

Recluse In Gun Battle

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP)—Society's strained relations with mountain man Steve Solovich were shattered Tuesday by a bullet in a pursuer's chest.

A posse fought two sharp skirmishes with the elusive recluse on the forested slopes of Oregon's Cascade Mountains.

When evening fog drifted in, Solovich vanished—just as he has many times before.

An uneasy truce had existed between Solovich and Oregon authorities since he broke out of a Veterans Administration hospital nearly a year ago. Solovich, a mental patient, generally was regarded as a harmless eccentric who wanted only to live alone in the forest.

The truce ended when Solovich began stopping hunters, at gunpoint, to accuse them of hunting film.

Five weeks ago, Deputy Gail Carmine began tracking Solovich. He finally crossed the trail Tuesday and summoned seven men to help him.

As they moved through the trees, someone suddenly shouted: "Go home, you!" A volley of shots drove the possemen to the ground, their rifles cracking in reply.

For two hours the fight continued. Bit by bit the posse advanced.

Then, Watson Talcott of Glide, Ore., fell seriously wounded.

Carmine and his force retired to get help for Talcott. Bolstered by 14 recruits, they quickly renewed the search.

They soon found Solovich—one searcher definitely identified him as the sniper—and the fight was renewed.

The fog shut off the firing before any one was hurt.

Solovich is tall and husky. He appears to be about 50. Little is known of his background except that he is a veteran of World War II.

Opinions On Fees Asked

SALEM—The State Department of Agriculture said Monday it will receive comments until March 12 on its proposal to increase the fee for grain grade certification at its branch inspection point at Merrill.

The present fee for complete grade certification for grain per car is \$3. To maintain inspection and still inspect the comparatively few cars handled there and meet the minimum cost of operations, the department proposes to make the fee \$5, effective July 1.

Any person who wants to submit data or views orally or in writing on this matter may contact the grain division of the State Department of Agriculture. The grain division office is at 600 Ninth Avenue, S.E., Portland.

Two Picked As Speakers

FORT ROCK — Jeanne Webb and Michael Mattis have been selected as Fort Rock School's contestants for the annual speaking contest sponsored by the Fort Rock-Silver Lake Soil Conservation District.

These two, with Bobbie Lee Morehouse as alternate, will compete with pupils from Silver Lake and Summer Lake schools at the 7 p.m. annual meeting of the district on March 7.

Ten pupils competed in the local school runoff, with Mrs. Coca Pervorse, upper grade teacher, in charge. Hube Long, Edwin Eskelein and Mrs. C. W. Boley were judges.

Terrible Loss In Car Wreck

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (UPI) — It was a nice looking automobile and it was stuck smack-dab in the middle of the railroad tracks.

The driver got out and asked a man standing nearby to help him push the stalled car, but between the two of them they couldn't budge it.

About that time, a Cotton Belt Railroad train came on the scene. "I've gotta leave," the driver told his helper. And he left, running as fast as he could across a field.

It wasn't hard for police to determine why the driver didn't stick around. Demolished with the car were 100 one-gallon jugs of corn whiskey.

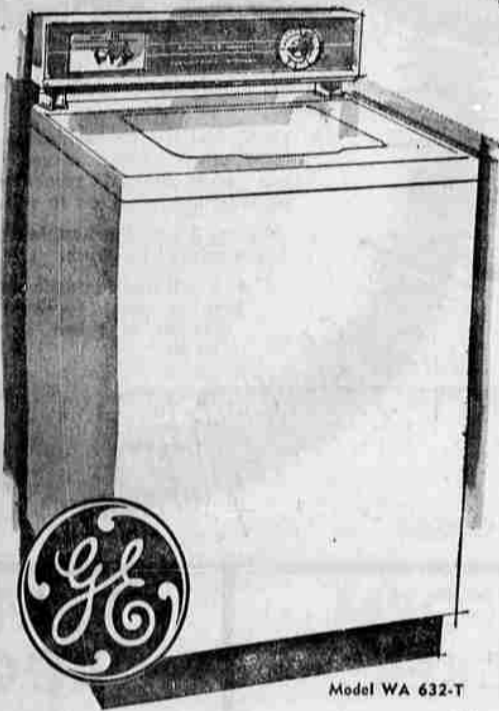
PLANE SHOT DOWN
VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — A Nationalist Chinese commercial transport chartered by the Laotian army was reported shot down by pro-Communist rebels while parachuting supplies to government units south of the Plaine des Jarres, airline officials reported today.

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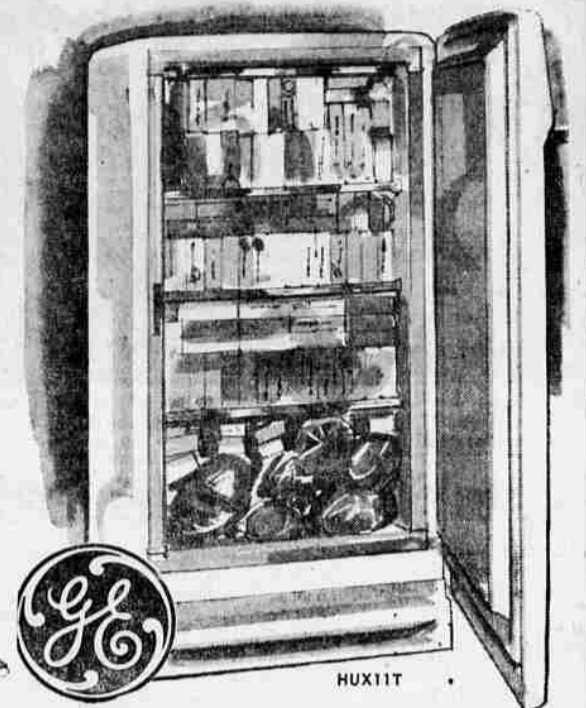
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