

# Game Enforcement Officer Has Busy Routine

## Search, Rescue; Arresting Only Part of Duties

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Search and rescue, climbing steep, narrow highland trails on horseback and tracking lawbreakers on snowshoes sounds like the life of a Royal Canadian Mounted policeman's life.

It isn't. It's the story of the nine years experience of State Police Sgt. Fay Holley who served as state police game enforcement officer, and a total of 18 years in the state police. State police officers and particularly those in the game laws enforcement section receive little public or official praise since their work is considered merely routine.

However, Sgt. Holley did receive an official letter of commendation from Former Governor Douglas McKay. This involved his aid in helping to locate a downed plane and recovery of the bodies of its occupants in the Fort Rock area.

**Answer A Letter**  
The letter was a copy of one sent by McKay in answer to a letter from a relative of one of the crash victims praising the state police officer for his work.

The letter states, "I appreciate very much your letter of Oct. 23 commending state police officer Fay Holley for the assistance he gave during the search for and recovery of the bodies of your brother and his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Blakkolb. The tribute that you have paid to Officer Holley and to the other members of the department of state police will mean a great deal to them and I am sending your letter, as well as a copy of my reply, to Mr. H. G. Mason, superintendent of state police."

"While Officer Holley has told you that he was simply serving in the line of duty, it is evident that he was interested not only from the standpoint of service as an officer, but that his humanitarian instincts were guiding him.

**Devoted Time**  
"The fact that he devoted time to the search outside of his hours of duty, and that he maintained such a constant interest in tracing the plane indicates his wholehearted desire to lend aid to the families of those who were lost."

The state police superintendent added his letter of commendation.

The Beechcraft plane disappeared March 21, 1950, and contained four homeward bound Portlanders who participated in an Oregon air tour to Cuba. They were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Blakkolb, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lundstrom. Blakkolb was pilot.

The plane wreckage and the remains of the occupants were found on a flat in the rugged country east of Newberry crater in the Palina mountain by two Hood River hunters area. The wreckage was found by W. E. Hamilton and J. J. John of Hood River.

The plane discovery and recovery of the bodies climaxed an eight months' search by the state policeman and his party. **One of A Series**

This was one of a series of such crashes covered by Holley. He brought out alive three men from a plane crash in the same area during February, 1952.

To rescue the men Sgt. Holley and his rescue crew followed in a weasel the blinking lights of a B-17 plane to where the downed Boise, Idaho men had been spotted. The party plowed its way through the snow from Fort Rock to the plane's location some 32 miles northeast of Fort Rock.

The trio was rescued after spending two chilly nights and part of a third day without food on the high desert in the highlands south of the Central Oregon highway.

**Six-Mile Hike**  
Sgt. Holley's game enforcement activities have covered a variety of experiences. Imitating the Canadian Mounties he made a six-mile hike on snowshoes into the rugged Walker mountain country of northern Klamath county to arrest an illegal trapper. Charges were trapping without a license and with unbranded traps. Holley's evidence, backed by pictures, obtained a conviction, total fines of \$359 and 30 days in jail.

The state policeman was making a snowshoe trip into the Warner mountain country when he detected and picked up 20 traps unbranded, contrary to the state game commission law.



**APPREHENDED** - State Police Sgt. Fay Holley is shown with a man he arrested on charges of trapping without a license and with unbranded traps. Holley's evidence, backed by pictures, obtained a conviction, total fines of \$359 and 30 days in jail. The arrest was made during a rugged six-mile trip on snowshoes into the Walker mountain country of northern Klamath county.



**EXAMINES TRAP** - State Police Sgt. Fay Holley examines the notch of a tree in the foreground containing a trap set for Marten. The trap was set with the flesh of a beaver, a protected furbearing animal. The sergeant made a six-mile hike into the rugged Walker mountain country of northern Klamath county to arrest the trapper on charges of trapping without a license and with unbranded traps. The man was traced by the unusual print of his snowshoes which resembled large bear tracks.

Inspection showed the traps were set to catch marten, a small but valuable fur-bearing animal. Flesh of a beaver, a protected furbearing animal, was used as trap bait. Possession of this was also unlawful.

### Resemble Bear Paw

The officer noticed that snowshoe tracks formed what resembled a bear paw. The home-made type of snowshoes was traced to its owner and the arrest made.

Wrestling with a crazed logger and firebug is also all in the day's work for such a game law enforcement officer. The man was subdued after setting two fires in the Deschutes forest. While foresters were fighting the set fires they could hear his laughter echoing through the woods.

Sgt. Holley brought him out by letting him ride his horse. When it came time to put the crazed logger in restraints it took all the strength of five men to subdue him.

Working the same general area one winter, Sgt. Holley found that two deer had almost starved in the heavy snow and were eating Jack Pine to keep alive. He removed them from the wind-whipped "bowl" around the trees by dragging the forked-horn and four-point bucks by the legs to the road. There he put them in his pickup truck and carried them to the Central Oregon desert where he released them.

In the Spring of 1948, he hiked 3½ miles into the Rosary lakes on the Skyline trail above Highway 58. There he found and arrested nine peo-

ple for fishing through the ice. Here, Holley reminded that the game code is composed of regulations established by the game commission and laws passed by the state legislature. The latter only the state legislature has the power to change.

Another time Holley arrested 11 people on Trapper creek near Odell lake with a half ton of White fish they had netted. White fish is a game fish.

These experiences, although Sgt. Holley's, are typical of the work of all state police game enforcement officers.

About 60 per cent of West Virginia's total area is in farm land.



**APPROACHES TRAP** - This picture was taken as photographic evidence by State Police Sgt. Fay Holley when a game law enforcement officer. It shows the suspect approaching the unbranded trap he had set. The tree in the foreground contains the trap in a notch partially hidden. The trap was set for Marten, a small but valuable fur-bearing animal.

## Muzzleloaders Popular With Group

### Collectors Hold Matches With Old Flintlock Rifles

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

A tall, lanky elder with flowing white beard steps to the firing line, lifts the long-barrelled rifle to his shoulder, carefully squints at a blackened wood chip in the distance and squeezes the trigger.

A puff of smoke and a small tongue of flame rises from behind the flintlock hammer as the ball speeds to its mark. The men and boys leaning on their long rifles give gasps and whistles of astonishment as the judge examines the result.

### Typical Scene

This was a typical scene in the U. S. villages in the late 1700's and up to the 1890's. In those days every American was a rifleman. It was such riflesmen as these who took the long trail to Oregon and pioneered in the development of the Pacific Northwest.

In the early days, according to historians, gun experts and collectors, the rifle was a man's protection, put meat on his table and provided his chief means of recreation.

It was this early muzzle-loader, both percussion cap and flintlock which helped the United States to win its independence, conquer the wilderness and later explore and settle the west.

Collecting and making a study of such guns are members of the Oregon Arms Collectors' association. A number of people in the Rogue Valley area follow this hobby. The Oregon Arms Collectors' association is an affiliate of the National Rifle Association whose aim is to make every American a rifleman.

**Rifle Matches**  
Many of these collectors hold rifle matches with old muzzleloaders. They insist that if you're a marksman with a flintlock you can fire any gun. A long delay results from the time the trigger is pulled to the instant the charge sends the ball speeding to the target. It requires a steady hand and a sharp eye.

A flintlock mechanism works this way: A pull on the trigger releases the flint hammer, then causes it to strike against the steel. The resulting spark drops into the pan containing black powder. Then the flame from the powder ignites the powder in the barrel discharging the ball.

The percussion cap type of gun works like this: A cap containing black powder is detonated over a hollow nipple discharging the bullet.

### American Rifle

The long-rifle is an American rifle developed for American frontier conditions, collectors say. The American flintlock rifle with its slender stock and its long, carefully rifled barrel using the patched round ball, came into use in this country early in 1700. It had a degree of accuracy never known before.

Previously the guns were made in Europe, mainly by German and Swiss rifle-makers. They were too heavy and had too large a bore which was wasteful of both powder and lead. It was also difficult to load.

During the Revolution in America, a large bore French gun was used—75 caliber. Then in post-Revolutionary times the colonists started to explore the frontiers of their country.

### Wanted Small Bore

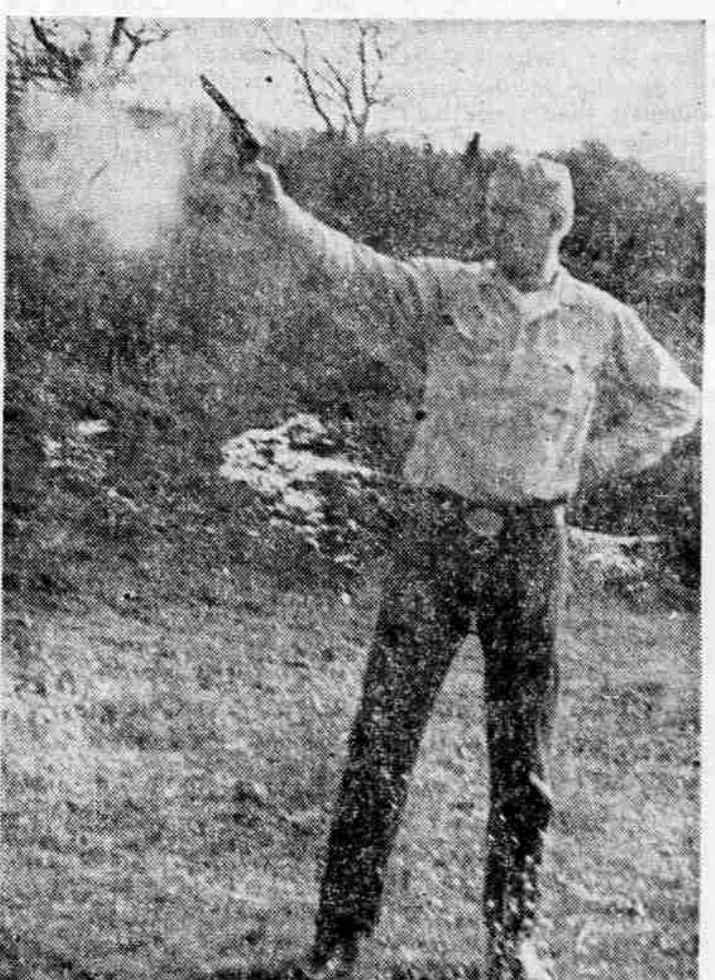
The frontiersman wanted a small-bore rifle using a ball weighing about an ounce that would hit what it was aimed at and would kill up to about 150 yards. This type of arm had to be well-balanced so that it could be fired from any position to meet the quick frontier dangers. It couldn't waste powder which was precious in the frontier and at the same time it couldn't give a loud report that might attract Indians.

When the German and Palatine Swiss came to the eastern part of Pennsylvania in 1710 they started developing the needed firearm. Later the western plainsmen and mountain men wanted a larger bore gun which could stop the grizzly bear and a shorter barrel which wouldn't be too hard to handle on horseback or in the brush woods.

**Muzzle-Loader**  
The muzzle-loader reached its highest development in



**TAKE AIM** - Doug LaFever, Ken Myers and Leland Breedlove, all of Medford, take aim with their .45-70 caliber Springfields on Roxy Ann. These were guns which aided in the winning of the west and were taken on the Oregon Trail to southern Oregon. When fired the guns emit a cloud of black smoke and a strong odor of burned gunpowder.



**PEACEMAKER PISTOL** - Ken Myers, Medford, fires a Colt Peacemaker manufactured in 1875. The gun, similar to the ones used by frontiersmen, has a hair-trigger and a recoil which kicks the pistol upwards in Myers hand.

### Suspects Held in Mine Guard's Death

Whitesburg, Ky. - (UPI) - State police Friday held three suspects in the shooting of a mine guard killed in a gun battle with striking United Mine Workers members.

The victim was James Otis Adams, 41, Dongola, Ky., who drove a truck and acted as a guard at the Little Shepherd Mine Co., five miles north of here. His death was the second fatality in the weeks-long eastern Kentucky coal strike.

Police arrested on charges of willful murder Harrison Stidham, Verlin King and Democrat Hillman, all of Marow, Ky., and members of the United Mine Workers Union.

Catherine de Medici, queen of France, was a grandniece of Pope Leo X.

1760. More improvements had been made, particularly in the shape of the lands and grooves in the barrel and the fitting of the patched ball to the bore so that it was easily loaded without deforming it. Although this rifle became known later as the "Kaintuck" it was actually made in Pennsylvania by the same ingenious gunsmiths of Swiss and German descent.

Only in recent times has this rifle been bested in accuracy, collectors say. Long loved by the men of this country, its replica can be seen on the modern American soldier's infantry badge.

### Ways and Means Studies Jobless Pay

Washington - (UPI) - After nine days of sharply conflicting testimony, the House Ways and Means Committee went behind closed doors Friday to start hammering out a plan to beef up the unemployment compensation program.

One proposed standby system would lengthen the duration of jobless pay in bad times. Under this plan, the federal government would channel money to the states for longer benefits to the jobless whenever unemployment in the nation, a state or a local area climbed to a certain figure.

Organized labor wants a federal law requiring the states to increase the amount and duration of their unemployment payments. It seemed clear the committee would not go along with this.

### Man Retires After 23 Years With Firm

Vandiver R. Gilbert, 135 North Holly st., retired last week after 23 years work with Fluhrer Bakeries. He was the first man from local 404 of the American Bakery and Confectionery Workers' union to retire under the union's new pension plan.

At the time of his retirement, Gilbert served as chief stock man, in charge of all stock arriving at the bakery, according to Fluhrer Manager Eugene Farrell.

### Castro Not Red, Congressmen Told

Washington - (UPI) - Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro told congressional foreign policy leaders Friday he is not a Communist and Communism has no chance of succeeding in Cuba if his people can be cared for and kept "reasonable happy."

Castro met behind closed doors with members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committee, plus other influential legislators. He was invited to come to capitol hill by Senate Foreign Relations Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.).

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