

Keeler Charged With Murder

Donald Keeler, 16, was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Ben E. Kelley yesterday morning on a charge of first degree murder in the death of Louis Conrad, 62, on March 20. The curly-haired junior at Kendrick High School is accused of shooting Conrad to death in Conrad's self-service service station three miles east of Lewiston on the North & South Highway.

Preliminary hearing for Keeler, who is held in the Nez Perce County jail in lieu of a \$2,000 bond, will be held at 1 tomorrow afternoon before Kelley.

Keeler, Prosecutor Wynne M. Blake said, signed a confession yesterday admitting that he shot Conrad. The youth is the nephew of Mrs. Conrad.

Blake said Keeler told him that his motive in the crime was robbery. Keeler said he obtained about \$140 from a cash drawer at the station, which he stole after shooting his uncle twice with a .38 caliber pistol.

Took Pickup Truck

Keeler, who has been living with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nelson, Kendrick, said he took their pickup truck the night of the slaying and drove to the station. He said he hid behind the station with the gun before walking out in front and shooting Conrad in the right side of the chest. The first shot was through the service station window.

Conrad was lying on the floor of the station, Keeler said, when he walked inside. The confession said Keeler shot again, the bullet piercing Conrad's heart.

Keeler, Blake said, told officers that he entertained several friends at Spokane on proceeds from the robbery.

He was apprehended Tuesday after an anonymous tip was received at the Nez Perce County sheriff's office that Keeler was "spending too much money."

Deputy Paul Gilman was sent to Kendrick, and, with Deputy J. F. Jordan, Moscow, returned the lad to Lewiston. He was questioned Tuesday afternoon and evening by Deputy Sheriff Clarence Kyle and State Police Lt. C. R. Love. Keeler admitted his guilt about 11 p. m. and gave a statement to Deputy Hazel Kyle.

The youth's mother, Mrs. J. A. Taylor, Spokane, arrived at Lewiston at noon yesterday and saw her son yesterday afternoon. Keeler's father is in California. His address is not known.



TALKING IT OVER

— Donald Keeler, 16, center, who has admitted shooting Louis Conrad, 62, Lewiston, on March 20, is shown yesterday at the Nez Perce County jail as he talked outside his cell with State Police Lt. C. R. Love, left, and Deputy Sheriff Clarence Kyle. The youth was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Ben E. Kelley yesterday morning on a charge of first degree murder. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at 1. (Al Munson photo.)