

Police Kill Desperado

TRENTON, Ga. (AP)—A one-shot showdown with peace officers brought death to an Alabama convict at the end of one of the largest manhunts ever centered in the tri-state area of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Desperado William Smothers, 38, died in surgery at nearby Ft. Oglethorpe Hospital Saturday night a few hours after the police chief of this northwest Georgia mountain city sent a bullet into his shoulder.

Chief H. H. Hutchings and Sheriff Allison Blevens got on the convict's trail through a telephoned tip. They found him in a field near U.S. 11 in the Wildwood community, just south of the Tennessee line and about 20 miles southwest of Chattanooga.

"Smothers drew a gun from under his coat," Hutchings said, "and stuck it in the sheriff's face. 'I beat him to it. Before he could pull the trigger, I shot him.'"

The single shot climaxed a hunt that began Thursday after Smothers, serving six robbery sentences, launched his bid for freedom near Birmingham.

The desperado overpowered Alabama highway patrolman Otto Dees who was taking him from Kilby Prison at Montgomery to Birmingham to stand trial on a pistol possession charge.

Smothers forced Dees and the driver of the patrol car, convict trusty Ted Easley, to go to a house he picked at random. There he made the occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Keith, provide food. After that he switched to the Keiths' car and took the four persons with him as hostages.

Fourteen hours later he released them unharmed on Sand Mountain near Flat Rock, Ala.

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PAGE 12

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Search For Missing Girl Has Entered Fourth Day

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The search for a missing nine-year-old Campfire Girl went into its fourth day today with hardly a trace to go on and a vow by a policeman inspector that "we'll keep searching for her until we find out, one way or the other."

Police checked every phone call—there have been hundreds—offering a lead to the disappearance of Candice Elaine Rogers. The little blue-eyed girl was last seen Friday after school when she set out to sell candy mints to raise money for her Campfire troop.

"We've checked everything, nothing tangible. It doesn't seem possible the child could have wandered to the river area by herself, especially toward evening," said Inspector Robert B. Piper.

The inspector referred to an area along the Spokane River where six boxes of mints were found.

Ground parties dragged the river Sunday after an exhaustive search in the area around the girl's home failed to turn up anything.

The river claimed the lives of three fishermen who took part in the search Saturday. They were S

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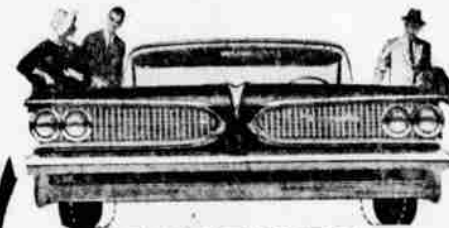
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