

Book tells of woman's rape, murder trial

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A lot of people saw Ellen Lunney shoot Gene McEnroe, but would they convict her of murder? The true story of a woman's revenge is now a book written by Douglas Yocom about his grandmother, who was raped in 1894 in Norton County but didn't let her assailant get away.

For 13 years, from 1943 to 1956, Mr. Yocom and his mother, Nora (Dwyer) Yocom, lived with his grandmother, Ellen (Lunney) Dwyer at her home in Lenora. But, it wasn't until five years ago that Mr. Yocom learned his grandmother had been at the center of a sensational Norton County murder trial.

Following a career as a reporter, editorial writer, public relations manager and congressional aide, he was intrigued to know more about the stoic, reclusive woman

he knew as grandmother.

What he learned has been compiled into a book he titled, "A Matter of Chastity, The High Plains Saga of a Woman's Revenge". In it, he chronicles the events of July 24, 1894.

An excerpt from the book: *Ellen Lunney, 19, was a slender, attractive young woman about to embark on a career as a school teacher in one of the local one-room schools. She was a shy, quiet and polite young woman.*

Her parents, John and Anna Lunney, along with the younger children of the family, were away for the night visiting family ten miles away in Decatur County.



D. Yocom

She and two of her brothers stayed to take care of the chores. Sometime after 10 p.m., Ellen was awakened to find a man, Gene McEnroe, a neighbor from across the river, with his hand over her mouth. She tried to fight him off but couldn't. He raped her.

The next day when her family returned, it was a shattered Ellen waiting for them. Her brothers, too, were shaken by the enormity of what had happened. John Lunney faced a difficult decision. Filing a complaint would amount to a declaration to all that his daughter had been raped, despoiled, damaged. Would other men still consider her as a bride? Probably not. He knew this would raise a terrible cloud over Ellen. She may have to leave the community, to find a new home where her history wasn't known.

But, Mr. Lunney realized the

course of action he must take. A crime had been committed and he knew he must have Gene McEnroe arrested for the rape of his daughter.

Justice was swift on the Kansas prairie. Two days later, Mr. McEnroe was arrested but he was released on \$1,000 bail. The trial was set for July 31, a week after the nighttime of Ellen Lunney's horror.

In the days leading up to the trial, Ellen told visitors she wished he would have killed her, she would rather be dead.

On the day of the trial, Ellen arrived at the Thuma School house, where the trial was scheduled to be held. A crowd had gathered and most of the seats were filled.

What happened next caught everyone by surprise. Ellen spotted Gene McEnroe in the crowd and

as she later testified, he "leered" at her. She walked to where he was seated and from beneath her cape, Ellen Lunney drew a revolver. At point-blank range she fired four shots into his body, killing him almost instantly.

Ellen was arrested and held for trial.

Modern day politics has nothing on the political scene in Norton County of 1894. In the book, Mr. Yocom detailed the history and aspirations of the attorneys involved in this case.

He also examined testimony that implicated others in a plot to kill Gene McEnroe.

Throughout the book he delved into life on the prairie, its hardships and its strict moral code.

Much of Mr. Yocom's research was accomplished at the Norton County Public Library.

He said the library is very com-

plete with an impressive genealogy department. *The Champion* and *The Norton Courier* were newspapers of the time and both carried multiple stories about the trial and its outcome.

The epilogue lets the reader know what happened in his grandmother's life, and how the event of so long ago, changed a family forever.

A Matter of Chastity, The High Plains Saga of a Woman's Revenge, from Dusty Cover Books, was produced under the direction of The Arthur H. Clark Co., Spokane, Wash.

Mr. Yocom will hold a book signing at 3 p.m., Thursday at the Lenora Library.

On Friday, he will be at the Norton County Library at 3 p.m. He will have copies of his book available for sale.

Four fans miss only one game

By DICK BOYD

Four football fans missed just one game in last week's Pigskin Pick-Em Contest and Randy Springer, Hoisington, guessed the exact score of the tiebreaker game to win the \$15 in scrip money first prize.

Springer missed just Atwood's defeat of Oberlin and correctly picked Nebraska to defeat Iowa State 27-20 in the tiebreaker contest. The Cornhuskers and Cyclones had their own tiebreaker, two overtimes to be exact, before the game was decided.

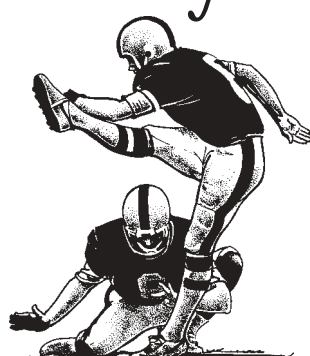
Second place of \$10 in scrip money goes to Kristy Keilig, Norton, who missed the Michigan upset of Michigan State, which was also an overtime game. Keilig chose Nebraska over Iowa State by 19-16 or 12 points off the actual score.

That left two Foleys to battle it out for the third prize of \$5 in scrip money. Craig Foley, Norton, missed just the Atwood win over Oberlin and chose Iowa State to win over Nebraska. Chris Foley, Fairfield, Calif., missed just the Trego win over Ellis, also in overtime, but also picked Iowa State to defeat Nebraska.

Judges went to the points of each team. Craig picked it 20-10 in favor of Iowa State, or 17 points off, and Chris chose Iowa State by 23-10, or 20 points off, so Craig is the third prize winner.

Correct on all but two games were: Macy Kasson, Bob Covington, Alma; Jim Springer, Long Island; Barbara Springer, Evelyn Springer, Tim Moore, Hoisington; Jared Foley, Wichita; Aaron McDowell, Hill City; Bradley Killian, Lincoln; Russ Frack, Jeris Norman, Sady Keilig, Kevin Jilka, David Riemann, Tom Baumann, Dalton Miller, Norton.

Missing three games were: Mike Shearer, Foster Brands, Glenn Brands, Carol Voss, Alma; Karen Shearer, Roger Shearer, Jim Cole, Long Island; Dorothy Shearer, Edmond; Mary Boyd, Hill City; Nancy Moore, Andy Moore, both of Hoisington; Paula Stutterheim, Prairie View; Douglas Daniels, Spencer Shirk, Luke Keilig, Lacy Keilig, Kelly Hill, Ken Gregoire, Charlotte



Stephenson, Norton.

Incorrect on four games were: Frank Kaiser, Dwight Vallin, Donald Thalheim, Long Island; Dale Shearer, Edmond; Brody McDowell, Lexie McDowell, Hill City; Bob Moore, Hoisington; Jillian Stoelting, Orleans, Neb.; LeeRoy Schuckman, Hays; Shayla Bailey, Lucas Bailey, Norcat; Barbara Brooks, Clayton; Brian Thompson, Kirk Kasson, Sydney Brands, Alma; Mark Keilig, Keegan Smith, Dalton Smith, Chriselle Thomson, Roland Washburn, Renee Schaefers, Anastasia Foley, Kirk Foley, Virginia Carlton, Sandy Husted, Mary Ann Hager, Johanna Holmes, Norton.

Correct on all but five contests were: Tim Rowse, Burwell, Neb.; Janette Callaway, Shirley Sides, Donelle Stewart, Alma; Jerome Laurin, Emily Vallin, Long Island, Travis Vallin, Watkins, Colo.; Denise Bailey, Gail Bailey, Norcat; Erin Hill, Rick Green, Kathy Erbert, Craig Heskett, Tom Davis, Misty Nuzum, Isaac Schaefers, Tiffney Yeager, Deb Thiele, Marj Allen, Jennifer Terrell, Doug Ray, Norton.

Missing six games were: Tiffany VanDerVeen, Prairie View; Ann Becker, Lenora; Mark Bailey, Norcat; Kirsten Baird, Mike Hammond, Long Island; Sherri Lowry, Julie Hilburn, Kristen Brands, Marilyn Lowry, Alma; Nathan Morse, Bruce Rushton, Georgie Rorabaugh, Betty Harper, Howard Gill, Cathy Kellerman, Eric Farber, Amy Daniels, Jane Mindrup, Laura Washburn, Lynn Nelson, Norton.

The sixth week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. Friday or you may bring them to *The Telegram* office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the full page Pick-Em ad-

vertisement in today's *Telegram* for this week's high school and college games.

Only one entry per person is allowed but extra blanks for other members of the family may be picked up from any sponsor.

Prizes of \$30 in scrip money will be paid each week. At the end of the season, the fan picking the most correct games will receive \$50 in scrip money and an engraved trophy.

Scores of this week's games were:

- Norton 40, Stockton 0
- Palco 38, Northern Valley 26
- Natoma 64, Logan 24
- Trego 24, Ellis 21 O.T.
- Smith Center 42, Beloit 6
- Atwood 14, Oberlin 0
- Colorado School of Mines 46, Fort Hays 10
- Oklahoma 43, Kansas State 21
- Texas Tech 30, Kansas 17
- Colorado 34, Oklahoma State 0
- Michigan 34, Michigan State 31 O.T.
- Southern Cal 38, Arizona State 28
- Nebraska 27, Iowa State 20 O.T.s



Donna Thomas, Norton, picked a perfect pumpkin. She's donating her pumpkins to anyone making a donation to the Norton Teens For Christ.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Woman gives away her produce

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Buy a pumpkin and help young people. Donna Thomas has always been a gardener. And, she has always shared her produce with friends.

Earlier this summer she decided to give away the rest of her pumpkin crop in exchange for a donation to Norton Teens For Christ.

"I know they are trying to buy a van for mission trips and go to events," Ms. Thomas said.

All the money she makes is going to them. She suggests a \$5 donation and, in exchange, you may pick a pumpkin, a decorative gourd, tomatoes or squash.

She says you can see her home from U.S. 36 after you cross the viaduct. It is the salmon colored home at the end of Eagles Road on the south side.

Her produce is also available at Master's Touch Fitness and Massage in Norton.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Proposed Road Vacation

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. (1T)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD VACATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Norton County, Kansas, to be held on the 17th day of October, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers, 2nd floor of the Norton County Courthouse, Norton, Kansas, said Board shall consider and determine the propriety of a proposed vacation of the

County road at the following described location:

County road lying between Sections Nineteen (19) and Thirty (30), in Township Two (2) South, Range Twenty-three (23) West of the Sixth P.M. in Norton County, Kansas.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 27th day of September, 2005.

Robert Wyatt
Norton County Clerk

Cardinal Bar and Grill
Main Street, Norcat~785-693-4499

\$100 Cash 1st Place Prize
Karaoke Contest
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
BEGINS AT 9:00 P.M.
\$25.00 Gift Certificate — Second Place
\$15.00 Gift Certificate — Third Place



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OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bazaar Supper and Auction
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
Clayton Community Building
Supper: 5 to 7 p.m.; Auction Following

Adults—\$6; Ages 6-12—\$2.50;
Ages 5 and Under Free

MENU...Barbecue Beef and Pork on a Bun, Baked Beans, Assorted Salads, Homemade Pie, Rolls, Tea and Coffee

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