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1
2 STATEMENT OF:

CHARLES RAYMOND STARKWEATHER,
3 taken at the Nebraska State
4 Penitentiary, Lincoln, Nebraska,
5 at 2:30 o'clock p. m., on
6 Saturday, February 1, 1958.

7
8 TAKEN BY:

Mr. Elmer M. Scheele,
County Attorney, Lancaster
9 County, Nebraska.

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 Mr. Merle C. Karnopp,
Sheriff, Lancaster County,
Nebraska;

12 Robert J. Stein, M. D.
13 Lincoln, Nebraska.

14 Reporter: Elmer Shamberg.

15 * * *

16
17 QUESTIONS BY MR. SCHEELE:

18 Q- Where did you go from there, on Jan 27, 1958, U.S.

19 A- We went over to 27th Street and headed south on
20 27th, went out to Tate's.

21 Q- And where is Tate's located?

22 A- On the highway; I don't know what --

23 Q- The highway to Beatrice?

24 A- Yes.

25 Q- South of Lincoln?

1 A- Yes, sir.

2 Q- What did you do there?

3 A- I had the flat tire fixed.

4 Q- What time of the day was that?

5 A- Oh, it must have been about 11 o'clock.

6 Q- In the morning?

7 A- Yes.

8 Q- How long were you there?

9 A- About a half an hour.

10 Q- And what did you do?

11 A- Well, Caril went in and got four hamburgers, and
12 I was back there watching them fix the tire.

13 Q- Where was your car parked?

14 A- Out back.

15 Q- In behind Tate's?

16 A- Yes.

17 Q- Now is Tate's on the east or west side of the highway?

18 A- It's on the east -- west.

19 Q- And was your car then west of Tate's filling station
20 and cafe, behind it there?

21 A- Yes.

22 Q- While the tire was being fixed?

23 A- Yes.

24 Q- Who fixed the tire, do you know?

25 A- Well, there was a couple.

1 Q- Did you ever go into the cafe?

2 A- Yes; I went in there and -- I gave Caril a ten
3 dollar bill, and I went in and got the change.

4 Q- Did you buy anything in there?

5 A- No, I paid for the hamburgers.

6 Q- Did you buy anything besides the hamburgers at that
7 time?

8 A- Not in the restaurant.

9 Q- Or there at all?

10 A- In the filling station I bought two boxes of 22's,
11 and a box of 410's.

12 Q- You bought two boxes of 22-rifle shells?

13 A- Yes.

14 Q- What type?

15 A- A short, and, a, rifle head.

16 Q- One box of short 22 caliber rifle bullets and one box
17 of long hollow nose, and one box of 410 shotgun gauge
18 shells?

19 A- Yes, size 7.

20 Q- Do you know what make the shotgun shells were?

21 A- They are Remington.

22 Q- Do you know what color they were?

23 A- Green.

24 Q- And do you know what make the rifle shells were?

25 A- I think they were the same.

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(Statement of Charles R. Starkweather)

4

1 Q- Then after you left Tate's, where did you go?

2 A- Well, we got a map of Kansas and Missouri and
3 Nebraska.

4 Q- What direction did you go when you left Tate's then?

5 A- We headed south.

6 Q- And where did you go?

7 A- Came to the first turn off, about a half a mile
8 or three-quarters of a mile from Tate's.

9 Q- And then where did you go?

10 A- We turned and headed east.

11 Q- Where did you go then?

12 A- Went as far as the road went, about a mile and a
13 half.

14 Q- Where did you go from there?

15 A- We turned and headed back north.

16 Q- Where were you and Caril planning to go at that time?

17 A- Oh, nowhere at all, we were heading for Bennet,
18 if I could get there.

19 Q- Did Caril know at that time what had happened to her
20 family?

21 A- No, I don't believe she did.

22 Q- Had you told her?

23 A- No.

24 Q- Had she asked you anything about them?

25 A- No.

1 Q- Where did you plan to go?

2 A- At that time?

3 Q- Yes.

4 A- I never.

5 Q- What did you do the rest of the afternoon?

6 A- You mean planning to leave town or anything like
7 that?

8 Q- Yes.

9 A- Well, I was planning on going to Bennet.

10 Q- What were you going to do?

11 A- I thought we might --

12 Q- Do you know people out there?

13 A- I know that territory around there.

14 Q- How do you happen to know the territory around Bennet?

15 A- I used to go hunting around there all the time.

16 Q- Any particular place where you used to hunt?

17 A- Yes; down at Meyer's section down there.

18 Q- At August Meyer farm?

19 A- Yes.

20 Q- Where is that from Bennet?

21 A- Oh, about five miles east of Bennet.

22 Q- It could be less than that, could it?

23 A- It could be.

24 Q- Did you go to the August Meyer farm that afternoon?

25 A- Yes; we got back on that new highway that they

-8 1 built that goes up through that way, it goes by the
2 State Patrol there.

3 Q- The new highway?

4 A- Yes.

5 Q- That goes from Lincoln to Bennet and then on east?

6 A- Yes; we went through that way there.

7 Q- And drove to Bennet?

8 A- Yes.

9 Q- Did you go through the town of Bennet?

10 A- Yes, I did.

11 Q- And then where did you go from Bennet?

12 A- Well, I headed for the Meyer's farm down there.

13 Q- About what time was that?

14 A- Probably around noon.

15 Q- On Monday?

16 A- Yes.

17 Q- Did you go to Meyer's farm?

18 A- No; we pulled up there in this south, or, the
19 west drive there and got stuck, there was a lot of
20 hard snow there.

21 Q- And that west drive leads into the Meyer farm from
22 a county road that runs north and southwest of the
23 Meyer farm?

24 A- Yes.

25 Q- Is that clear to you?

- 2-8
- 1 A- Yes.
- 2 Q- And this lane then runs east and west, is that correct?
- 3 A- Yes.
- 4 Q- And where the lane connects with the county road are
- 5 there any buildings at that location?
- 6 A- There was.
- 7 Q- Where was that?
- 8 A- There was a schoolhouse there.
- 9 Q- Where from the lane and the road?
- 10 A- It would be on the north, on the northwest -- it
- 11 would be the north -- on the road it would be east
- 12 and on this lane going up into it, it would be north.
- 13 Q- In other words the old schoolhouse building was north
- 14 of the lane that leads into the Meyer farm?
- 15 A- Yes.
- 16 Q- And east of the county road, on the east side of the
- 17 county road, is that right?
- 18 A- Yes.
- 19 Q- What is there now where the schoolhouse used to be?
- 20 A- Wood.
- 21 Q- The building has been torn down?
- 22 A- Yes.
- 23 Q- Is there anything else there on the property?
- 24 A- There is a hole in the ground.
- 25 Q- What kind of a hole is that?

A- It looks like a bomb shelter.

Q- How is it made?

A- Cement walled, brick and pavement, er, brick in the basement, I don't know.

Q- How do you get into it?

A- From the top.

Q- And how do you get down?

A- On steps.

Q- You got stuck then just on that lane as you were turning onto the, off the county road?

A- It was about twenty feet off the county road going up that lane.

Q- Which ditch did you get stuck in?

A- We didn't get stuck in the ditch, we got stuck there at the lane, the snow was pretty hard.

Q- What did you do then?

A- Well, I tore out my reverse gear trying to get it out.

Q- Then what did you do?

A- Well, we got pretty cold and we just went over there and got inside of that hole in the ground.

Q- How long did you stay there?

A- About ten minutes.

Q- What did you do then?

A- Why, I got the guns, and we walked on up to the

Meyer's farm.

Q- And what guns did you take then?

A- Just the 410 and the 32.

Q- You had no 22 caliber weapon?

A- Not at that time.

Q- Why did you buy 22 shells?

A- I had my brother's 22 then.

Q- No, I mean at Tate's that day, that is Monday, January 27th, last Monday?

A- Yes.

Q- Did you plan on getting a 22 caliber weapon?

A- No; I was, I must have thought I still had his gun, I don't know.

Q- At any rate you took the 410 sawed off shotgun and the 32 pistol with you and Caril ^{FUGATE C-5} when you went down in the cave?

A- And the knife.

Q- And the knife; and how long did you stay down there?

A- About ten minutes.

Q- And then what happened?

A- Well, I took the pistol and the gun and gave Caril the knife, and we walked over to the farm.

Q- Whose farm?

A- Meyer's.

Q- And what time would you say it was when you got to the

1 farmhouse?

2 A- Oh, probably about 2 o'clock.

3 Q- How far is it from where you left your car to the
4 August Meyer farmhouse?

5 A- Maybe less than a half a mile.

6 Q- And is that still in Lancaster County?

7 A- Yes.

8 Q- As far as you know?

9 A- Yes.

10 Q- Was anyone there at the August Meyer farm?

11 A- Well, we didn't go exactly to the farm, we went
12 down into, there's a barn there, there's a deal
13 underneath his barn, and we went inside his barn and
14 got warmed up.

15 Q- Which barn is that, the big one?

16 A- That's the big one.

17 Q- What direction is that from the house?

18 A- South.

19 Q- And west?

20 A- Yes, it faces about, just pointing south.

21 Q- How long did you stay there under the barn?

22 A- About five minutes.

23 Q- Then what did you do?

24 A- We walked on up to the house.

Q- And what did you do when you got up to the house?

1 A- Well, a dog was barking; I got on the porch and
2 he came out.

3 Q- Who came out?

4 A- Meyer.

5 Q- And where were you standing when he came out?

6 A- On the porch.

7 Q- Where was Caril?

8 A- She was with me.

9 Q- And were you carrying any weapon at that time?

10 A- I was carrying the 410.

11 Q- Was it loaded?

12 A- Yes.

13 Q- Was it a single shot weapon?

14 A- It would hold three shells.

15 Q- An automatic?

16 A- No; belt action.

17 Q- When Mr. Meyer came to the door what did you do or
18 say?

19 A- I asked him, I told him we were stuck in the ditch
20 and asked him if he would pull us out.

21 Q- And what did he say?

22 A- He said he would put his coat on, and we walked --

23 Q- What did you do then?

24 A- We walked on down to the barn.

25 Q- And then what happened?

1 A- Well then, he just started arguing around with me.

2 Q- Who started arguing around with you?

3 A- I don't remember what happened now, but we was
4 talking about it.

5 Q- Then what happened -- who is "we?"

6 A- All three of us.

7 Q- What happened when you got up to the house?

8 A- Why, he said for us to wait outside, and if we
9 wanted, to go out in the shack behind the house and
10 get warmed up.

11 Q- Did you?

12 A- No.

13 Q- Did he go back in the house?

14 A- Yes.

15 Q- And where did you stay?

16 A- Well, Caril -- I don't know where Caril was, I
17 don't know whether she stayed around on the back or
18 whether she stayed on the side or what. I walked
19 around in the back.

20 Q- In other words when you say you walked around in the
21 back, which side of the house were you?

22 A- East -- I walked around the east side.

23 Q- So the house faces west?

24 A- No, the house faces south.

25 Q- Well now, let me put it this way. You could be confused

1 on your directions out there at the Meyer farm, is
2 that possible?

3 A- The way it is now, I think I am.

4 Q- At any rate did Mr. Meyer after you and he and Caril
5 left the barn --

6 A- We didn't go in the barn, we went as far as to the
7 barn.

8 Q- Well after you came back to the house from going down
9 to the barn, which door did he go into to enter the
10 house?

11 A- The back door.

12 Q- And that is the back door that opens off of a built in
13 porch there?

14 A- Yes.

15 Q- And that is the door that is just near the outbuilding
16 where he told you and Caril you could go to warm up?

17 A- Yes.

18 Q- Which is behind the house?

19 A- Yes.

20 Q- After Mr. Meyer went into the back door of his home
21 what did you do?

22 A- Well, I just stood out there.

23 Q- Where did you stand?

24 A- Well, about -- well, the directions there now --

25 you say that was the east, behind, where he went in

1 would be east?

2 Q- Yes.

3 A- Which way would be south?

4 Q- Let me ask you this; is there anything between the
5 house and this outbuilding?

6 A- Just a sidewalk.

7 Q- A sidewalk; and was the sidewalk between you and the
8 back door of Mr. Moyer's home?

9 A- No; I was standing off to the side.

10 Q- Were you then between the sidewalk and the house?

11 A- No.

12 Q- Or were you opposite the sidewalk from the house?

13 A- Well, the picture of that --

14 Q- Where were you standing when Mr. Moyer went in the
15 back door of his house?

16 A- Well, about right here (indicating) then.

17 Q- Next, close to, the house?

18 A- Yes; about a foot from the sidewalk and about two
19 feet out from the house.

20 Q- And did you stay there in that position all the time
21 he was in the house?

22 A- Yes.

23 Q- How long was he in the house?

24 A- I don't know.

25 Q- When he came out what happened?

1 A- He come out and I wasn't paying much attention to
2 him, and he walked up here (indicating) --

3 Q- Walked where?

4 A- Well, he walked across the porch.

5 Q- Yes.

6 A- Just stuck the gun out and pulled the trigger.

7 Q- He walked on the porch and did what?

8 A- I don't even know how he even did it, because I
9 wasn't looking for it.

10 Q- What did he do?

11 A- He had a 22, he had a repeating rifle.

12 Q- And where did the shot that he fired strike?

13 A- It missed.

14 Q- Missed what?

15 A- My head.

16 Q- What did you do then?

17 A- Well, he, he turned around and started running
18 back in the house, and I just stepped on the porch
19 when he got to the door.

20 Q- What did you do then?

21 A- I shot him.

22 Q- With what?

23 A- A 410.

24 Q- And he was just at the door, the back door?

25 A- Yes.

1 Q- The same door that he had just come out a few minutes
2 before?

3 A- Yes.

4 Q- And where were you standing when you fired the shotgun?

5 A- I wasn't on the porch, I just stuck the gun through
6 it, just bend it around the corner.

7 Q- And where did your shot strike him?

8 A- I don't know, it busted the window.

9 Q- Which window?

10 A- On the door.

11 Q- Do you think that the, that your shot, struck him
12 in the head or the body?

13 A- I don't know.

14 Q- Did you aim?

15 A- I never.

16 Q- What happened when he was hit?

17 A- He, he dropped, right now.

18 Q- Where was Caril when this happened?

19 A- She was around the corner.

20 Q- Which corner?

21 A- Well, let's see --

22 Q- Of the house?

23 A- Yes; like this (indicating) was the back of the
24 house, she'd be over here (indicating) somewhere, or
25 she could be way down the field.

Q- So she was around the corner someplace on the south side of the house?

A- Yes.

Q- And what did you do then when he went down?

A- I told her to come on.

Q- What did you do?

A- I told her to come in the house.

Q- Where did she come in?

A- In the back door.

Q- Right where he was lying?

A- Yes.

Q- And what did you do?

A- Well, I, let's see, I went on in the house then too, and I laid the gun down, and I went on out, and she followed me on out and I dragged him on out to the other house.

Q- To the outbuilding just behind the house?

A- Yes.

Q- And what did you drag him on to the outbuilding?

A- I tried to drag him by his feet.

Q- On the ground, or what?

A- On the sidewalk.

Q- On that sidewalk?

A- Yes.

Q- Is that a wooden sidewalk or a cement sidewalk?

A- I think wooden, cement, I don't know.

Q- Did you do anything with him on the porch before you drug him out to the outbuilding?

A- No.

Q- Did you do anything before you put him in the outbuilding?

A- No.

Q- And what did you do after you had him in the outbuilding?

A- Well, I just put him there and went back in the house and ^{put rags on C.S.} cleaned the blood on the porch.

Q- And what did you do then?

A- I went back ^{later on C.S.} and covered him up with a ^{coat over C.S.} ~~meal sack~~ ^{and C.S.} or a dish towel, I don't know what it was.

Q- Did you take anything from his personal effects or clothing?

A- I didn't.

Q- What did you do then?

A- Well, there was a dog around there someplace, and he was running all over yelling his head off.

Q- And then what did you do?

A- I went in the house and told Caril "Let's go look for the dog."

Q- Which gun did you have?

A- The only one I had was the 410.

1 Q- Did you catch up to him?

2 A- No; I seen him go by and I just shot at him.

3 Q- How far was he when you shot at him?

4 A- Maybe thirty feet.

5 Q- Did you hit him?

6 A- He yelled and kept on going.

7 Q- What did you do then?

8 A- Oh, he was going so fast I wasn't going after him.

9 Q- What did you do?

10 A- Me and Carl walked back to the house.

11 Q- Did you go in the house?

12 A- Yes.

13 Q- And what door did you go in this time?

14 A- The porch door, and after that we went in and
15 covered him up.

16 Q- What did you do in the house when you were in there
17 this time?

18 A- I looked around for a pistol or something.

19 Q- Did you find any?

20 A- No.

21 Q- Did you find any weapon there at the house?

22 A- I found two shotguns.

23 Q- What did you do with them?

24 A- I turned them over in the front room or bedroom
25 and I was looking at them.

1 Q- Did you leave them?

2 A- Yes.

3 Q- Did you take any weapons?

4 A- Yes; a 22 pump.

5 Q- Is that the 22 rifle?

6 A- Yes.

7 Q- And whose rifle was that?

8 A- That was his.

9 Q- That was the one that he was carrying when you shot
10 him?

11 A- Yes; and it jammed on ^{line C.5.} end too.

12 Q- Did you take anything else from the house?

13 A- I took a sweat shirt.

14 Q- Did you find any money in the house?

15 A- Yes.

16 Q- Where did you find that?

17 A- It was in the drawer, in the kitchen.

18 Q- How much money did you find there?

19 A- I don't know, I give it to Garil and she counted
20 it, but I don't know how much was there.

21 Q- Did she tell you how much was there?

22 A- I think she did, but I don't remember.

23 Q- Was it a large sum?

24 A- I don't even know what it was.

25 Q- Was it less than a hundred dollars?

1 A- Yes; it was less than a hundred.

2 Q- All right then, did you look through the house pretty
3 thoroughly before you left?

4 A- Yes, I looked all over for a gun.

5 Q- And outside of the rifle and the money and the sweat
6 shirt did you take anything else from Mr. Meyer's house?

7 A- A hat.

8 Q- What kind of a hat was it?

9 A- It was a straw cowboy hat.

10 Q- And anything else?

11 A- No.

12 Q- How long were you and Caril there (after the shooting
13 took place?)

14 A- Well, we was in the house about a half an hour,
15 and I loaded up the 22 and we walked on. And she took
16 the 410, and we walked on down to see where that dog
17 went to, and he was laying down there by the river,
18 I don't know whether he was dead or dying.

19 Q- What did you do there?

20 A- Nothing, just looked at him and walked back up
21 to the house.

22 Q- What time would you say that was?

23 A- About one o'clock, maybe 2 o'clock.

24 Q- Did you ever go back into that outbuilding to look
at Mr. Meyers?

1 A- No, not then, no.

2 Q- Were you satisfied that he was dead?

3 A- Yes.

4 Q- Then what did you do after that?

5 A- We walked back up to the house and we sat in there
6 about fifteen minutes.

7 Q- Did you turn the radio on at any time while you were
8 in the house?

9 A- I didn't see a radio.

10 Q- What did you do then?

11 A- We walked on back down to the car.

12 Q- What time would you say it was then?

13 A- Oh, about 2:30 or 3.

14 Q- And that's where your car was stuck in the lane?

15 A- Yes.

16 Q- What did you do when you got there?

17 A- Well, we started jacking up the front end and
18 pushing it back and taking the snow out. We took a
19 spade with us, or, a shovel, whatever it was.

20 Q- From the Meyer farm?

21 A- Yes.

22 Q- Where did you get that?

23 A- From his barn.

24 Q- And did you get your car out?

A- Yes.

1 Q- What time was that?

2 A- I don't know.

3 Q- How did you get it out?

4 A- Well, she got in it and we busted it loose from
5 the snow, and we pushed it out onto the road, and we
6 didn't get it out far enough on the road without going
7 in the ditch again.

8 Q- And did you get the car out yourself?

9 A- Well, we got -- yes, as far as the end of that
10 road.

11 Q- And then what happened?

12 A- We -- of course, she guided it, and I pushed,
13 and we didn't get it pushed back far enough without
14 getting it in the ditch when we turned and to go forward,
15 and some guy came by in a car.

16 Q- What kind of a car?

17 A- I think a '36 Ford.

18 Q- How old a man?

19 A- About thirty-five.

20 Q- How was he dressed?

21 A- Overalls.

22 Q- He appeared to be a farmer?

23 A- Yes.

24 Q- You don't know who it was?

25 A- No.

Q- How did he get you out?

A- I had a little ^{puller & S.} pole, a cable deal, so I took it out and put it on his car and mine.

Q- What did you ^{use & S.} do to open the back?

A- The knife.

Q- Is that the same knife that you used out at the Bartlett home?

A- Yes.

Q- And after you got that tow cable out of your trunk what did you do?

A- Why, I hooked it on the back of my car and on the front of his.

Q- What part of your car did you fasten it to?

A- The bumper.

Q- And did he pull you out then?

A- Yes.

Q- What happened after he pulled you out?

A- Why, I gave him a couple of dollars, and he took off.

Q- Where did you go then?

A- We headed to that there back road that leads up into his place.

Q- The other lane to his house?

A- Yes.

Q- And did you head into the Meyer farm then?

A- We stopped and opened up the gates and went on in,
and closed them behind us.

Q- Did you get out of the car?

A- Caril got out of the car and opened up the gates,
and I --

Q- Is that the gate that --

A- There's two of them, there's one down by the road --

Q- That's what I was getting at, which gate are you
talking about?

A- There's two of them; there's one as you drive
off of the road --

Q- And is that the one that she got out and opened?

A- Then we got up to the other one.

Q- And did she open that too?

A- Yes.

Q- And you stayed in the car?

A- Yes; and she walked up to the farm because it was
kind of muddy.

Q- And where did you park your car up there at the farm?

A- By a big tank or something that he had there.

Q- And then what did you do?

A- Well then, we walked back up to the house.

Q- Did you go back in the house again?

A- No; I went up to that back window of that shack,
I looked in the back window of the shack there, and

1 I thought maybe somebody uncovered him.

2 Q- What made you think that somebody had uncovered him?

3 A- Because that white dish towel had blown off.

4 Q- Was the door open when you looked this time?

5 A- No.

6 Q- Where was the breeze coming from?

7 A- It could have been underneath the door, but it
8 looked like then that someone was there.

9 Q- What did you do then?

10 A- We thought we better get out of there.

11 Q- Did you leave then?

12 A- Yes; we left then and went back down the way we
13 came.

14 Q- Where did you go, you went out the same lane you had
15 just driven in?

16 A- Yes.

17 Q- After you shot Mr. Meyer out there at the farm near
18 Bennet, did you ever pick up the empty shell case?

19 A- Yes; I threw it -- where is that picture, I can
20 tell you about where I threw it.

21 Q- You threw it on the ground?

22 A- This is the house behind there (indicating), and
23 that sidewalk, and it should be laying right over there
24 (indicating). I picked it up and tossed it away,
25 I give it a toss and it should be there.

M

(Statement of Charles R. Starkweather)

27

1 Q- What were the length of the shotgun shells that you
2 bought at Tate's Service Station?

3 A- Three-inch.

4 I have ^{C.S.} read and ^{heard and} the above
5 portion of my statement consisting
6 of 27 pages, have made and
7 initiated several corrections.

8 I sign it freely and voluntarily
9 without any threats or promises
10 of any kind having been made
11 to me by anyone.

12 February 2, 1958 at 6 ⁴⁵/₈ p.m.

13 Charles R. Starkweather

14 Witnesses

15 Robert J. Stein

16 Mel C. Kinnopp