

Mob hanged man who murdered 8-year-old girl

Violence and lawlessness visited northwest Kansas with a vengeance 75 years ago. A large group of area citizens turned vigilantes and "took the law into their own hands," the result of a horrific crime in Selden, according to a front page story in *The Goodland News-Republic*, April 20, 1932.



marcia smith

• from the vault

MOB EXECUTES OWN SENTENCE on a KILLER
HANGED RICHARD READ NEAR MCDONALD

Beast Who Kidnapped and Murdered Small Selden Girl Taken From Jail and Strung Up

A mob... taking the law into their own hands (acted swiftly) and the justice they brought was delivered Sunday night by hanging the beast, 50 (plus) year old murderer Richard Read.

They took him from the St. Francis jail, where he was being held, and hauled him to a tree about seven

miles southeast of McDonald. Read had confessed to three of the worst crimes in the catalogue of offenses against another: kidnapping, rape and murder. Thursday night Read, who had made his home with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Jake Read near Rexford, enticed 8-year-old Dorothy Hunter, daughter of a highway patrolman at Selden, into his car while she was on the way home from school and kept her captive until Friday morning, when he murdered her and hid her body in a straw stack near Achilles in Rawlins County.

He then went to Colby and told a fantastic tale of himself being kid-

napped. The sheriff paid little attention to it, but later when he heard of the disappearance of the Hunter child, he suspected Read and arrested him and finally secured a confession.

A mob said to have been composed of Selden citizens went to Colby Friday night intent on lynching Read, but Sheriff McGinley saved his prisoner by telling the mob that if Read were killed it might be difficult to find what happened to the child.

He took Read and attempted to discover the hiding place of the body, but a group of Selden citizens discovered it before the officers did. A mob then attempted to catch the sheriff and his prisoner but the sheriff got to St. Francis, where he left the prisoner in jail.

Sunday a crowd estimated at 4,000 attended the funeral of the little victim at Selden, and soon after cars began visiting nearby county seat towns, where there was a possibility the prisoner might be confined.

Sunday night, warned that a mob was coming, Sheriff Bacon and Deputy Indorf of Cheyenne County decided to go to the jail and get the prisoner and secret him from the men who were after his life, but they were intercepted while on the way to the jail, overpowered and the keys taken from them.

The mob then opened the jail, while the officers were watched by other members of the party, took the prisoner out, and the caravan, said to have contained about 50 cars, drove east from St. Francis to McDonald, then to the place where the hanging was done.

Read confessed the crime to the mob, telling them they had the right man. After the mob dispersed, the

sheriff and coroner from Atwood arrived and took charge of the body.

Gov. Harry Woodring was at Atwood when the lynching was done. He asked the attorney general to assist the local officers in an investigation, and Roland Boynton, the attorney general, arrived Monday and is making the investigation.

Sheriff Bacon was automatically removed from office by the Kansas law which vacates the office of a sheriff who loses custody of a prisoner in his charge to a mob. It is probable he will be reinstated, as he is not personally blamed for the loss of the prisoner, although Sheriff McGinley of Colby had twice outwitted the mob on hanging Read, and thereby demonstrated his ability as a peace officer. The quick solution of the crime is largely due to his work. The punishment was taken out of his or any other officers' hands.

Read had served a term in the Colorado penitentiary some years ago for a criminal attack on a 15 year old girl at Burlington. He had been paroled after serving part of the sentence. Sheriff A. A. Bacon of Cheyenne County was automatically removed from office because he lost his prisoner to the mob, but at a hearing at Atwood yesterday, he was reinstated by Governor Woodring, who conducted the investigation.

In another case, irony was a part of a local crime, a candidate for sheriff was arrested for theft.

Charged With Stealing
 Deputy Sheriff John Indorf of Cheyenne County was in Goodland Saturday and took into custody C. E. Patmon on a charge of stealing corn. It is alleged that he took a truck load of corn from a farm in Cheyenne County.

Patmon, who had been up for offenses in this county, recently had the audacity to announce he would be a candidate for sheriff in this county.

Sixth graders celebrate Cinco de Mayo



Sixth graders Kaleb Zwick (left) and Michael Mosher made noise makers and paper flowers at a Cinco de Mayo celebration Wednesday afternoon at Max Jones Fieldhouse put on by Goodland High School Spanish classes taught by Mary Porterfield. Students were treated to lunch while the high school pep band played. Students got to play Bingo, sing and dance. Zwick is in Jeremy Sampson's class and Mosher in Linda McKee's class at North Elementary School.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Three inducted to honor society

Three Goodland students have been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Troy Laughlin, a student in the electrical technology program; Katie Ann Baird, cosmetology; and Garrett Smith, Heating, Ventilation,

Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration, joined the society, which says its purpose is to reward excellence in workforce education, to develop self-esteem and pride and to encourage students to reach for higher levels of achievement.

Students must have a grade aver-

age of 3.0 or above, good academic standing and attendance, eligibility for graduation in the current year and faculty recommendation. They must desire to pursue a career in their field of study, be dependable and demonstrate leadership in their department.

Goodland graduates on first-place team

Michael Mangus and Bryan Mai, graduates of Goodland High School, are members of a Kansas State University mechanical engineering team that won first place with their radio-controlled airplane, "The Manhattan Project."

The entry won at the Society of Automotive Engineers Aero Design West competition Friday to Sunday, March 23 to 25, in Van Nuys, Calif. There were 26 other teams. The next competition for the team is Friday and Saturday in Fort Worth.

Mangus, the son of Charlene and Danny Mangus, graduated in 2004. Mai graduated in 2002.

Builders used a commercial radio-controlled plane controls but all structure, fuselage, wings and landing gear were designed and built by the students, said Terry Beck, a K-State mechanical and nuclear engineering professor and team advisor. Teams were judged in three areas. Half of their points come from a written report and an oral presentation about the plane's design and the other half from the test flight. The

K-State team had the best design report.

The plane has to be capable of taking off and landing with a 20-pound load. The K-State plane weighed 8.5 pounds. The wing was made from a sheet of packing foam and balsa wood, with a carbon-fiber spar fitted inside for strength. The plane had to take off in 200 feet and land in 400.

"The design constraints change every year, so the (teams) have to build completely new airplanes every year," said Beck.

Senior gets scholarships at Washburn

Jena McCall, a Goodland High School senior, received an academic scholarship, a Garvey Scholarship and a leadership scholarship from Washburn University.

She was one of 85 high school seniors recognized at a banquet Wednesday, April 25, at the Salina Holiday Inn.

An academic scholarship shows Washburn's desire to give early recognition to academic achievements. To be eligible, a student must

have an ACT score of 21 or higher and a grade average of at least 3.0.

The Garvey Scholarship is a competitive award based on results of an examination administered each November. Students must have a minimum 3.0 grade average and receive a recommendation from their high school counselor. The scholarship was established by the John K. and Jane N. Garvey Foundation.

Leadership scholarships are

awarded to finalists who applied through the Washburn University Institute for the Study and Practice of Leadership. Students must have a minimum ACT score of 26, a grade average of 3.5 and show outstanding leadership and service skills.

Four area students named presidential scholars

Four area seniors were among the 39 Kansas Wesleyan University students recognized as presidential scholars during the annual Honors Convocation Wednesday, April 25, in Sams Chapel.

Julie Leiker of Goodland, Caitlin Rush of Brewster, Amy Grace of St. Francis and Kaylaen Dittmer of Tribune received President's Leader-

ship Program Scholarships of \$7,000 per year (\$5,000 for nonresidence hall student available for high school seniors with a grade average of 3.75 and a minimum ACT score of 25 or SAT score of 1140. These awards are renewable for four years with a grade average of 3.30.

Report crop freeze damage to Farm Services

Farmers whose crops suffered damage in the March freeze and who plan to plow them under need to notify the U.S. Farm Service Agency.

Dennis R. Mote, county executive director for Sherman County, said farmers need to file form FSA-576 to maintain the history for crops that will be destroyed.

Mote said farmers who have reported planted crops such as wheat, and intend to destroy the crop,

need to report the number of acres to be destroyed prior to May 31 and file the form. No appraisal will not be made by the agency, he said, but the filing protects the operator's history credit.

Farmers who have crop insurance and have already notified their agent of any loss still need to contact the county office, he said.

Stop by the office at 210 W. 10th or call (785) 899-3070.

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Two Human Services Assistants Positions

The West Region is now recruiting for two Human Services Assistant positions in the Colby SRS Service Center. Duties will include greeting customers, direct phone calls and walk-ins. Assists with appointments and maintain clerical duties. Applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent. This is a full-time benefit eligible position with a beginning salary of \$10.73/hour. For more information and/or to apply, contact Jeanne Daniels at 785-462-6760 ext 201 on or before 5:00 pm, Friday, May 18, 2007. Or apply on line at <http://da.state.ks.us/ps/aaa/recruitment/default.htm>. SRS is an ADA/EOE committed to a diverse workforce.

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