

Escaped con thumbs way back to pen

United Press International
RAWLINS, Wyo. — A Wyoming State Penitentiary escapee who made it as far as Las Vegas hitchhiked back to prison Monday.

Warden Leonard Meacham said William Hilburn called him from a bar.

"He just said: 'Hey warden, this is Bill.' I said, 'Bill who?' Then he said Bill Hilburn."

Meacham said he told Hilburn to meet him at his house, or if he preferred, he could be picked up at the bar.

"He said he was too drunk to find my place so I went down. Even in his drunken state, he just knew he'd run out of time and didn't want to compound things any further," Meacham said. "It's a weird world."

Hilburn, along with prisoner Donald Mallard, escaped with a hostage Saturday. But the hostage got away Sunday in Las Vegas and authorities apprehended Mallard.

Hilburn then hitchhiked back to Rawlins on Monday.

Hilburn, 36, from Arkansas, and Mallard, 42, of Pueblo, Colo., escaped while on a work release project at a Rawlins nursing home where they kidnapped a woman employee and fled, authorities said.

The woman, Margie Kester, escaped unharmed in Las Vegas.

Ironically, both men's chances for an early parole had been good, Meacham said.

Hilburn was serving a three-to-five-year term for burglary and Mallard was serving a one-to-three-year term for assault with a deadly weapon.

Hilburn had been in prison since August 1975 and was a trusty, Meacham said. Mallard began serving his sentence in January, the warden said.

Nevada authorities said Mallard was being held in Las Vegas pending his return to Wyoming.

Meacham said he was surprised by the escape because both men were "very quiet individuals."

The fact Hilburn turned himself in will not prevent charges from being filed, Meacham said.

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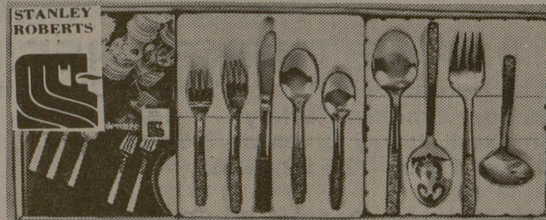
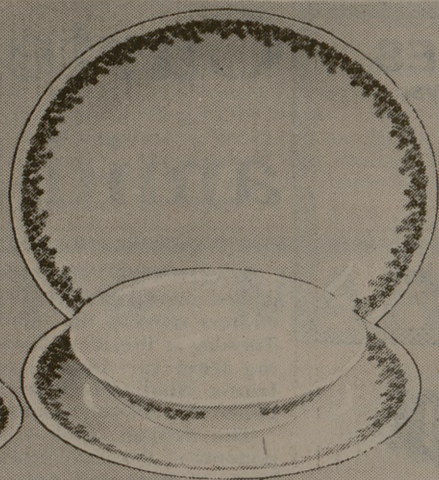
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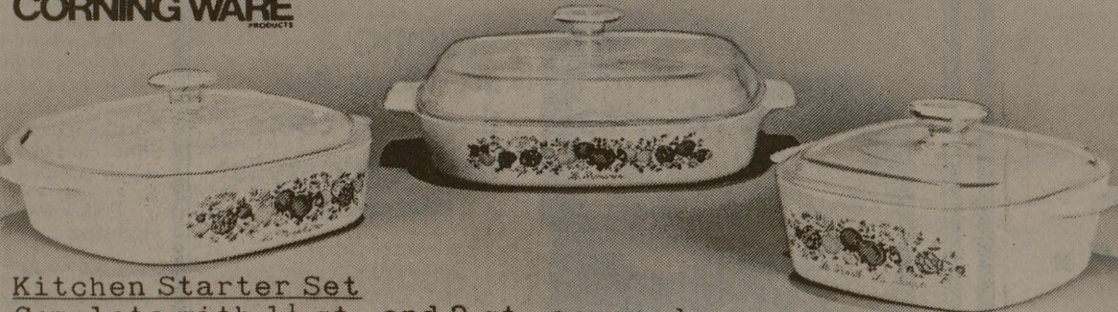


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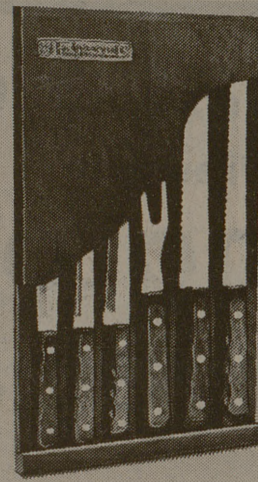


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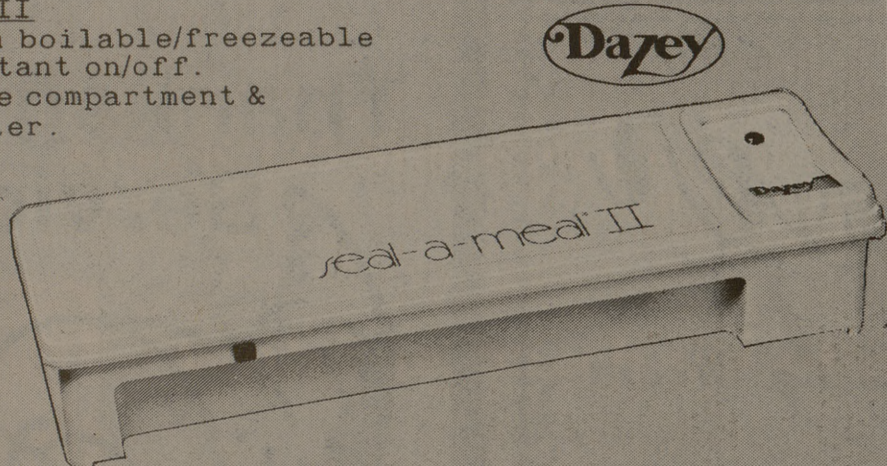
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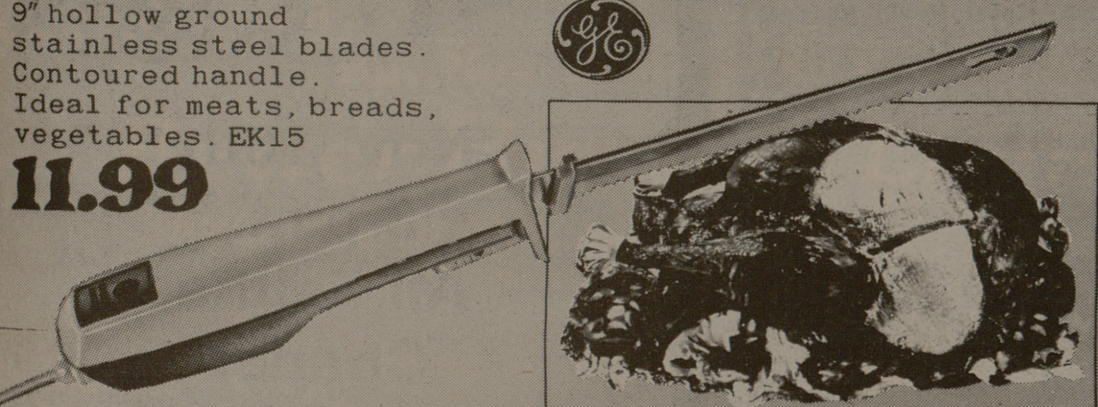
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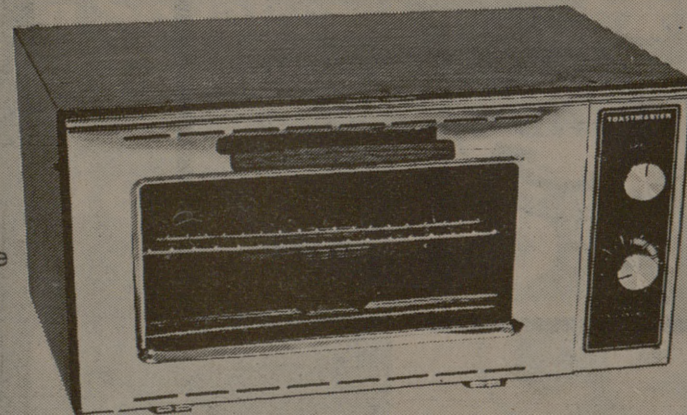
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Possible false realty claims being studied

United Press International
BLEDSOE, Texas — The state attorney general's office said Tuesday it was investigating a Dallas firm in connection with West Texas land promotion and could decide in two or three weeks whether to take legal action.

State and postal service investigators are looking into Agriland Inc. of Dallas and real estate agencies in Florida for allegedly promoting the land with exaggerated claims of its worth.

"We are investigating Agriland," said David Pace of the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division. He said the investigation concerned alleged misrepresentations in trying to sell lots on the 1,500-acre tract two miles from town.

"It (the land) is terrible," said R. J. Vinson, the Cochran County clerk. "It's just as bad as you can imagine. It wouldn't grow crops."

Promotion material distributed by Agriland depicts the land, called Tierra del Oro Land of Gold Estates, as "rich and fertile, suitable for ranch house homesites."

A spokesman at Agriland in Dallas refused comment. "Please don't call us any more," he said.

Although Vinson said he was unaware of any lots that had been sold, Pace said he was "assuming they had because the company has indicated they do have some deeds."

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