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STARKWEATHER

Continued from Page 1
ther, Marion and Velda Bartlett, got worse.

On Jan. 21, 1958, Starkweather went to Fugate's Belmont Avenue home and apparently argued with her parents. What really happened that day will never be known. Both Starkweather and Fugate gave several different accounts of the events.

Only the result is certain — Marion and Velda Bartlett both were shot in the head with a .22 caliber rifle, and 2-year-old Betty Jean Bartlett died of knife wounds to her upper body and neck.

After disposing of the bodies in an outhouse in the Bartlett's backyard, Starkweather and Fugate stayed in the Bartlett house for almost a week. Fugate later claimed that she believed her family was alive but being held hostage elsewhere by a friend of Starkweather's. Evidence later would seem to refute her testimony.

During the week, several people stopped at the Bartlett's house, inquiring about the family's absence. Fugate met everyone at the door, telling them that family members were sick with the flu.

Finally, on Jan. 27, Starkweather and Fugate took his 1949 Ford and drove to Bennett, a town 16 miles south of Lincoln.

Starkweather knew a retired farmer near there, 70-year-old August Meyer, who let the Starkweather family hunt on his property. When they pulled into the dirt lane leading up to Meyer's farmhouse, Starkweather's car got stuck in the mud, and he and Fugate walked the rest of the way.

Why Starkweather killed August Meyer is a mystery. Meyer was a family friend, who knew Starkweather well. But again, only the result was clear — Meyer lay dead on his porch, shot in the head with a sawed-off .410 shotgun.

After covering up the body in the farmhouse and stealing some food and money, the couple returned to the stranded car and tried to get it moving. With the help of a farmer, they freed the car, and then drove to Lincoln, bought more ammunition and returned to the farm.

The Ford again got stuck, so they flagged down a passing car, driven by Bob Jensen Jr., 17, and his fiancée, Carol King, 16. Soon after he and Fugate climbed into their car, Starkweather pointed his rifle at Jensen and

forced him to drive around town before eventually returning to the farm.

Starkweather took Fugate and the couple to an abandoned schoolhouse foundation used as a storm cellar. As with almost every killing, Starkweather's testimony conflicted with Fugate's. She claimed he killed both the teenagers; Starkweather later denied any part in King's death.

By this time, Lincoln officials had discovered the bodies at the Bartlett residence, and an alert for Starkweather and Fugate had been issued.

But the two were always one step ahead of the police. After killing King and Jensen, they drove Jensen's car to the Hastings area and then back to Lincoln.

On the following morning, Jan. 28, state patrol, county sheriff's officers and the Lincoln police descended on the Meyer property. They found Meyer's corpse, and later discovered the Bennett teenagers dead in the storm cellar. Jensen lay in a pool of blood, shot six times in the head. King was lying beside him, a bullet in her head and several stab marks on her body.

As authorities recovered the bodies, Starkweather realized Jensen's car would be recognized, so he stopped at a south Lincoln estate to steal another one. The home belonged to millionaire businessman C. Lauer Ward, 47, and his wife, Clara, 46. Their maid, Lillian Fencil, 51, answered the door around 8:30 a.m. and in stepped Starkweather with a loaded rifle. Fugate followed. The two ate breakfast and watched Mrs. Ward and Fencil while Ward was at work.

According to Starkweather's account, Mrs. Ward went upstairs, supposedly to put shoes on. When Starkweather followed, she fired at him with a rifle and missed. Starkweather threw his hunting knife at her, stabbing her in the back. He then carried her, still alive, into a bedroom and left her on the bed.

That evening, Ward returned home. He saw Starkweather in the hallway, and according to Starkweather, grabbed for the rifle. After a scuffle, Starkweather regained control of his .22 and shot Ward in the head.

Again, what happened next is questionable. Starkweather claimed he did not attempt to stab Mrs. Ward again and that he did not stab Fencil to death. He said that when he and Fugate left the house that evening, he thought both women were

Continued on Page 7

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City East Cultural Center

presents

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February 3, 8:00 PM

Great Plains Room
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The Actuarial Science Club will tour the Woodmen Accident and Life building today at 4:30 p.m. Rides from Burnett Hall to the insurance company home office at 1526 K St., will be available at 4:20 p.m.

"In Pursuit of Justice," a public forum presided over by Nebraska Chief Justice Norman Krivosha, will be Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the fourth floor cafeteria of the City-County Building, 555 S. 10 St.

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