World War II, but has since been plugged, it is apparently impossible to bring Icardi and Lodolce to trial on murder charges in any U.S. court, civil or military.

Civil courts do not have jurisdiction because the crime was committed in Italy. Military courts are powerless because the two men were given honorable discharges at the end of the war.

If a similar case came up now, the military would have authority, under the recently enacted Uniform Code of Military Justice, to bring the accused to justice.

Justice Department attorneys have been pouring over their lawbooks hunting a way around this impasse. Now they think they've found it. They won't discuss their strategy in advance of the grand jury hearings, but some legal experts believe that the government will seek treason indictments.

In treason cases, unlike murder cases, it is not necessary that the charges be filed in the federal court having jurisdiction over the area in which the alleged crime was committed. Treason is a crime against the whole United States—and the charge may be filed in any federal court, at any time. There is no statute of limitations, and the maximum penalty for treason in wartime is death.

If the government seeks a

treason indictment, it could mean that Justice Department prosecutors believe that Communist intrigue, rather than robbery, was the motive for Holohan's murder. Some of the Italian witnesses told reporters, before their departure from Milan Tuesday, that U.S. agents who questioned them seemed to be "interested in the political background" of Holohan's violent death.

They referred to charges that Holohan, a devout Roman Catholic, had sharp differences with Icardi over the way in which air-dropped U.S. arms should be distributed among Communist and Non-Communist partisan bands fighting the Germans in Northern Italy.

Slaying Role Denied

Icardi, testifying before a House Armed Services Subcommittee which investigated the Holohan case on March 26, 1953, flatly denied any part in the slaying. He also denied any effort to get disproportionate share of arms for Communist partisans.

Icardi stuck by the story he has told from the start — that Holohan was lost in a skirmish with enemy troops who suddenly attacked the OSS mission.

Legal experts said that the government, if it fails to get a treason indictment, might seek to bring perjury charges against Icardi on the basis of his 1953 testimony before the House subcommittee.

Lodolce declined to testify before the House subcommittee. Earlier, in 1951, he had signed, and then repudiated, a detailed confession.

This confession gave a starkly dramatic account of how Holohan met his death.

Bitter Feelings

Lodolce said there had been bitter feelings between Icardi and Holohan for a long time, with Icardi constantly complaining that Holohan was not conducting the mission properly. Lodolce and two Italian members of the OSS team, whom he called Manin and Pupo, gradually came to share Icardi's hatred for the major, and the four of them began "in a joking way" to plot his murder.

"Somehow, from being just a saying, the thing became serious," Lodolce said. "It may have been a means of getting off steam — the fear caused by being in the general situation may have made us want to direct it against something tangible."

At any rate, Lodolce said, on the night of Dec. 6, 1944, Manin and Pupo fed Holohan a bowl of poisoned soup. The major became ill and went to his room, but did not seem to be dying. Lodolce said Icardi grew panicky and insisted that he and Lodolce flip a coin to see who would shoot Holohan.

Fired Two Shots

"I called and lost," Lodolce said. "Manin gave me a gun, his Beretta. We walked in. The major sat up and said either 'What is it?' 'Who is it?' or 'What's the matter.' I walked to the side of his bed and fired two shots."

"Manin, Pupo and Icardi picked up the major. He was heavy and Manin told me to help, but I couldn't bring myself to do anything. The major was carried to the boat which Manin had waiting on the lake. . . . Manin and Pupo rowed him out to deeper water and dropped his weighted body."

TO FILM ROBINSON STORY
Hollywood — (U.P.) — Universal International Studio said today it will produce "The Bill Robinson Story" based on the career of the late dancing star. The studio acquired rights to film the biography of Robinson from his widow. Robinson died Nov. 25, 1949.

SOUP FOR LUNCH
Camden, N. J. — (U.P.) — Police arrested three employees of a soup company and charged them with stealing cases of canned soup during their lunch hour.

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Guild Recommends New TV Film Contract

Hollywood — (U.P.) — The board of the Screen Actors Guild has unanimously recommended acceptance of a proposed new contract to end a nationwide strike against producers of television.

The board called a special meeting of the entire SAG membership for Tuesday night and predicted the contract would be approved.

The SAG's 10,000 members struck Aug. 4 in a dispute over

Wyatt Cites GOP Opportunity in State

Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — Wendell Wyatt, chairman of the Oregon state Republican central committee, told several hundred persons at a picnic here yesterday that Oregon Republicans have "unparalleled opportunity and challenge in the 1956 general elections."

payment to actors for the second showing of TV films in which they appear. Terms of the proposed contract will not be disclosed until after the membership meeting.

Wyatt, referring to Sen. Wayne Morse, said "we must meet the challenge of an opponent who does not represent the people of Oregon and who has used the party as a stepping stone to power."

He outlined some Republican successes under the Eisenhower administration and said the country had achieved prosperity without war despite what he called the "bitter and vindictive crystal-gazing" of Sen. Morse a year ago.

A Good Turn For Motorists



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