

The Billings Gazette from Billings, Montana
Friday, February 28, 1964

TWO ABOARD

Search for Lost Plane Is Futile

RIVERTON, Wyo. (UPI)

An air search over the rugged mountains of central Wyoming covered four counties Thursday without turning up a trace of a single - engine plane presumed down with two men aboard. The plane took off carrying Dan Gimlin, 29, and Bradford Dale, 37, from Riverton at 9 a.m. Wednesday. The men, both from Riverton, planned to hunt coyotes from the air under a contract with the Fremont County Predator Control Board.

A limited search started at 3 p.m. one hour after the red and white Champion would have exhausted its five - hour fuel supply. The search was expanded Thursday to include 23 aircraft from Riverton, Worland, Lander, Big Pmeyer, Rawlins and Baggs. Pilots of the Wyoming Civil Air Patrol participated in the search coordinated by Marvin Stevenson and Larry Kretsineer of the State Aeronautics Commission.

The missing plane was owned by the Wyoming Flight Service of Riverton. Gimlin, a commercial pilot, worked for the air service. Dale did carpentry work in Riverton. Gimlin's wife, who also works for the flight service, stayed on the job explaining the search operation to newsmen.

The extensive search encompassed Fremont, Sweetwater and Sublette counties and a portion of Natrona County, according to Riverton Airport Manager **Fuzz Parten**.

A plane from Pinedale was scheduled to join searchers Friday. Early search efforts were concentrated over the Wind River mountains. Planes also flew north from Riverton to work southern slopes of the Owl Creek Mountains east into Natrona County as far as Arminto.

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