

A Lot Of Remorse . . .

Keeler, On Way To Penitentiary For Murder, Looks Forward To Being Rancher 'Some Day'

By NORMAN D. SYSE
(Tribune Staff Writer)

A soft rain pattered lightly outside as Donald Keeler, the confessed slayer, looked through the bars of his cell window and voiced the "hope I get another chance to make good."

The 16-year-old former Kendrick High School junior who hopes to be a "full-scale rancher some day" was sentenced Tuesday to life in the state penitentiary at Boise by District Judge John W. Cramer.

He pleaded guilty previously to the \$140 holdup-slashing of



Keeler

his uncle, Louis Conrad, March 20 three miles east of Lewiston at Conrad's self-service station. He'll go to Boise Saturday to begin his term.

He indicated he expects to get out at prison in time to start a new life.

Wynne M. Blake, Nez Perce County prosecutor, said the boy faces least 10 years in prison. The curly, black-haired youth sat in his cell last night at Nez Perce County Courthouse and listened to his radio.

"... Don't let the stars get in your eyes. . . ."

"I don't like opera," he grinned, "but I like this kind of music."

"Do you have any regrets for what happened?"

Silence.

A vase full of yellow jonquils and daffodils stood by the table radio. A copy of the weekly Ken-

drick Gazette, and a stack of adventure fiction magazines lay on the table—and a diary.

The youth searched for words as he ran his finger through his hair and said:

"Sure, I feel a lot of remorse and regret about this."

"I couldn't eat for five days. Haven't felt good about any of it since it happened."

Dressed in new white tennis shoes, khaki pants and a brightly colored knit sweat shirt the youth said his "main goal is to make a man of myself."

"I was just beginning to get a place in the world when all this had to happen. But I'm going to repay my debt to society as much as I can," he said.

Wants A Good Start

"That doesn't only mean just serving the sentence down there. I'm going to take the rest of the high school courses I need to get a diploma through my high school (at Kendrick) and then take some college courses so I'll be able to get off to a good start."

During his recent years in school, he said, he had parts in three plays, among them "The Campbells Are Coming" and "Peck's Bad Boy."

Keeler said he played the lead role as the bad boy.

Besides dramatics the slim boy said he likes "most sports, especially basketball, tumbling and fishing."

"I have never known what you might call a true father to fish and hunt with," he said when he talked about fishing at a favorite haunt, Cedar Creek in the Lewiston area.

He said he and his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Taylor, of Spokane, "have a good talk about every day."

His girl friend, slim and pretty, visited him yesterday.

Keeler said he plans to study agriculture topics, welding, mechanics, and courses in veterinary medicine at the state prison.

"I'm grabbing all the knowledge needed to face problems when I get out," he said, explaining that he hoped to own his own ranch "someday."

He will be transferred to the penitentiary "within a few days," according to sheriff's officers.

PFI Log Drive Gains Headway

This spring's Clearwater River log drive, which got off to a slow start three weeks ago, began to gain speed this week.

Rivermen have been hampered by low water, but melting mountain snows during recent days have raised the level of the North Fork of the Clearwater, allowing the log drive wanigan to be moved downstream to below the old Camp F area yesterday. The wanigan, a big pontoon raft holding a cookhouse and two bunkhouses, has proceeded about ten miles downstream since the drive began April 12.

A log drive official said last night that the river has been rising each day and conditions are expected to continue to improve unless a cold snap should set in. That is considered unlikely at this season, however, and he predicted that the wanigan would arrive at Big Island, about five miles downstream from Camp F, early next week.

Big Island is roughly 25 miles northeast of Ahsahka, where the North Fork enters the main stream of the Clearwater.

Large, Tight Jams
Rivermen have been busy

Garden 'Bugs' Attend First District Meet

About 40 garden enthusiasts from the Lewiston and Clarkston area attended the first Panhandle-Clearwater District meeting of garden clubs at Moscow yesterday.

All garden clubs in the Twin City area, except one, were represented at the meeting, which had for a theme "Across the Garden Fence." The series of panels and exhibition of flower displays were held in the Student Union Building on the University of Idaho's campus.

Courtesy flower arrangements sent to the meeting by Lewiston and Moscow florists were auctioned and brought a total of \$24. Mrs. Edward Schmidt, Lewiston organization chairman, said last night.

Mrs. L. L. True, Spokane, gave a demonstration on flower arranging and a panel of University plant pathology department professors discussed garden culture.

It was announced that the executive board and officers of the Panhandle-Clearwater District plans to meet on April 29 at Moscow to begin working out arrange-