



**TREE PLANTERS**—Bureau of land management employees are shown reforesting an area from which timber was harvested in 1958. The tract was planted this month using Douglas fir trees which had been grown for two years in a Salem forest nursery prior to planting.

## Man Who Punched Stalin Is Still Battling Communism

Geneva —UPI— The man who punched Stalin in the face and lived to tell the tale is rounding out his long life denouncing the brutal terror of the Communist system, whose founders he once plotted with.

At 75, white-haired Kharon Chavichvili is a man who has known conspiracy, revolution and terror.

In a Geneva cafe, just a stone's throw from his present dingy, second-floor lodging, he plotted during 1908 with Lenin for the overthrow of Russia's Romanov dynasty and the end of the reign of Nicholas II, czar of all Russia.

In the uncertain years before World War I, Geneva harbored scores of Russian revolutionaries. Such brilliant intriguers as Nikolai Lenin, who master-minded the revolution of 1917; Leon Trotsky, who later forged the Red Army; and Georgi Plekhanov, who was Russia's foremost Marxist theoretician, gathered at the Cafe Landolt.

Names Carved  
Their names are carved on the massive oaken tables around which even today young hot-heads and left-wing intellectuals sip their coffee, smoke their pipes and discuss the ills of the world.

"In those days Khrushchev was nothing," said Chavichvili, sitting at one of the tables where he sat with Lenin more than 50 years ago.

Chavichvili, who considers himself the last of the Mensheviks, still is denouncing and protesting. But this time it is not the reaction of the Romanov regime he is against, but the terror of Communism which long ago he, too, wanted to build.

"I am writing my major work: 'The Soviet Union, Georgia, and Human Rights,'" he said.

His conflict with terror goes back to the time he slapped Stalin in the face and got away with it.

Chavichvili, who comes from Georgia, as did Stalin, agitated for communism in his youth and took part in the 1905 revolt which gave imperial Russia the ominous forecast of the bloody revolution that came 12 years later.

In 1905 he argued for three nights running with Stalin, a Bolshevik, and Ramishvili, a Menshevik, at Tchiaturi in Georgia. (The Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks split at the London Communist Congress in 1903 because the Bolsheviks advocated force and the Mensheviks advocated peaceful means for installing communism.)

"Stalin, who was then called Koba, roughed up a good friend of mine, so I punched him in the face," Chavichvili said. "Stalin only smiled back at me."

In 1908 Chavichvili joined Lenin in Geneva. But when Lenin asked him to ride on the famous sealed train to Leningrad's Finland Station to spur on the revolution in 1917, he refused.

Was Journalist  
Between the wars he worked in the Swiss capital at Bern as a journalist. He established the Gorgian Press Bureau, and through secret contacts was able to leak news of Politburo meetings in Moscow. In 1945 when he published articles on Stalin in Geneva's Journal de Geneve, Communist agents tried to molest him and cut off his funds.

In 1952, Communist agents raided his prized Russian documents—sought after by many Soviet researchers—and stole precious letters signed by Lenin.

But in 1961 Chavichvili, one of the oldest newspapermen accredited to the United

Nations, is grinding out his final condemnation.

He sits in his dimly lit lodgings, wearing a cast-off button-down-collared shirt, writing his manuscript by a window overlooking the cafe where he conspired.

"There are a lot of things you have to live through before you will ever understand," he said.

## Public Utilities Groups Oppose Bill For Certificates

Salem —UPI— Public utilities, hoping to grow in Oregon, urged a Senate committee Wednesday night to kill a bill they said would do away with competition among utilities, and warned that monopoly service areas would eventually let rates creep up.

The choice should be up to the customer, said Jack Frisby, manager of Salem's cooperative electric distribution system, citing rates "30 per cent cheaper on the average" than private competitors.

"We do not fear competition," said Larry Bauer of Central Lincoln Peoples Utility District. He said the bill would give "dictatorial powers" to the public utility commissioner.

Representatives of private utilities, serving some 80 per cent of Oregon's customers,

## Escapee Sought In Umpqua Country

Roseburg —UPI— Additional men were sent out today in rugged North Umpqua country east of here to hunt an escaped mental patient wanted for wounding a man Tuesday.

A skeleton crew patrolled roads in the area near Glide Wednesday but no further contact was made with Steve Solovich, about 50, who has been roaming in the country for more than a year.

Watson Talcott, a 40-year-old Glide man, was wounded in the shoulder Tuesday as searchers closed in on an area where Solovich was believed to be.

Solovich, who has said he wants to be left alone in the mountains, has escaped from the Veterans Administration Hospital here three times in five years.

## Sales of Fertilizer Highest in Nine Years

Salem —UPI— Fertilizer sales in Oregon in 1960 were the highest in nine years, the Oregon Agriculture Department said today.

State inspection fees show a total sale of 197,250 tons last year compared to 186,194 in 1959.

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