

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT.

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RECEIVE LIFE SENTENCE

The four murderers of Charles P. Sellers, Harry Heath, Kenneth Murphy, George B. Weed and Alma Weed, were arraigned before Judge Westover in District court Monday and plead guilty to murder in the second degree. The plea was accepted by the judge over the protest of lawyers for the prosecution.

Harry Heath was the first to be called. When the information was read by County Attorney Tucker, Judge Westover asked the prisoner how he wanted to plead and it was some surprise when he answered "I plead guilty to murder in the second degree." This plea was objected to by the prosecution and the court allowed the attorneys an hour for consultation. Court reconvened at 3:40 o'clock, when Judge Westover announced that the plea of second degree murder would be accepted. Each of the four prisoners plead guilty to the same charge. Harry Heath was the first to be sentenced and when the judge asked him if there was any reason why sentence should not be passed, answered, "No Sir" in a calm voice. Alma Weed, Kenneth Murphy and George Weed each in turn heard the words that has shut them from society forever. When the sentences were being given the deep silence was broken by a woman crying among the spectators. The order of the court is that each of the four men shall be confined in the state penitentiary at Lincoln at hard labor, (Sundays excepted) for the rest of their natural lives and pay the costs of prosecution. The Weed boys' gray haired father and two sisters were in the room throughout the afternoon and were weeping bitterly. After the men were sentenced the court ordered Eunice Murphy released from custody.

While confined in the Rushville jail Harry Heath wrote a story or "confession" of the crime and sent it under seal to Banker Skeen of Cody and instructed him not to use it until requested to do so by him. The prosecution found out about the confession and subpoenaed Mr. Skeen and ordered him to bring the sealed packet to Valentine. Information has leaked out that the contents of this confession is practically the same story as was first printed about the hanging. It is alleged the confession states that the four men gathered at the Heath home on the night of the murder and went from there to the home of G. H. Jack. Heath stood in the door and was the one who placed the rope over Sellers' head. After taking him to the telephone pole, it is explained in the confession that George Weed lifted Sellers while the other three pulled on the rope. Sellers hands were tied behind his back. The prosecution claimed to have a witness who would swear that about a year ago Eunice Murphy said that she would have married Sellers but for objection from the Heath family.

In accepting the plea of murder in the second degree in the case of the four men it barred the state from trying the Murphy girl as she was charged with being an accessory to murder in the first degree and she was immediately released from custody. Miss Murphy will go to Missouri where she has relatives. To a woman reporter for an outside paper, Miss Murphy said:

"So much that is untrue has been published that I do not like to say anything. I will say that I had no connection in any way with the hanging of Mr. Sellers. I did not know the boys were going to do it, and I did not be-

lieve it when I heard it from them until I was convinced by others that what they said was true. I do not care to deny all the false reports but they said it was charged that I left the country, when the fact is, everyone knew where I was and the moment I learned they wanted me, I returned.

"Another thing, it is also said that I made the remark, 'We will get the money,' or something to that effect. I did make the remark meaning that I would mortgage my property to assist my brother, which I did.

"This was taken up and misinterpreted as referring to Mr. Sellers' money. There were other things said, just as untrue as these but I don't feel like discussing them. No one will ever know what I have suffered since this awful thing has happened. I cannot understand it all. What worries me most is my little brother. I hope that he will be treated kindly."

Miss Murphy's "little brother" is 18 years old and about 6 feet tall.

Andrew M. Morrissey as attorney for Rosa Tiff, guardian of John M. Sellers, the 13 old son of Charles P. Sellers, who was murdered on June 18, has filed a petition to set aside the will and give the boy the estate as the sole and only heir.

About fourteen years ago C. P. Sellers, then about 20 years old contested a claim near Cody not being of age his contest would have been thrown out. Shortly after this it is said in order to take the homestead he was married to a Miss Bell residing in that part of the county. Some little time after their marriage they were divorced and Mrs. Sellers went to Wheeler county, where she has since made her home. To this union it is claimed there was born a son, John M. Sellers. It is doubtful by Sellers' friends that he knew of the boy. Since going to Wheeler county, Mrs. Sellers has married again.

Simeon.

Messrs. Hudson, Hobbs Bros., Henry Clapp and Robert Thompson shipped cattle this week.

Mrs. Wm. Thompson is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carr, while Mr. Thompson is away with his annual shipment of cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis spent Saturday in Wood Lake, shopping. The rain held them over Sunday. We missed them at the shadow social.

J. W. Daniels is improving his home surroundings by making a cellar which is lined and covered with cement. He finds much more work connected with it than he anticipated.

Mrs. A. E. Spall has been in Omaha for some time with her mother, Mrs. Spain, who is taking medical treatment. We are glad to know there is hope of her recovery.

George Christopher has started twenty-five Hereford calves on a course of care to fit them for the International Live Stock show when they are 3 years old. They will go as feeders and compete with the car load classes. We believe Mr. Christopher will bring home a ribbon of some color as he has some splendid cattle.

The Shadow social given by Miss Moore at her school house Saturday evening was a grand success. The object being to purchase an organ for the school district. The result was a surprise to the most optimistic. Col. C. W. Bennett sold shadows for \$2.25 to \$10. The proceeds amounted to \$100.05. At the close a vote of thanks was extended to Col. Bennett and Miss Moore for their efforts to make the evening a success. If you wish to spend a fine social evening attend one of the Gordon valley entertainments.

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Valentine - Nebraska

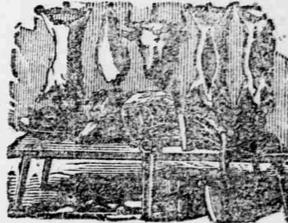
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Mrs. D. W. Parmalee and Miss Eunice Warner of Cut Meat spent Tuesday here and went up to Rosebud with Mr. Anderson Wednesday morning.

A petition to divide Cherry county was filed in the office of the county clerk on Oct. 14, by F. Kemp Heath of Cody, and approved by the board of county commissioners. The petition has 569 signers.

Order Your Suit Now!

Fall and winter samples from reliable establishments such as Detmer Woolen Co., A. E. Anderson Co., and the Metropolitan Ladies' Tailors. Come and see them and let us take your order. C. H. Austin. 41-2

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