ZIGGY By Tom Wilson



Slayer of 10 Awaits Sentencing

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — Herbert W. Mullin, convicted of murdering 10 persons in a three-week shooting spree early this year, is to be sentenced Sept. 18.

Mullin, wearing an orange prison uniform and with his ankles chained, sat tight-lipped, staring straight ahead as the verdict was read Sunday in Santa Cruz County Superior Court.

The defense had admitted that Mullin, a 26-year-old former college honor student, committed the slayings. But it sought verdicts of innocent and innocent by reason of insanity.

A six-man, six-woman jury in its third day of deliberations found Mullin guilty on two counts of first-degree murder and eight counts of second-degree murder. He was judged sane on all 10 counts.

Because the defense case was based solely on Mullin's mental state, the guilt and sanity phases of the trial were held simultaneously.

TOOK STAND

Mullin, son of a retired Marine Corps sergeant from nearby Felton, was convicted of killing a young couple, a woman and her two young sons, four teen-age campers and an elderly ex-prizefighter.

Mullin took the witness stand late in the three-week trial and admitted killing three more persons—a transient, a coed hitchhiker and a Los Gatos, Calif., priest stabbed to death in his confessional.

He said all the slayings were human sacrifices aimed at preventing a disastrous earthquake. He also said telepathic messages from his father and others goaded him to kill.

Mullin, who dropped out of college despite high grades, had been in at least two mental institutions and had a long history of drug use, authorities said.

Psychiatrists who testified for both sides agreed Mullin was a paranoid schizophrenic but disagreed on whether he was capable of distinguishing right from wrong.

Judge Charles S. Franich told jurors that legal insanity required a finding of a "diseased or deranged position of mind which makes the defendant incapable of knowing the nature or quality of his acts."

Jury foreman Kenneth Springer, owner of a Felton television repair shop, said jurors "deliberated on every question."

"We took several votes on several counts," he said. "We were never farther away on any count than a question mark put beside a finding on the question of sanity."

Defense attorney James Jackson said the verdict was irrational. "If he's not mentally diminished, nobody is," he said of Mullin.

"Most people think about what's going to happen to the guy if he goes to a hospital and some doctor lets him out," Jackson said. "If he went to a hospital and was never going to get out, I think we'd have a lot more insanity verdicts."

Mullin was found guilty of first-degree murder in the Jan. 25 slayings of Kathy Francis, 29, and James R. Gianera, 24.

Mrs. Francis was killed in her backwoods cabin near Santa Cruz with sons David, 9, and Daemon, 4. Gianera, a high school friend of Mullin, was killed with his wife Joan, 21, in their house here.

Mullin's next victims were four boys shot in the forehead at their mountain campsite. They were Robert Michael Spector, 18, and Brian Scott Card, 19, Van Nuys, Calif.; David Allan Oliker, 18, Sherman Oaks, Calif.; and Mark Dreibelbis, 15, of Fleetwood, Pa.

World 'Wet Spot' Title Goes to Hawaii Peak

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The wettest place in the world is in the United States.

It's 5,148-foot high Mt. Waialeale (pronounced why-ah-lay-ah-lay) on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. It receives an average 451 inches of rain a year.

The U.S. Geological Survey disclosed it has been measuring rainfall on the peak since 1911, and the record rainfall for any year was 624 inches in 1948. There is only about 15 days a year when it does not rain on Mt. Waialeale.

There have been other spots in the world with more rainfall in one year (the world's record was 905.12 inches that fell on Cherrapunji, Indian in 1861), but over the long haul none of them quite match Mt. Waialeale's precipitation year after year.

Geological Survey officials said Cherrapunji comes close, however, averaging only one inch less per year than Mt. Waialeale. Next comes Debundscha in the Cameroons with and average of 405 inches a year.

W. L. Burnham, chief of the survey's Hawaii district, said the topography of Mt. Waialeale, the orientation of its sheer mountain walls and its central position on the island "tend to concentrate and wring most of the moisture out of the prevailing trade winds."

But while the mountain peak is drenched about 350 days a year, other areas of the same island a few miles away receive as little as 20 inches of rain a year, he said.

U.S. Corporation Profits Show Gain

WASHINGTON (AP) — Profits of U.S. corporations increased by $10.5 billion in the second quarter of the year to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $130 billion, the government reported today.

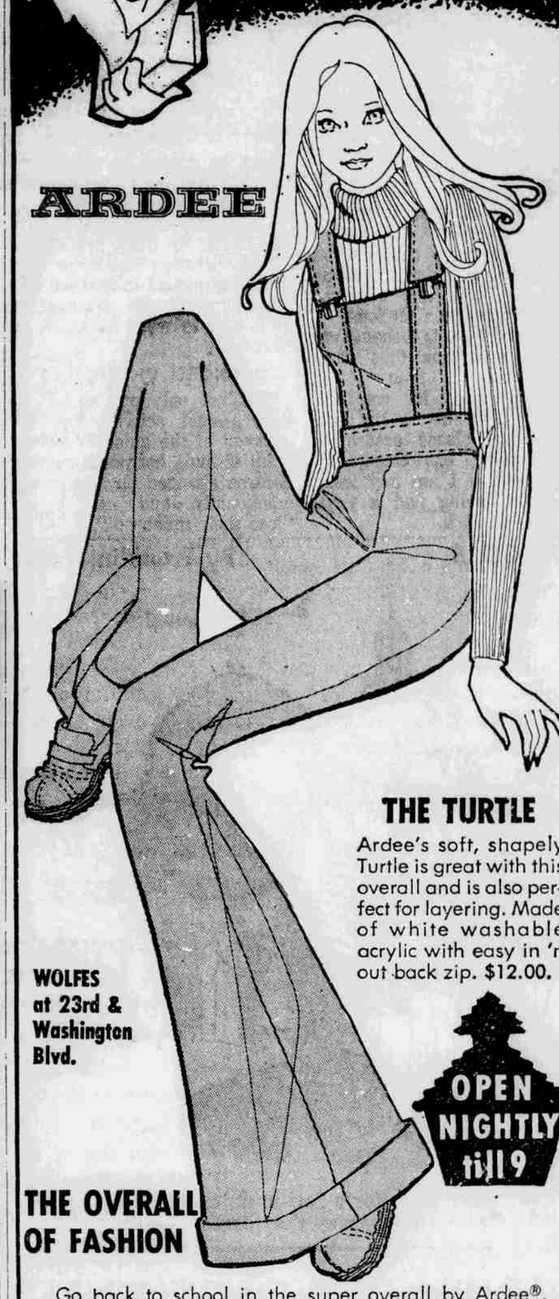
The increase, while substantial, was somewhat below the first-quarter increase in corporate profits of $13.5 billion at an annual rate.

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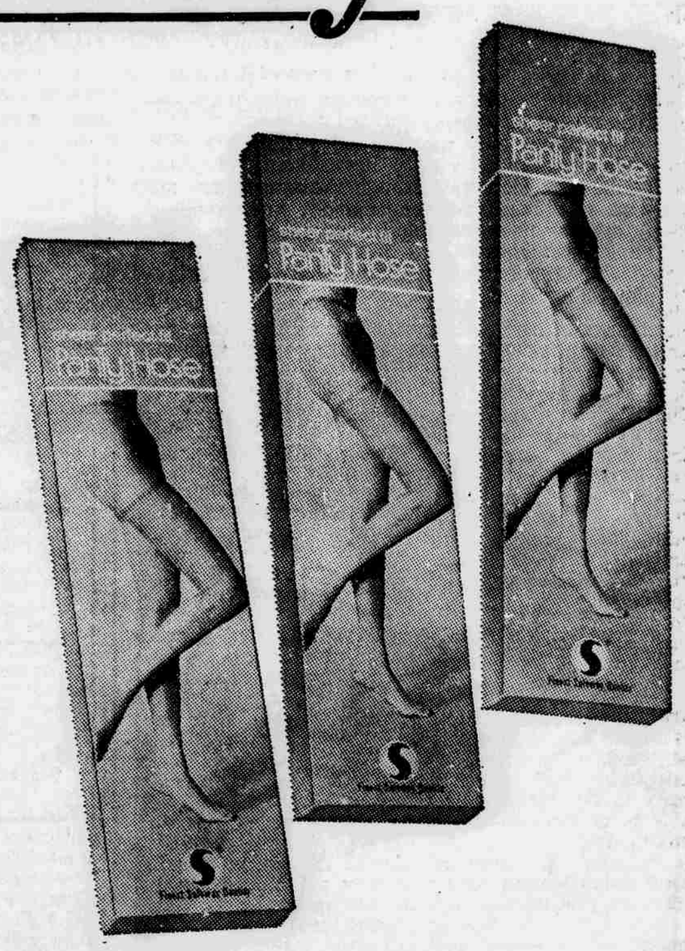
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