

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT.

I. M. Rice, Editor and Proprietor

VALENTINE, NEBR., THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1909.

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THE DEMOCRAT

The Real Confession of Story.

Milt Latta met with the commercial club last Friday night instead of holding a meeting at the court house as was suggested in last week's DEMOCRAT. Mr. Latta briefly narrated his trip to Lincoln, following the sheriff down there on Friday the preceding week, where he secured an interview with Samuel L. Story, the self-confessed murderer of Fred Smith Oct. 11, 1908, near Valentine.

After securing a former confession from Story, which was printed in THE DEMOCRAT two weeks ago, Mr. Latta began to suspect that the truth was not told. The story didn't sound reasonable. It didn't have the ring of truth in it and savored of a fixed up story, and poorly fixed, too, considering the after actions and conduct of Story. Mr. Latta went down to Lincoln to see Story after he was lodged in his final home, the state penitentiary, to which he was sentenced for life upon his plea of guilty of murder in the second degree. Thinking that now that his sentence was pronounced and that the convict might be willing to tell the truth.

Mr. Latta secured another confession in which Story says he planned to kill Fred Smith before leaving Douglas, Wyo., and that he purchased a revolver for that purpose. He suggested to Smith that they save their money at Chadron and ride in a box car from there to Longpine. Fred Smith paid a brackey \$2 to carry them through the division, and Story planned to kill Smith on the way down and dump him out, but it was dark and he couldn't see whether or not anyone was around nor how to do the job and get rid of him without the fear of running into a town before the job was complete, and that blood stains on the car, too, was perhaps a thing to be feared. Story finally decided to attract the attention of the conductor at Valentine and get put off here. After eating breakfast Smith wanted to walk around town but Story, fearing that he would be recognized and drawn into conversation, told him that there was nothing to see in this little town and wanted to go on down the road to the Niobrara river, where he told Fred there was some fine scenery. Upon arriving at the river Fred inquired where the scenery was, and Story led the way down the river and finally admitted that he guessed he had missed the place and that it must be up the river. Smith replied that it sure wasn't here. Then Story said he was tired and asked Smith to lay down and rest and sleep until the next train came along, and that as the train always slowed up at the bridge they would have no trouble in climbing aboard. His idea was to get Smith to go asleep and then shoot him and take his money, but Fred did not seem inclined to sleep as he had slept on the way down from Chadron during the previous night, and after laying down for awhile together, Story got up and walked over to the river only a few feet away and hoped not to arouse Fred when he could return and do the job while he slept, but Fred arose and sat upon the ground facing the river and with his elbows on his knees was rubbing his eyes and face in his hands when Story moved noiselessly around behind him, fearing that if he delayed any longer that someone would wander along and again foil his attempt, he placed his revolver within only a few feet of Smith's head and fired the fatal shot. Fred Smith fell over sideways upon the

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ground and died instantly.

Story hurriedly rifled the pockets of Smith in search of the money which he supposed Smith carried with him and expected to get between \$300 and \$400. He secured about \$45 and some certificates of deposit. Story then hastily rolled the body in the river and after tearing up all of Smith's papers of identification threw them into the river and started on foot towards Woodlake, fearing he might be observed too close to the scene of the crime.

When asked why he didn't tell the truth of his crime before, Story replied that he hadn't received his sentence yet and feared the extreme penalty.

So this is the whole story of the crime—a cold blooded, deliberate, premeditated murder.

Easter at St. John's Church.

The Easter services at St. John's church began with a six o'clock celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The church was artistically decorated with potted plants, including Easter lilies with cut flowers for the altar.

At the later high celebration the church was filled and the services were worshipful and inspiring. The sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered to the two infant children, Mary Jane Green and Raymond Ormesher.

At the evening service the church was again crowded with an appreciative congregation. Minnehadza lodge No. 192, A. F. and A. M., were guests at this service.

The music was rendered by the vested choir, assisted by Mrs. C. H. Cornell and Mr. S. W. Green as soloists, and the Misses Florence Hanna and Vida H Nation as violinists, together with Misses Mary Hanna and Leola West as accompanists on the organ.

The services were inspiring and will long be remembered by those who were fortunate to be present.

St. Nicholas Church.

Services will be held in the Catholic church as follows:

In Arabia on Sunday, April 18, at 10 a. m.

In Nenzel on Sunday, April 25.

In Valentine on Sunday May 2. Low mass at 8. m. High mass and sermon at 10 a. m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after mass.

At 3 p. m., instruction for the children.

In Crookston on Sunday, May 9, at 10 a. m.

LEO M. DEABERE, Rector.

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