



MUST SERVE FIFTY YEARS

(Continued from Page 1.)

infringement against the laws of this state under some circumstances is entitled to great sympathy and mercy at the hands of all who have any power to deal out the same. A person who commits a crime in the heat of passion or under great stress or while in a fit of protracted intoxication when his mind is not clear, when he does not know the full import of his acts, I say those persons are entitled to the mercy of the courts. But how is your honor to be guided in this case? Solely by the testimony that has been adduced before you and presented in the presence of this jury. I ask your honor, then, in pronouncing this judgment, to consider that testimony, the sworn testimony of the witnesses upon the stand, and I ask your honor then to consult your own heart and seek there the answer to whether or not mercy should be extended to this defendant in this case. I ask you to examine and scrutinize the disposition and the conduct of this defendant which has been presented to your honor during the trial of this case, and I say, "That as ye judge so you shall be judged," should apply here. The judgment that this defendant meted out to the deceased woman in this case—I say that judgment should be placed upon him and with the same leniency and the same mercy, and I say that after he has been found guilty of murder in the second degree that the law of the state of Nevada should take its course, and that your honor should do your duty unflinchingly and without regard to what may be said or thought. It is a grave and solemn duty that you owe to the peo-

ple of the state of Nevada and I say that it should be done fearlessly, with due consideration to what? To the evidence in the case and the enormity of the offense."

Judge Averill then pronounced sentence on the defendant. Skinner was apparently unmoved on learning his fate and resumed his seat in an unconcerned manner. The language of the court in rendering judgment was as follows:

"The state of Nevada versus Fred Skinner.

"Whereas you, Fred Skinner, the defendant herein, has been duly convicted in this court of the crime of murder in the second degree upon trial and by the verdict of the jury herein for the killing of Sadie Isabell Heskett, a human being, at Rhyolite, Nye county, Nevada, without authority of law and with malice aforethought, on the 3rd day of January, A. D. 1908, or thereabouts.

"Now, therefore, you are adjudged by this court, in accordance with law, to be guilty of murder of the second degree, and the sentence of this court is, that you, Fred Skinner, be punished by imprisonment in the state prison of the state of Nevada for the term of fifty years for the crime of murder of which you have been duly convicted as aforesaid.

And it is ordered, adjudged and decreed that you, the said defendant, Fred Skinner, be forthwith committed to the sheriff of the county of Nye, state of Nevada, to be by him conveyed to the warden of the state prison of the state of Nevada, at Carson City, Nevada, in execution of this judgment and sentence, and that you, said defendant, Fred Skinner, be imprisoned and detained in said state prison of the state of Nevada until this judgment and sentence shall have been fully complied with and satisfied.

Skinner will leave this morning for Carson in charge of Sheriff J. J. Owens. Yesterday afternoon, a rep-

resentative of the Bonanza visited his cell and asked him if he desired to make a statement. The prisoner, at that time appeared much depressed in spirits and he replied by bitterly arraigning the newspapers.

"I have no statement to make," he replied, "You know how the newspapers have treated me during the trial. I hope that when you, and the rest of the newspaper men in this county, meet your God that he will show you more mercy than you have shown me." Then exhibiting a small bible, he said:

"I have something here that can console me, that neither you nor anyone else can take from me."

He broke down for a moment, after which, by a determined effort, he regained his former composure. He was informed that such a statement as he desired to make would be printed in its entirety with no change whatsoever. This appeared his wrath and he spoke freely of the events leading to and during the trial.

"I have not thought anything about making a statement to the public," he said, "and cannot see the advisability of doing so. I have no complaint to make about the trial for I believe that Judge Averill was as fair and impartial as any man could be. The newspapers, on the other hand, were against me and done everything possible to hang me. But at that I bear you no malice nor do I entertain a like feeling for the witnesses who testified against me. Nearly all of them committed perjury by swearing falsely.

"The night that I killed Mona Bell we were both intoxicated. Yet the witnesses swore that I was sober and had only been drinking beer. Of the shooting I have but little recollection. I presume that after Mona shot me, I wrenched the gun from her and shot her. I partially regained my senses while my wounds were being dressed in the doctor's office. Before that I was laboring under the impression that I was going to die and in my confession I wanted to exonerate Mona. When I started thinking that I might have shot her, I rushed from the doctor's office and it took me several minutes to find the house. It was then that I found that she was dead.

"They have said that I expressed no feeling or sorrow. There are times when tears would be a godsend and that night I suffered momentary anguish than can be described.

"I asked the judge today to give me ninety-nine years, for with a heavy sentence I would stand a better chance of securing a parole. The last legislature passed a parole law, and it is with the hopes of securing my liberty by this means that I can cheerfully start serving the sentence. It is my intention to live an exemplary life and should I be fortunate enough to be paroled, I will show that I can travel the straight and narrow path

and be a law-abiding citizen.

"The affection of my poor little wife, who has stuck to me through this case, has been the cause of my desiring to lead a better life. And it is for her sake as well as my own that I have started looking on this world with different eyes.

"They have said that I would wreak revenge on those who testified against me, should I regain my freedom. This is not so for when I regain my freedom, no act of mine will ever result in another incarceration. I do not even consider myself guilty of killing Mona Bell in any degree and to my mind the act was justifiable. She did not fear me, neither did she fear her husband, who is a gun man. The letter she sent me was with an entire different motive, and as for praying for me each night, as the letter said, the woman didn't know what a prayer was. She did not even believe in the hereafter. The little Edith she referred to was her sister, and not our child. The girl was her ideal and she worshipped her. Do you think that I could stand it for a minute to be in a court room, charged with the murder of the mother of a child of mine, and not break down? That would be impossible."

"Does your conscience bother you?" was asked by the reporter.

"No, it does not," replied Skinner. "Since that time I have only dreamed of Mona Bell twice. The first time was several nights after she died and I dreamed that I met her in a country far different than this. I had climbed to the top of a hill, that was entirely covered with grass, trees and flowers. I saw her sitting on the top of a rail fence and after speaking to her, I climbed up and took a seat beside her. I asked her how she felt and she replied that she was sore in her left side. I then replied that I felt the same and we shook hands. She was just as cheerful and did not blame me for her death.

"The last time I dreamed of her was in the penitentiary at Carson when she appeared in my dreams one night just outside my cell and spoke to me. I can remember her words plainly. She said: 'Fred, I can't do anything more for you and you had better get away the first time you have a chance.' I kept thinking about that dream for several weeks, and during that time had a number of opportunities to try and escape, but I decided against it. To my mind, if I was responsible and guilty of her death, she would not have appeared in my dreams smiling as if in life.

"While I am not what you can term as being religious, I have received a great deal of consolation out of this bible and also, from this prayer of Van Dyke, which was sent me at Carson by my wife. My greatest regret on returning to the penitentiary is that the warden there has cut out baseball during the week days. I am a good fan and enjoy playing. We used to play every day when the work was

done, and now the rules only allow playing on Saturday. It is hard for a person to keep in condition with such little practicing, but at that one day is better than none.

"You might say in ending that I would like to thank Sheriff Owens for the manner in which he has treated me. In the eyes of the law I am a felon and should be treated as such, but Mr. Owens apparently has never thought of me in this wise. He has been kind and considerate and has treated me the same as he would any other person. He is a thorough gentleman."

MANHATTAN HOTEL.

Ray Bennett, Colorado Springs, Colo.; F. C. Bettman, Goldfield; Jack Menton, Reno; P. G. Wilson, Reno; Dick Jeffries, Golden Arrow; W. F. Dunning, Los Angeles; G. T. Stanley, Manhattan; A. R. Taylor, T. N. McCoulsky, Jack Fitzgerald, Goldfield; S. P. Santos, Mrs. M. M. Burton, Marshal; Theo. Wyneker, Jarlidge; A. B. Gibson, Rhyolite; J. B. Bright, G. E. Murree, D. M. Gibson, Reno.

PALACE HOTEL.

John McCloskey, Goldfield; Gus Johnson, city; F. T. Little, F. P. Plunkett, Colton, Cal.; Judge Chambers, Round Mountain.

"You used to be an awful spendthrift." "Yep. But I ain't any longer." "Ah! Reformed?" "No, I spent it all."

Try our cream puffs and chocolate eclairs.—The City Bakery, if.

Our "want ads" bring results.

STOCK MARKET

Tonopah Mining and Belmont took the lead yesterday in the advancement of the local stocks, the former jumping fifteen cents and the latter 12½ points. It was an all around uprising and but two or three of the stocks failed to respond. West End went up three points, Montana was quoted two cents higher, while MacNamara and Jim Butler climbed one notch. Not a Tonopah stock suffered a decline, which is something remarkable when compared to the previous Monday sessions.

Goldfield Consolidated went up 2½ cents, while Florence advanced five points.

The following quotations are furnished by Broker H. E. Epstein:

Tonopah District.			
Tonopah Mining	.. \$7.05	7.30	
Montana	.. . . .	.89	.90
Tonopah Ex.	.. . . .	.70	.72
MacNamara	.. . . .	.27	.29
Midway	.. . . .	.26	.28
Belmont	.. . . .	2.00	2.05
North Star	.. . . .	.02	.05
West End	.. . . .	.47	.50
Rescue	.. . . .	.01	.03
Jim Butler	.. . . .	.12	.15
Goldfield District.			
Goldfield Con.	.. . . .	8.30	8.32½
Booth	.. . . .	.17	.18.
Atlanta	.. . . .	.16	.17
Florence	.. . . .	2.55	2.40
Jumbo Ex.	.. . . .	.34	.35
Comb. Frac.	.. . . .	.34	.36
Kewanas	.. . . .	.07	.08
Red Hills	.. . . .	.04	.05
Miscellaneous.			
Pittsburg-Silver Pk.	.. . . .	.71	
Manhattan Con	.. . . .	.02	.04

NEW ADVERTISEMENT

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY

In conjunction with the Nevada Telephone-Telegraph Company announce that beginning March 7th, it will render Night-Letter Telegram service between all its offices in the United States, for delivery the following morning at a cost that will allow 50 words for the same price that has heretofore been paid for 10 words, and each additional words in the same proportion.

Free messengers will respond promptly to any call on the telephone for telegrams.

Messages of this class will also be accepted over the counter or telephone in the usual way.

Night-Letter-Telegrams must be written in plain English. Code or cipher cannot be accepted.

Telephone subscribers can have their Postal telegrams charged and bills rendered with regular monthly statements.

By patronizing us you will be given more efficient service and your money will be used at home as we are a Nevada Corporation and our entire capital stock is held by Nevadans.

NEVADA TELEPHONE-TELEGRAPH COMPANY

30 DAY SALE

Three Carloads of Wagons

ALL SIZES

Rubber Tired Buggies at

\$85 and \$100

T. E. RICHMOND

GOLDFIELD, - - NEVADA