

**GUERRILLA SQUADS****Rabid Rightists  
Infest Colorado**

By **BOB WHEARLEY** and **DICK PROUTY**  
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Tightly knit guerrilla squads schooled in murder, mayhem and robbery have been set up within the Minuteman organization and have made their regional headquarters in Colorado, authoritative sources have told The Denver Post.

This story, almost unbelievably bizarre, is of buried arms caches, of blind fanaticism, of a warped will to wreak havoc on a country which — in the eyes of the super patriot Minutemen — is racing hell-bent along the road toward communism.

But it is a story that checks out so well that federal law enforcement agencies are deeply concerned.

"If these guys cut loose, no police force in Colorado could stop them," one officer said.

And there are strong indications that the guerrilla squads — or "strike teams" as they're known within the Minutemen — are about to cut loose.

**Man at the Top**

The Minutemen's off-and-on national coordinator, Robert Bolivar DePugh of Norborne, Mo., is facing a four-year prison sentence for violation of the National Firearms Act.

For some of his hard core followers, the clanging-shut of cell doors behind DePugh is to be interpreted as a trumpet call to battle.

Physically and philosophically, the strike teams appear to be well-equipped for battle.

A network of arms caches—miniature munitions dumps — stretches across the Rocky Mountains, each cache no more than an easy day's hike from the next.

These caches consist of guns, hand grenades, explosives and emergency rations. Many of the caches reportedly include machine guns — in some cases, machine guns manufactured from Minuteman plans.

**Camp Located**

One such set of plans turned up last week when The Denver Post, acting on information supplied by confidential sources, discovered a Minuteman camp in Summit County, in the high mountains west of Denver. The plans consist of 16 sheets of simplified diagrams, plus a list of materials. Estimated cost of the do-it-yourself machine gun: \$6.14.

Other items found at the camp, and turned over to a police agency for safekeeping, included 86 sticks of dynamite, a

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sawed-off .410-gauge shotgun with a rawhide sling in place of a wooden stock ("great for carrying under a coat," one informant explained), four high-powered military rifles with bandoleers and case of ammunition, a .22 caliber rifle equipped with a telescopic sight, bayonets, gas masks, a compact radio transmitter, and assorted military-type field packs and first-aid kits.

Two of the military rifles were packed in cardboard cases which bore mailing tags addressed to "Bio Lab. Company, 613 East Alton Street, Independence, Missouri."

The Independence address is that of the Patriotic party, political arm of the Minutemen. Bio Lab is a company operated by Robert Bolivar DePugh.

Oh, yes — there were some other significant items.

One of them was a small American flag mounted on a stick, just the right size for waving.

#### READING MATTER

There also was a library that included such scintillating titles as:

"The Hope of the World," by Dan Smoot; "America's Retreat From Victory," by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy; "None Dare Call It Treason," by John A. Stormer; "The Yalta Betrayal," by Felix Wittmer; "Communist America . . . Must It Be?" by Billy James Hargis; "You Can Trust the Communists (to be Communists)" by Dr. Fred Schwarz; "The Inhumanity of Urban Renewal (A Damning Indictment)," by Bryton and Ella Barron; "Communist-Socialist Propaganda in American Schools," by Verne P. Kaub; "Ill Fares the Land: The Famine Planned for America," by Dan P. Van Gorder; "Destroy the Accuser: Federal Homo Power Exposed," by Frederick Seelig (with foreword by Westbrook Pegler); "Invasion Alert: Rising Tides of Aliens in Our Midst," by Mary Barclay Erb; "Disarmament: A Blueprint for Surrender," by Kent and Phoebe Courtney, and "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion."

The last-named book, a notoriously anti-Semitic work, has been a favorite of hate groups. It purports to expose Zionist plotting against non-believers.

#### HAVENS OF HATE

According to one informant, Minuteman training camps — one of them in Coal Creek Canyon, the other near Evergreen — have become havens of hate for certain people.

This informant told of some of the lectures he attended last month.

He was asked what was said

about Jews.

A. "They say that the Jews are the ones that are actually behind the Communists in this country and behind the Communist party worldwide as far as financial means are concerned, and they claim that Jews are the ones that should really be destroyed because they're the backbone of the Communist and Socialist parties."

Q. Do you mean economically destroyed, or what?

A. "No, what I mean by destroying is physically — putting them in the ground."

Q. Does (name deleted) preach this?

A. "Yes."

Q. What does he say? Does he say 'Go out and shoot a Jew,' or what?

A. "No, he doesn't exactly put it this way. The time hasn't come yet where this could be done and even (name deleted) realizes this, but when the actual revolution starts, then yes, it's time to go out and shoot any and all Jews that are seen, regardless if they're just an average American family or even if they're only 10 months old or even a month old.

"There's no such thing as a good Jew. They teach that you're born this way. If you're born a Jew, you . . . if you're born from a Jewish family, you're dangerous, just like the mother and dad is today."

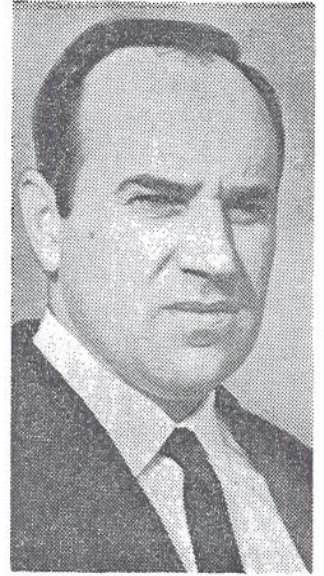
#### 45-MINUTE DRIVE

The camp at which this lecture was given is in Coal Creek Canyon, a 45-minute drive from downtown Denver.

According to the informant, automatic weapons and hand grenades also had been used at this camp.

A thorough search of the campsite—a search that even included a scuba diver's underwater inspection of a pond on the property—failed to turn up any evidence of such weapons.

The training session held at the camp attracted Minutemen from as far away as Connecticut and Pennsylvania and was supposed to be secret. But the session was kept under close surveillance by somebody — probably by agents of the Fed-



ROBERT BOLIVAR DEPUGH  
No stranger to Colorado.

eral Bureau of Investigation, the informant said.

"There's this fire lookout tower up the mountain from the camp, and one day we were all out there training and we looked at the tower through our rifle scopes and binoculars," the informant said.

"It was real comical. Up there in the tower were four guys dressed like anything but forest rangers. They all had on tab-collar dress shirts and ties, and they were all looking down at us through binoculars."

Another incident with comical overtones occurred the night of Aug. 25 — a few hours after the gunshot slaying 2,000 miles away, in Arlington, Va., of George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi Party.

"That gave some of the guys a real scare," the informant said.

"They figured this was part of a campaign to wipe out all the far-right leaders, and some of us was maybe next. We set up some real tight security that night, and one of the guys got a little trigger-happy and started blasting away at shadows. Nobody got hurt, though."

Nine days earlier, on Aug. 16, an incident occurred in Coal Creek Canyon that was somewhat less comical.

#### CALL TO FBI OFFICE

A man called the FBI office in Denver, from the Highlander Boys camp at Carter Lake — a short distance from the Minuteman camp. The caller identified himself as Jerry Brooks. He blurted out a story about hidden weapons and about being kidnaped at gunpoint from Independence, Mo. He said he wanted to talk to the FBI.

An FBI agent told the caller to come into the office and tell his story.

Late in the afternoon of that same day, Deputy Sheriff Noel Fryberger of Jefferson County was dispatched by radio to handle a disturbance call at the

Coal Creek Inn, in Coal Creek Canyon.

Fryberger arrived at the inn and was met by the man who identified himself as Brooks. The man told him a rambling story about having been kidnaped, forced to give perjured testimony, then taken somewhere in the Pacific Northwest.

Fryberger brought the man to the Jefferson County sheriff's office in Golden.

"It was kind of a hush-hush deal here and nobody wanted to say anything," Fryberger told The Post.

Brooks reportedly was held overnight in the Jefferson County jail, but his name isn't listed in jail records.

#### WITNESS AT TRIAL

A Jerry Milton Brooks, 37, was a witness in the Kansas City trial that led to the conviction of Minuteman Chief DePugh and two associates, Troy Houghton and Walter Patrick Peyson.

Brooks joined the Minutemen in 1961, defected in December 1965, testified against DePugh and friends in November 1966, and last May held a press conference in Kansas City in which he again reversed his field. At that time, he told reporters that he had been threatened by federal agents with commitment to a mental hospital unless he testified against the defendants.

Brooks then dropped from sight — until the mysterious happenings in Coal Creek Canyon.

DePugh, Houghton and Peyson still are free on bond, awaiting the outcome of an appeal. If that appeal fails — and there was other prosecution evidence besides Brooks' testimony — the three probably will be in prison within a few months.

#### RECENT VISITORS

Both DePugh and Peyson reportedly have visited Colorado in recent weeks in connection with Minuteman training.

DePugh is no stranger to this state. According to Harry Jones Jr. of the Kansas City Star, who has written a book about the Minuteman organization, the first public mention of the Minutemen came in a news story in October 1961 when DePugh held a recruiting meeting in the Denver Hilton Hotel. Fourteen men attended that session.

DePugh has returned fre-



THESE ARE SOME OF THE MILITARY-STYLE RIFLES SEIZED IN THE RAID  
At left is a .22-caliber rifle with a telescopic sight. Rifles at right were crated.

quently since — on at least one occasion to take part in a meeting of the Soldiers of the Cross, a military-style church youth group headed by the Rev. Kenneth Goff, longtime Denver area doom-crier of the far right.

One investigator summed up the Goff camp curriculum as "a mixture of patriotism, survival, Bible and karate."

In recent months, Colorado has taken on even greater significance in Minutemen plans.

#### TIME HAS COME

Some members of the organization are convinced that the time has come to start a campaign of terror against what they consider an un-American government. These members go further than does DePugh in his public pronouncements of what lies ahead.

DePugh has gone on record with such things as:

—A warning that his strike teams will assassinate 25 men

he considers traitors if he, himself, is slain. Rockwell, he believes, was "one down (so it's) three to go," with the other three being himself, Robert Welch of the John Birch Society, and Robert Shelton, imperial wizard of the United Klans of America.

—Frank admission that it's "a definite possibility" Minutemen will someday have to fight American Army troops to prevent diaster.

Some of his followers now propose to use special strike teams to kill, rob and terrorize the nation, The Post was informed.

#### PERFECT SETTING

Colorado offers a perfect setting as a regional headquarters, for hideouts, and even for specific acts of terrorism, such as blowing up mountain tunnels

and disrupting transcontinental communications and transportation, an informant said.

"Number one," this informant said, "it's easy to get lost in these mountains. There are places nobody's going to find you."

Among the acts of terrorism already discussed by Minutemen strike teams are such things as blowing up federally chartered banks (an expression of disapproval of government fiscal policies) and robbery of other banks ("for propaganda and money, both").

Assassinations also have been discussed, but, according to the informant, no targets have yet been settled on.

#### CYANIDE AT U.N.

Actually, the plans for the Colorado-headquartered strike teams are almost mild in comparison with schemes hatched

elsewhere — schemes like injecting cyanide gas into the air-conditioning system of the United Nations building in New York, and assassinating Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., one of the more internationally minded members of the Senate.

One strike team reportedly was assigned to commit a burglary within the past few weeks, but the plans were changed after an explosion damaged Patriotic party headquarters in Independence. That was on Aug. 31, and there was some question at the time as to whether the explosion might have been part of a publicity scheme.

This strike team was to have hidden out in Colorado after the burglary, The Post was informed.

Size of the Minutemen organization never has been definite-

ly known. In a Denver interview in July 1966 DePugh claimed about 8,000 members, with "probably 40,000 to 50,000 associate members" — persons who haven't completed their training.

The Minutemen chaplain, the Rev. Robert LeRoy, Oshkosh, Neb., was quoted four months later as saying the Minutemen have about 10,000 members, of which about 1,000 are "trigger-happy." LeRoy said these 1,000 feel "the only good Communist is a dead Communist."

LeRoy, an independent Baptist minister, is known in this part of the country as "The Parachute Preacher." A one-time Army paratrooper, he parachuted from an airplane over Littleton in 1960 to dramatize a sermon he was about to deliver.

In an appearance before the

House Appropriations Committee last February, FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover estimated Minuteman strength at about 500 members.

"This," Hoover said, "is a organization which claims its primary purpose is to prepare its members to overthrow the government of the United States in the event the government is taken over by the Communists. The danger of this position, of course, is DePugh will decide when the Communist takeover has occurred.

"... The obsession with violence and expressed intent to make the determination as to the occurrence of a Communist takeover are indicative of the dangerous nature of such extremist groups as the Minutemen. They would act as vigilantes, a law unto themselves."

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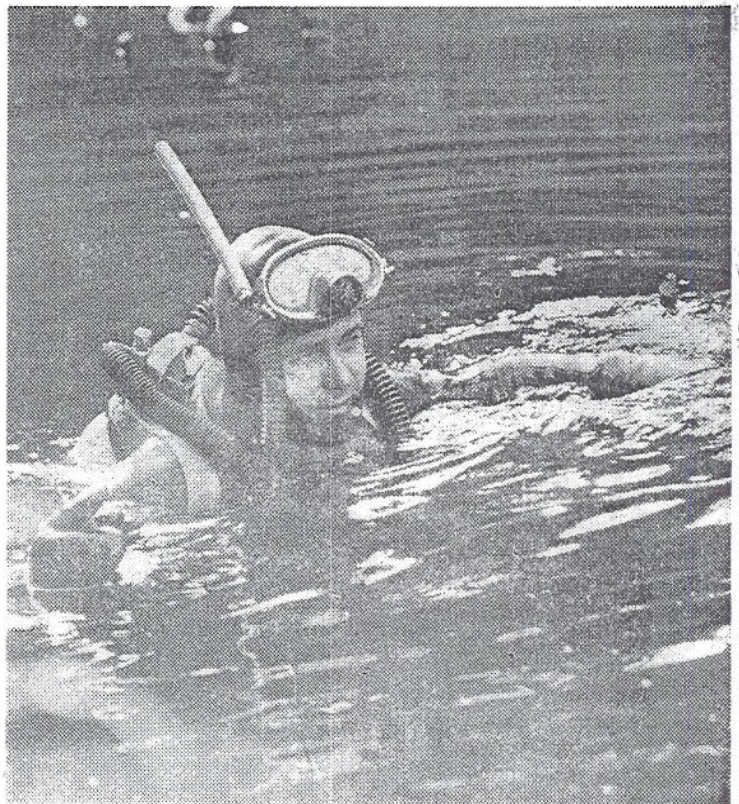
# THE MINUTEMEN:

## Colorado figures in their plans



These five rifles, sawed-off shotgun and ammunition were found in a recent raid on a Minuteman camp in the high mountains of Summit County, west of Denver. From authoritative sources, The Denver Post learned that guerrilla squads within the Minutemen have made their regional headquarters in Colorado. A network of arms caches—with guns, grenades, and explosives—reportedly stretches across the Rockies. One informant told The Post about two Minutemen training camps—one in Coal Creek Canyon, the other near Evergreen—where anti-Semitism and violence are the topics of lectures and other activities. Robert Bolivar DePugh of Norborne, Mo., national coordinator of the super-patriot organization, reportedly has visited Colorado recently in connection with Minuteman training. He faces a four-year prison sentence for violations of the National Firearms Act. The Summit County raid also turned up plans for manufacturing a machine gun at a total cost of \$6.14.

(SEE STORY ON PAGE 1)



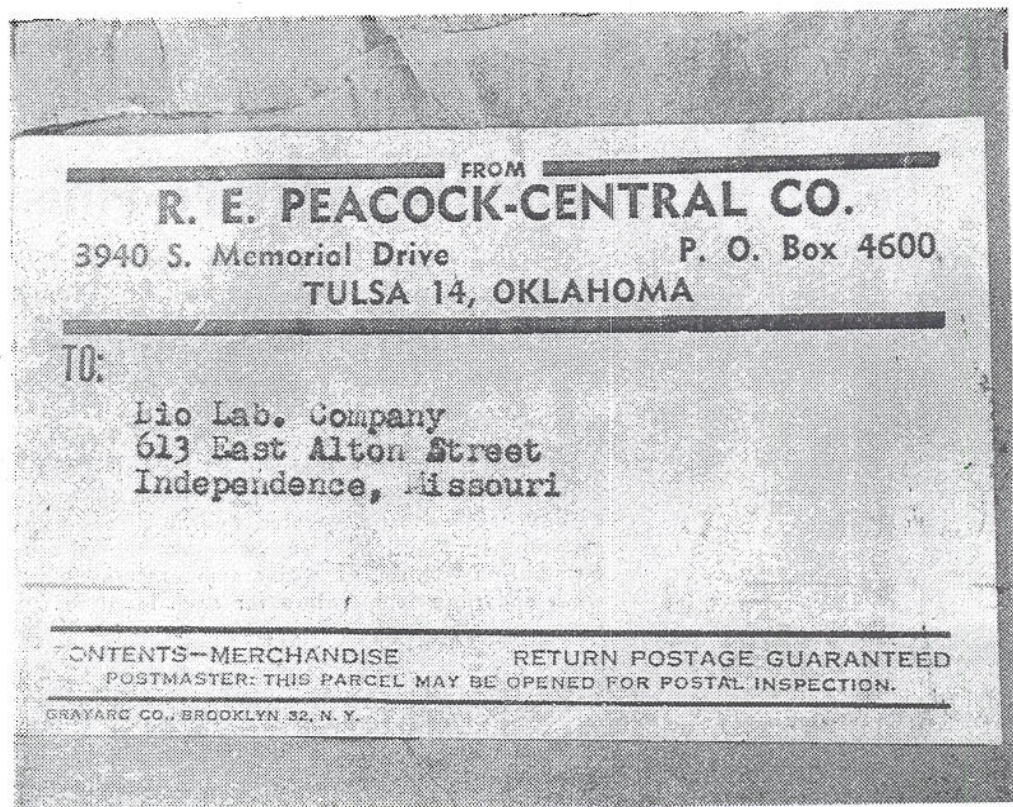
Denver Post photographer David Mathias, an experienced scuba diver, prepares to examine floor of a lake in Coal Creek Canyon for hidden weapons. None was found





Raid at secret Summit County camp turned up this portable radio transmitter, gas mask and field pack and flag. The shoulder patch is marked "DSF" for "Defense Survival Forces," one of the Minutemen's topnotch field units.

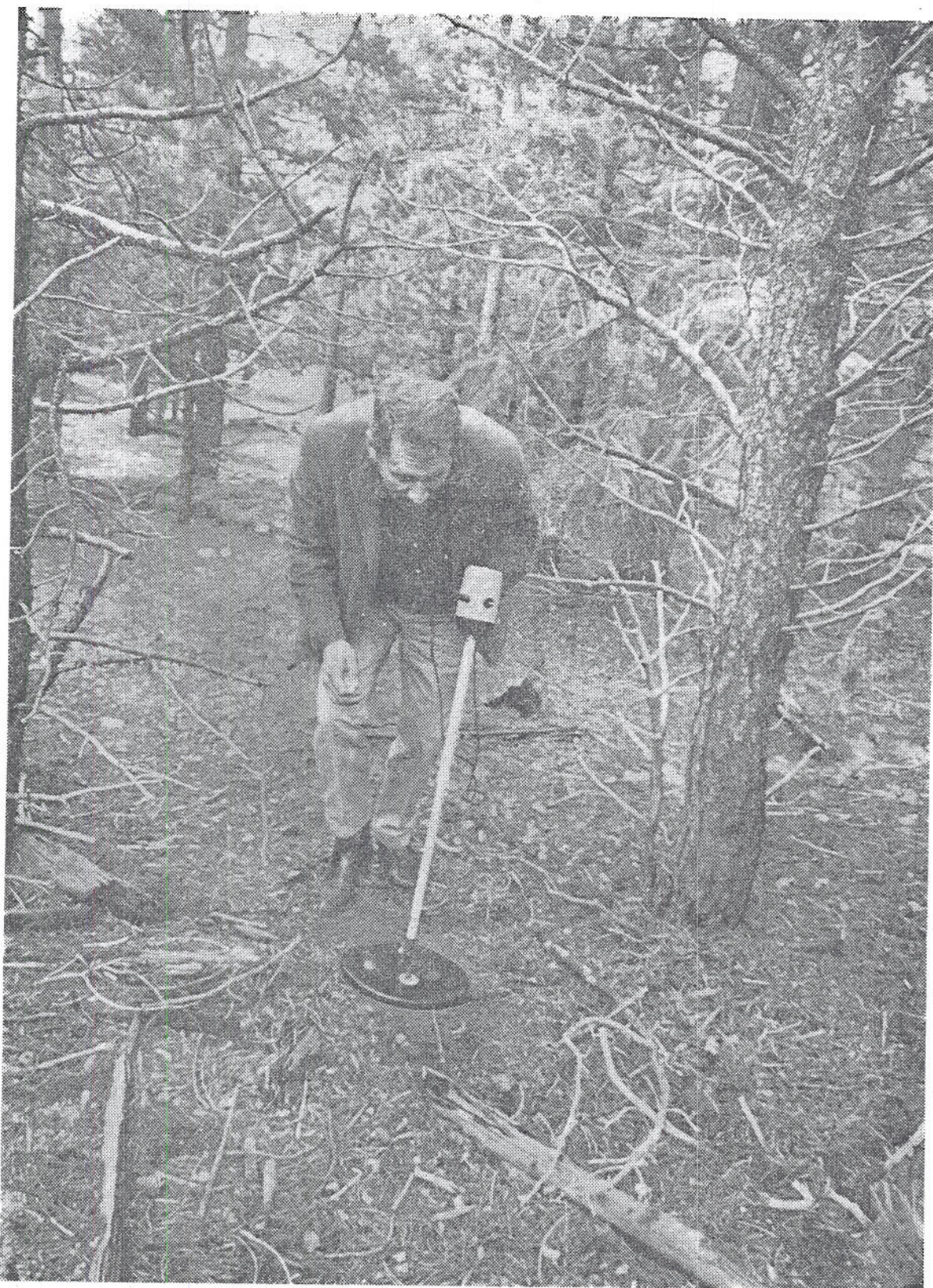
At right is an enlargement of one of the mailing labels on boxes, bearing Independence, Mo., address which is actually that of the Patriotic party, the political arm of the Minutemen. "Bio Lab Company" is operated by Robert Bolivar DePugh.



FROM  
**R. E. PEACOCK-CENTRAL CO.**  
 3940 S. Memorial Drive P. O. Box 4600  
 TULSA 14, OKLAHOMA

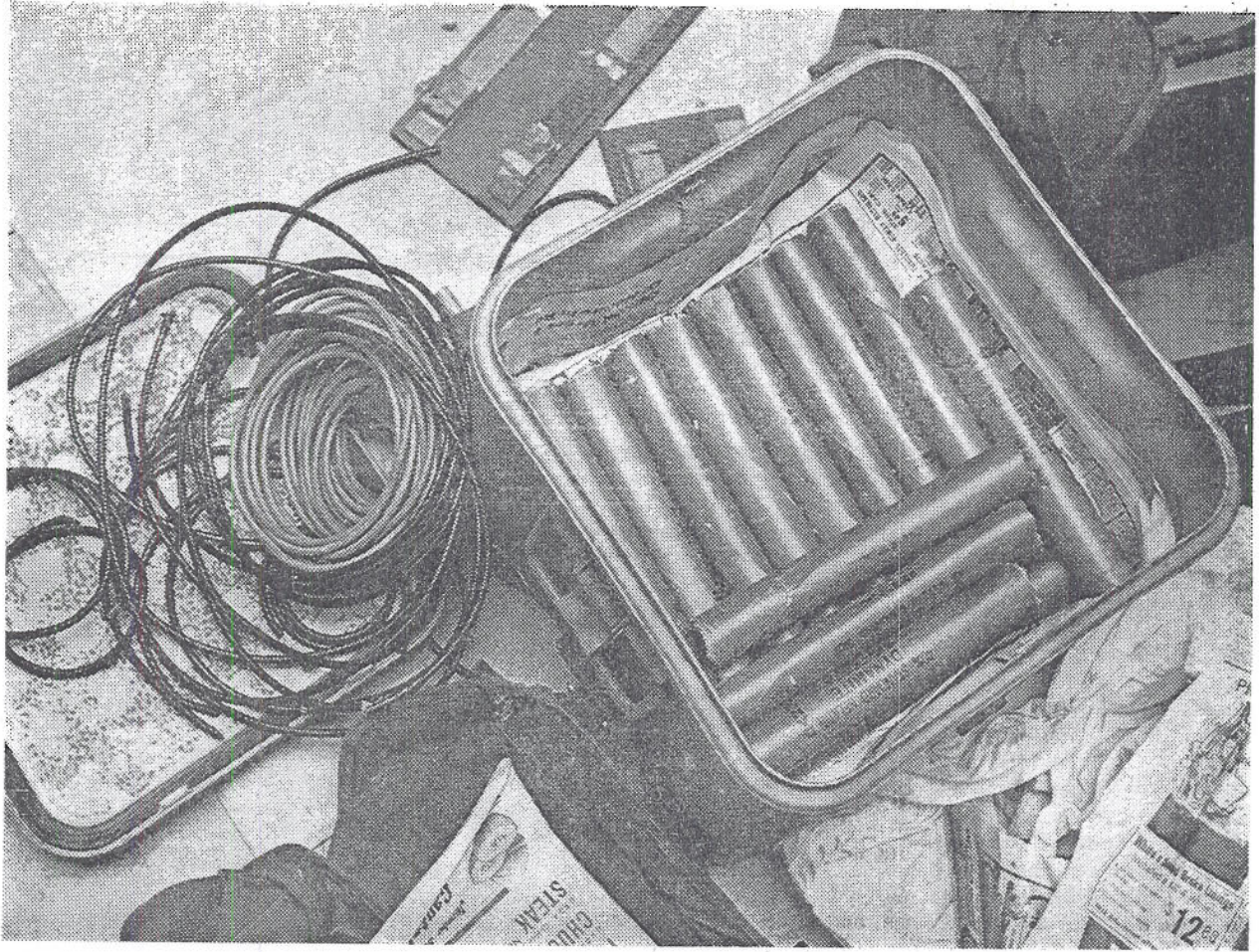
TO:  
 Bio Lab. Company  
 613 East Alton Street  
 Independence, Missouri

CONTENTS-MERCHANDISE RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
 POSTMASTER: THIS PARCEL MAY BE OPENED FOR POSTAL INSPECTION.  
 GRAYBAR CO., BROOKLYN 32, N. Y.



A Post reporter uses a metal locator to search for hidden weapons in Coal Creek Canyon. Area is a 45-minute drive from downtown Denver. A

training session held recently at the site, not far from Carter Lake, reportedly attracted Minutemen from as far as Connecticut, Pennsylvania.



Dynamite and fuses were found at the Minuteman camp in Summit County along with a radio trans-

mitter, a gas mask and a field pack. Organization's "strike teams" appear to be well equipped to fight.