

SHOOTERS AT ANNE'S



50 police seek riflemen

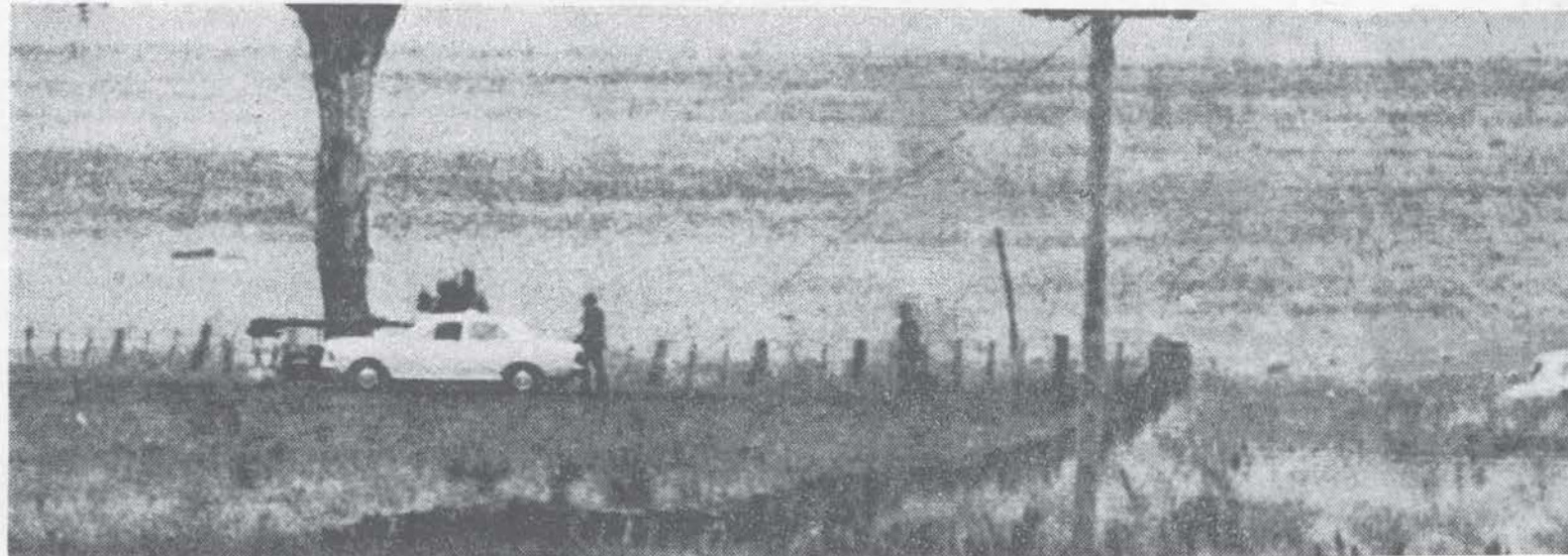
From PETER COSTER and
GRAHAM ECCLES

MANSFIELD. — About 50 armed police are searching for a man with a gun on the Koombahla homestead property where Prince Charles and Princess Anne are horse-riding this afternoon.

About 12 police cars rushed to the property after police found a man with a .22 rifle about a mile from the homestead at Delatite.

Police said the man told them he was alone, but they believe there was another man on the property where Prince Charles and Princess Anne earlier had a picnic lunch.

Saw 2 men



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Saw 2 men

A woman on a nearby property reported seeing two men with rifles.

Sgt. Peter Naylen said: "The first man we picked up said he was just a shooter down from Buller.

"But we are convinced there's still someone else here with a gun, and the prince and princess are horse-riding."

The first man — a 20-year-old Footscray apprentice — was found about 2 p.m. and taken to Mansfield police station.

He was spotted by First Constable Arthur Williams, 32, of the Seymour Highway Patrol, who had been assigned to duty in the area.

First Constable Williams said he became suspicious when he saw a car parked on a dirt track on the property.

Through binoculars

he saw a young man carrying a .22 rifle and walking across a paddock with a dog," he said.

"I walked up to the man and told him he was on a property which Princess Anne and Prince Charles were visiting.

"I told him he might be in trouble as he was discharging a firearm.

"He appeared quite shocked and started to sway as if he was going to faint.

"I grabbed him by the shoulders, sat him on the roadside and gave him some water from his own canteen.

Carrying rifle

The man told the police he saw another person carrying a rifle about half a mile away.

Police later allowed him to leave, but kept his rifle.

Mansfield police said that the two men were shooting on the property without permission. Someone heard the shots and "pressed a panic button."

"It was nothing that could not have been handled by a police car," said a constable.

The property owned by Mr Geoff Ritchie, where Prince Charles went horse-riding while he was at the nearby Timbertop school in 1986, was being patrolled by police and security men when the first man was found.

The property was completely closed to the public this afternoon.



POLICE CARS hunt for the second shooter in paddocks near the Ritchie property.

WHY THE BIG SMILE?



Stuart McGregor

Well, Stuart was on the scene

By PETER COSTER and GARRY JONES

It did brighten Anne up.

Dashing young Stuart McGregor took Anne to one side after she and Prince Charles arrived at Timbertop today.

They talked together over tea and scones in one of the classrooms. There were whispers and giggles. Princess Anne was a different girl from the one who got off the plane from Melbourne at Mansfield earlier.

Stuart was on the plane too. But it was a bumpy trip. And Anne got sick.

She looked pale and a bit down in the mouth when she left the RAAF Caribou.

She met local officials but rarely said more than "Hello."

But at Timbertop, the Princess sparkled.

Stuart told her: "How nice you look."

Anne's face lit up in a big smile.

The Queen and Prince Philip went to the country today, too.

They flew to Swan Hill in an RAAF Hawker Siddeley — and got 30 minutes behind schedule talking with crowds and touring interest spots.

At Portland later, rain drenched four hundred boy scouts and girl guides as they formed a guard of honor for the Queen and Prince Philip.

Some hid under their banners and other huddled together against the cold wind.

Stuart McGregor, 21,

and Anne, 19, met before — when Stuart, a companion of Prince Charles while he was at Timbertop in 1986, was in Britain for Prince Charles's investiture as Prince of Wales.

Stuart will escort Anne to the young people's dance at Government House tonight.

After their cup of tea, Prince Charles took Princess Anne on a stroll around Timbertop. Charles told her what he did and where he lived while he was there.

Anne giggled when Prince Charles pointed to thick bush outside one of the classrooms and said: "I used to go for walks up there."

Princess Anne wrinkled her nose and said: "You didn't, Charles said: "Oh, good heavens, yes."

↑ SORRY, ANNE — MY MISTAKE

Prince Charles and Princess Anne were saying hello to students at Timbertop today.



Tim Graham

A boy holding a camera yelled out "Hey, Princess Margaret!"

Princess Anne spun around and said with a stern face, "I beg your pardon."

Then she laughed.

The boy, Timothy Graham, 14, said: "I just wanted to get a picture. I forgot. It was a mistake."

Hark! Sark's sad barks

LONDON, Mon. AAP. — After 272 years, the people of the Channel Island of Sark (pop. 500) are to be allowed to keep bitches, but only if they are spayed.

A law introduced in 1698 prohibited anyone but the feudal ruler — now 86-year old Dame Sibyl Hathaway — from bringing a bitch to the island. Sark has 73 male dogs.



FOOTY'S GREAT

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