NEWS-PRESS STAFFERS TELL IT LIKE IT WAS

(Continued from Page 1)

ents and they were able to supply the serial numbers for it.

Armed with this information, the Lynn Parkers (Darrel's parents) hired the services of Peterson, the parttime private detective, and he claimed to have traced the missing items back through several hands to Wesley Peery, a convicted rapist serving time in the Ohio State prison. They were still missing, but he was sure he knew where they were.

It was at this point that Peterson approached me with the story. What made it really newsworthy was the fact that this was not the first time Peery had figured in the case. He was the first suspect the Lincoln police arrested. Witnesses had seen his car parked near the Parker home all morning the day of the murder. And he had formerly worked for Darrel doing common labor in the parks, where he could have learned to tie "forester's knots" which had figured prominently in the trial.

The prosecution's summation of the case was that Nancy Parker had resisted her husband's advances, so he strangled her and bound her hands behind her back, using a knot peculiar to foresters and linking him to the crime.

Back to Perry. After questioning him, the police let him go and Parker became the prime suspect.

I didn't know whether every bit of the story Peterson told me was true, but after digging into it as much as possible, I decided that the people in Mills county would certainly be interested in reading it, so I published it.

It also came out in Argosy magazine's "Court of Last Resort," conducted by Erie Stanley Gardner, author of the Perry Mason stories. It wasn't hard to see why Gardner was interested, because this followed the classic Perry Mason TV format — all the evidence pointing to one suspect until at the last minute they run into the courtroom with proof that somebody else did it. But in real life the ending didn't follow the script.

Argosy writers and photographers went along the day Peterson led the search of a ramshackle farmstead near Crete where, among other junk, he found a suitcase and inside the house the sofa pillows — but no watch.

This was enough to convince the Parkers they should hire new lawyers and try to get the case back into the courts. Money was a problem. They were not wealthy. Although they were good church-going hard-working farmers and probably had an above average income. They had already been through the legal expense of the trial and subsequent private investigation. Parker's fraternity brothers from Iowa State college came to the rescue with a nationwide campaign to raise funds.

Meanwhile, the wheels of justice ground slowly and months went by awaiting the hearing on a motif for a new trial. Then one night came a news bombshell.

Masked men had broken into Detective Peterson's office, bound and gagged him, ransaked his files, abducted him and threw him out of a car along the highway west of Red Oak, where some high school boys found him.

That was his story.

The Iowa Bureau of Investigation studied the facts and said it was all a hoax to gain publicity. Peterson's detective license and license to carry a gun were revoked.

Mr and Mrs Parker and Peterson continued occasionally to visit me after that incident, but I refused to print any more stories about the case without real proof. Peterson insisted he had been "framed" by the sheriff because he had run against him numerous times in elections, and the Parkers believed him. They kept telling me to wait until the hearing in Lincoln, then I would see.

The time for the hearing finally arrived and I attended, and it was pathetic. Handwriting experts testified the signatures on some of the "sworn" statements obtained by Peterson were forged. One of his former helpers swore that the suitcases "found" on the farm were purchased in Des Moines and the two of them rubbed dirt on them to make them look old.

Parker's new lawyers didn't even call Peterson to the witness stand. The judge dismissed the motion.

Still, dozens of Darrel's fraternity brothers from all over the nation attended the hearing and went away claiming the court was prejudiced.

I went away wondering why the state of Nebraska didn't bring charges against the man who had, in my opinion, built up false hopes in some very honorable and trusting people.

I don't think, as some do, that he did it for money. The Parkers told me they doubted if what they paid him even covered the expenses he incurred in traveling all over the country talking to prisoners and excons. I believe that Peterson, who has since died, wanted so desperately to find real evidence that when he couldn't he concocted it.

Anyway, that hearing several years ago was the last contact I had with anyone connected with the Darrel Parker case, although I continued to read about the legal maneuvers being made in his behalf.

You'd have to know Mr and Mrs Parker personally to know how honest and trusting they are and how deeply they believed their only son had been unjustly convicted of a murder he didn't commit — because he always told them it happened way.

Why did he continue to fight in the courts when he could have kept quiet and gotten a parole years ago? He was a model prsioner, In charge of the prison greenhouse, where he was allowed to live rather than in a cell. He even was allowed to have a dog.

Then there's the matter of the missing luggage, sofa pillows and watch that brought the private detective into the case in the first place. Since he apparently didn't find them, what really happened to them?

These are questions people in Henderson, Iowa, may occasionally ask that probably will never be answered, now that the parole has been granted. There was a time when they didn't even ask them because, like politics and religion, they had their opinions about the guilt or innocence of the studious 4-H member they all knew, but that was something you just didn't risk talking about.

Time has softened that.

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The most interesting experience we've had this week came on a visit to the office of a Nebraska City professional man.

In our waiting moments we picked up a magazine, a recent issue of Playboy. (Mebbe it was used to get the patients to say "ah").

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Sheriff Bill Miller will leave Nebraska City soon to take over as chief of police at Plainview, Nebraska. The sheriff resigned after serving a four-year term in Otoe county.

We wish the sheriff and his family much success. We've had occasion to call him and his deputies and they have always been courteous and helpful as we made the news beat. We'll not forget a call from Mrs Miller one night telling us of an airplane crash. Those type of calls were much appreciated.

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Sheriff Miller will be a compliment to the Plainview police department. He came to Nebraska City as a police officer and worked as deputy under former sheriff Ralph Hall.

And he goes to Plainview with considerable training as a former police officer and as a sheriff whose job it has been to cover a lot of miles in law enforcement.

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My copy of the Jolly Tripper's brochure says that the travelers will leave Tuesday for a two week trip in the west, including Old Mexico.

Ed Bottcher, Talmage, has organized another of the trips enjoyed so much by the travelers. The Jolly Trippers will load at Syracuse at 7:15 a.m. stop at Dunbar at 7:45 and be at the courthouse in Nebraska City at 8:15 a.m.

They will head south to Kansas, then go west on U.S. 36 and spend the first night at Colorado Springs. They are an adult fun group and they give some very interesting programs in their trips.

Good motoring to the Jolly Trippers. We'll see you in two weeks.

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Verne "Pick" Pickering, who retired after about 45 years with the News-Press, is not around to answer my questions about oldtime dance bands, but perhaps one of you readers can help me on this.

\+ + +

Whatever happened to Mickey Kull and his band?

I'm sure Pick and His Tophatters were playing at similar dances when Kull was popular about 25 years ago. He was known during the years that Kenny Knowles was "packing them in" at the dime-a-dance.

One of Knowles' features was the song, "Shanty In Old Shanty Town."

One of Kull's clever musical numbers was, "It Takes A Mighty Good Man To Do That." Does anyone know the words and tune?

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Family identification at the halftime show at the ball game: "It's hard to tell one from another in the band uniforms, which one is your daughter?" the woman next to me asked. "The one with the long, straight hair," was the reply.

1,000 pints of blood given

SEATTLE (UPI) — One student's explanation was simple: "Mr. Fletcher is a good guy."

For Charles Fletcher, a Ballard High School business teacher, more than 1,000 are giving a pint of blood each. Their donations can save his life.

Throughout the day they lined up in the school gymnasium Friday to give their blood.

Fletcher, 39, underwent a risky and rare operation Thursday to get an artificial hip joint.

Student Activists

There was one major complication—Fletcher is a hemophiliac, a bleeder whose blood will not clot without outside help.

Doctors estimated it would take a special blood factor from 1,000 pints to take care of the surgery and a recovery period. Without the operation Fletcher would become incapacitated, knocked down by the blood disease which also affects his bone joints.

Ballard students first heard of Fletcher's need earlier this week.

"Are we going to let this man die or are we going to show Seattle what Ballard people can do for one of the teachers?" asked student body president George Guy, 17, at a general student meeting.

Pulling Through

More than 1,200 students picked up parent permission slips and pledged their blood. And Fletcher went ahead with the operation.

Family argument ends in deaths

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. (UPI)—A family argument was listed as the apparent cause of a double fatality here Friday evening and the critical wounding of another.

South Sioux City Police Chief Gene Claxton identified the fatalities as Mrs. Leona McArthur and Michael Koskovich, both believed to have been killed by shotgun blasts.

Claxton said Clarence Russel, father of Mrs. Leona McArthur, one of the fatalities, was rushed to St. Lukes Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, where he was undergoing surgery for head and back wounds.

A suspect was being held in connection with the violence.

Police said Mrs. McArthur was estranged from her husband.

Farragut's Promotion

David G. Farragut, on Dec. 21, 1864, became the first officer of the U S. Navy to be promoted to the rank of vice-admiral, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Bedwetting caused murders of family

By JOHN J. SKALKO

FT. BRAGG, N.C. (UPI)—A preliminary decision is expected here this week on whether Green Beret Capt. Jeffrey MacDonald, 27, will face a court-martial on murder charges in the death of his young pregnant wife and two daughters.

Public disclosure of the recommendation of Col. Warren V. Rock of Raleigh, N.C., is not expected however, since two higher ranking officers, who could overrule him, will review his decision.

Rock, since July 6, has listened to testimony concerning the events of Feb. 17 when the three members of the Special Forces doctor's family were fatally stabbed and beaten.

The hearing, which was recessed a total of four weeks before finally adjourning Sept. 11, covers 3,000 type-written pages, all of which are being reviewed by Rock.

Recommendation Passed On

The colonel's recommendation goes first to Maj. Gen. Edward M. Flannagan, commander of the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance and the 6th and 7th Special Forces groups. Captain MacDonald, who will be 28 Oct. 12, is assigned to the 6th Special Forces Group.

Flannagan will also review the voluminous transcript. His decision is subject to further review by Lt. Gen. John J. Tolson, Ft. Bragg commander, who alone has the authority to decide if a court-martial will be convened.

When the decision finally comes, and that may take two to three months, observers believe Tolson will order the Princeton graduate to stand trial. However, the case is expected to be a difficult one and the court-martial could stretch into next year.

The Army has never made public its case against MacDonald, but defense attorneys Bernard L. Segal and Dennis Eisman, both of Philadelphia, have said the prosecution believes he killed his family in a rage over a bedwetting incident involving one of his children.

Contention Called Insult

The defense calls this contention an "insult to the intelligence" of everyone involved in the case, and MacDonald has steadfastly maintained his family was murdered and he was stabbed by four intruders, including two white men, a Negro man and a blond woman wearing a floppy white hat.

The two-month hearing, which received testimony from more than 40 witnesses, was closed to the public and press by decision of Flannagan. While his reason was never disclosed, it is believed the general was concerned about pre-trial publicity that could be grounds for overturning a conviction if MacDonald was eventually found guilty by a court-martial.

As matters stand now, there is no official word on the prosecution's case. All details of the hearing were relayed to reporters by defense attorneys, who have said publicly they feel there in no case against their client.

Agnew reads Spock's book

MILWAUKEE, Wis. —(UPI)— Vice President Spiro T. Agnew read from the baby care book of Dr. Benajmin Spock Friday night and blamed its advice to parents for helping foster a "pervasive policy of permissiveness."

Agnew told a $150-a-plate fund-raising dinner the book has sold more than 25 million copies. "Don't knock it," he said, and then read:

"You have to compromise. Overlook some of his (the child's) less irritating bad habits, realizing that they are not permanent."

Spock's book, Agnew said, advocates careful avoidance of "bossiness."

"Who do you suppose is to blame when, 10 years later, that child comes home from college and sits down at the table with dirty, bare feet and a disorderly faceful of hair?" Agnew asked.

"As much as sociological soreheads hate to admit it," the vice president said, the recent "pervasive policy of permissiveness has turned out to be a tragic mistake. The age of indulgence has eroded personal responsibility and corrupted discipline. It has replaced respect for authority with fear of repression."

Thomas Marshall, vice-president of the Wilson administration, is credited with the remark, "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar."

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Price named as welfare chief

LINCOLN (UPI) — Gov. Norbert Tiemann announced today he has appointed former State Sen. John W. Price as the new state welfare director, effective Oct. 16.

A native of Lincoln, Price served in the Legislature from 1941 to 1943. He is currently working as senior management analyst with the Washington, D.C. Police Department.

Price, 58, will replace acting director Robert McManus, who is also director of the Nebraska Administrative Services Department and took over temporary reins of the Welfare Department after the former director, Harold Strode, was fired by Tiemann for misuse of state funds.

McManus said Price was recommended for the appointment by Sen. Carl T. Curtis' office. He said Price was one of about eight persons interviewed for the position and one of "over 30" who applied for the job.

At a news conference, both the governor and McManus said they did not talk with Price about whether the job might be a short term one because of the possibility Tiemann might not be re-elected.

"It never entered the discussions," they said.

Tiemann said Price's job experiences make him "ideally suited" for the director's post.

Price is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and a member of the Nebraska Bar Association.

A retired Army Colonel with foreign served in Tokyo, Paris and Korea, Price served as legal advisor to the commander-in-chief of the United Nations command in Korea.

He was also chief of the U.S. delegation and a team member on several delegations negotiating agreements with the governments of Britain, France, Japan and Korea.

Price will receive $17,500 a year in his new job.

WORLD ALMANAC FACTS



The first five-and-ten store was opened in Utica, N.Y., on Feb. 22, 1879, by Frank Woolworth, The World Almanac recalls The first store was initially a disappointment as sales were as low as $2.50 a day

OTOE COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Fund Raising Dinner

TUESDAY, OCT. 6 — 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Building — Nebraska City
TICKETS $2.50 each
Available from Committee Men & Committee Women

Guest Speaker
DR. WALLACE PETERSON
Economics Dept. — University of Nebraska



Myron Schroeder-Everett Reimers-Jim Beecham-Bob Kreifels

4-H BLUE RIBBON BEEF owned by Beecham purchased by Kreifels at Otoe County Fair.
4 Beef Quarters To Be Given Away

+ GUESTS TO INCLUDE+

Frank B. Morrison — Candidate for U.S. Senate
Geo. Wm. "Bill" Burrows — Candidate for Congressman, (1st District)
J.J. "Jim" Exon — Candidate for Governor
Ronald Reagan — Lt. Governor candidate
Stan Matzke — Secretary of State Candidate
John Kissack — State Treasurer Candidate
PLUS
Otoe County Democratic Candidates

MOON ROCK

on Display Free During the

9th Annual Show

of the

ARBOR VALLEY GEM

and

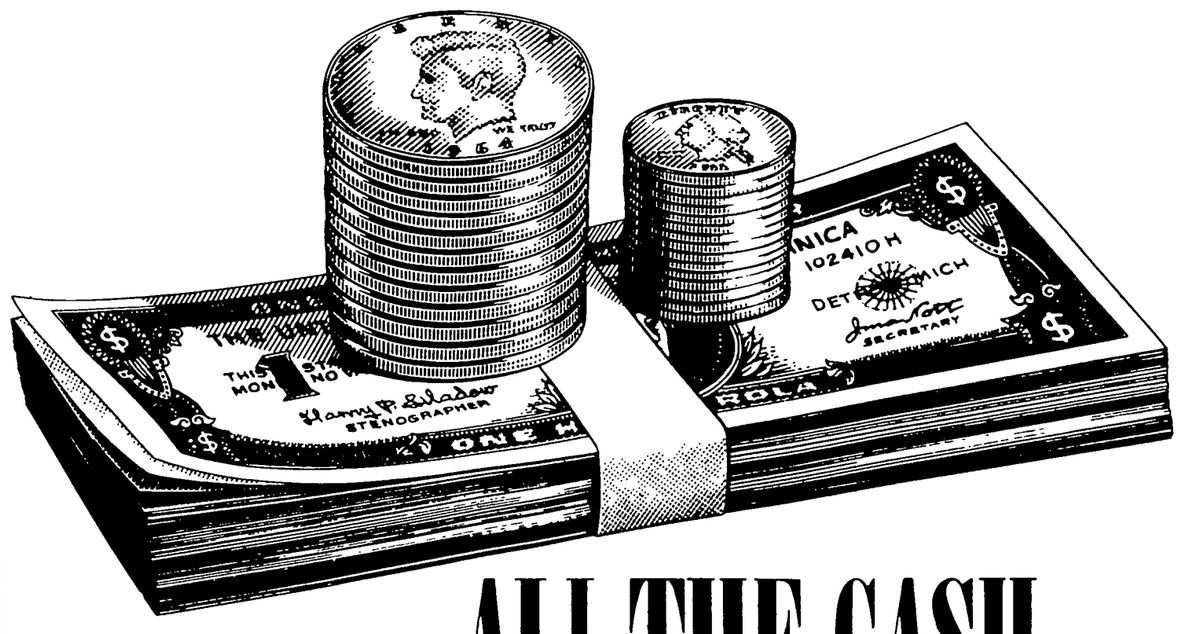
MINERAL CLUB

Admission — Adults 25c
Children under 12 Free
(Accompanied by Adult)

SAT., Oct. 3 SUN., Oct. 4
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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