

# Charles Starkweather Dies in Electric Chair

## Four Moves in 10 Hours Prove Futile

### Two Supreme Courts Deny Sentence Stay

Attorneys in Washington and Guy Starkweather in Lincoln exhausted every resource Wednesday to try to keep Charles Starkweather from going to the electric chair.

Starting Wednesday afternoon there were four futile appeals in less than 10 hours—two to justices of the United States Supreme Court, one to Lancaster County District Court and one to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

James Laughlin and Albert Ahern, Jr., went first to Justice Charles Evans Whittaker and then to Justice Hugo Black in Washington, The World-Herald Washington Bureau reported.

#### Lawyer Complains

Both refused to grant a stay of execution for the mass killer based on a plea that Starkweather could not get a lawyer in Nebraska to take his case back into the state courts.

The State Supreme Court, hastily summoned to the Statehouse to hear a last-ditch plea by the slayer's father, also refused a stay.

Five justices (one more than a quorum) were unanimous in rejecting the plea.

The appeal was based on allegations that Starkweather had inadequate and ineffective counsel at his murder trial, that evidence had been withheld, new evidence has been uncovered and that statements which inflamed the jury were read at the trial.

The move followed refusal by Lancaster County District Judge Harry Spencer to stay the execution.

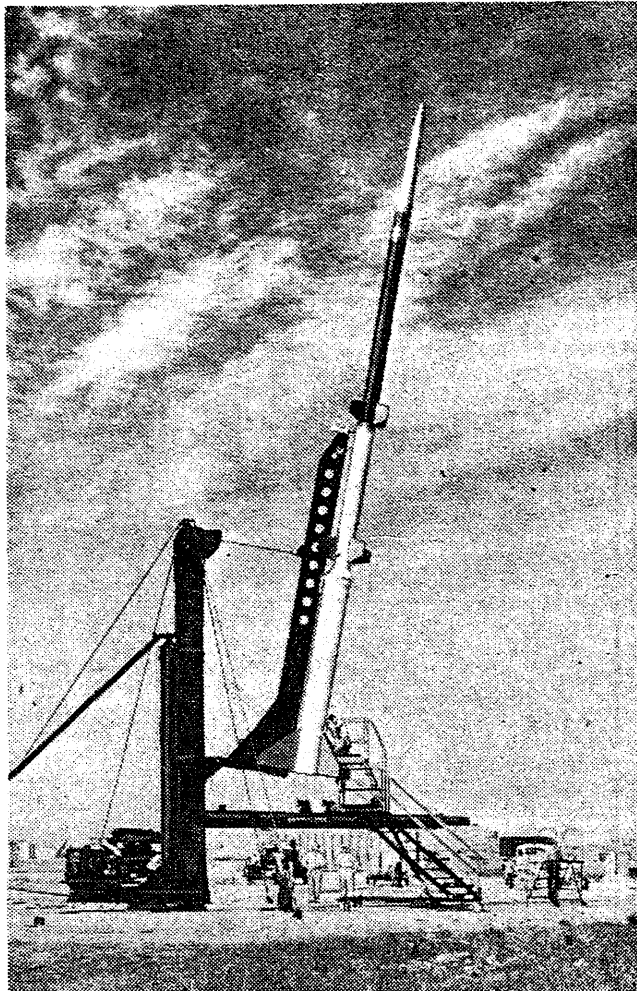
Guy Starkweather, denied first a stay and then a new trial for his son, asked for a writ of error coram nobis.

#### Mere Statement

This, too, was refused by Judge Spencer. Such a writ is a remedy at common law and is used to bring into the record matter which could not be brought in by any other method.

Judge Spencer said the motion for a new trial was based on a contention that new evidence had been discovered.

This contention, he said, had to be considered merely as a statement or a conclusion of the killer or whoever prepared the document for him.



—AP Wirephoto.

### First Six-Stage Rocket

Workmen make final adjustments on the first six-stage rocket fired in a United States test program by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Wallops Island, Va. Data on missile re-entry is sought. The first three

stages—Honest John, Nike and Lance—push the rocket to two hundred miles altitude. After a coasting period, it is pushed earthward at speeds up to 16 thousand miles an hour by three rocket motors.

### Vandal Strangles Emu in Its Cage

Providence, R. I. (AP)—One of the most unusual cases of vandalism in the history of Roger Williams Park occurred Tuesday night when some one broke into the emu cage and apparently strangled one of the huge birds.

The dead bird, Henrietta, was found under a tree near the cage. Martin F. Noonan, park superintendent, said that the ground near by looked as if a terrific struggle had taken place.

"The area was littered with feathers from the emu around whose neck a rope had been placed.

Emus are native of Australia and, next to the ostrich, are the largest birds in the world.

### Missiles Bag Jet Targets

#### Two Bomarcs Make Perfect Interceptions

Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. (AP)—Two IM-99A Bomarc missiles were launched successfully Wednesday against a simulated attack by two high-speed jet drones over the Gulf of Mexico.

The Air Force said the 47-foot ground-to-air missiles made perfect interceptions of their targets more than one hundred miles from the launching site on near-by Santa Rosa Island. They were fired within seconds of each other.

The Bomarcs carried high explosive warheads. They can be equipped with nuclear warheads.

The launchings were controlled by the SAGE (semi-automatic ground environment) System of the Montgomery Air Defense Sector at Gunter AFB, Montgomery, Ala.

The Air Force said the Montgomery Sector 150

## Mass Killer Meets Death Unperturbed

### Utters No Last Words in Execution Room

By Bill Billotte

World-Herald Lincoln Bureau, 501 Federal Securities Building.

Charles Starkweather died in the electric chair at the Nebraska State Penitentiary early Thursday.

He showed as little emotion as he had displayed when questioned about the 11 victims he confessed killing.

He walked into a small whitewashed room with a steady step. Two men were on either side of him.

His red hair, shorn to a stubble, glistened in the lights.

#### Looks at Chair

He seemed to look curiously at the oak chair as he approached it.

He appeared to stumble and then sat down.

A green curtain screened the chair as he was strapped into it.

The curtain was then withdrawn and Deputy Warden John Greenholtz said: "Charlie, do you have any last words you would like to say?"

Starkweather shook his head vigorously.

A blindfold was put across his eyes.

#### Half Dozen Shocks

A short time later the hands on the clock, which had run favorably for him on many other occasions, swept past 12:01 a. m.

Deputy Warden Greenholtz, after he asked Starkweather if he had anything to say, stepped to one side behind a wooden partition which screened him from the chair. He held his hat over his heart.

Starkweather lurched forward as the first of a half dozen 22-hundred-volt shocks was administered at 12:03 a. m.

As the fourth shock was administered, Dr. P. E. Getscher stared at his wrist watch. He and Dr. George E. Lewis, Jr., were on hand to pronounce Starkweather dead.

#### 'What's Your Hurry?'

A short time later Dr. Getscher put a stethoscope to Starkweather's chest and said: "He's dead."

Dr. Lewis was called when Dr. B. A. Finkle, prison physician, suffered a heart attack and died shortly before the execution.

Mr. Greenholtz said Starkweather's words when prison officials went to fetch him were:

"What's your hurry?"

Starkweather's family visited him during the evening.

Warden Maurice Sigler, who took over his post only last Monday, called it "a normal execution, well organized."

## of Air Force ing to Oxford

### New A-Tests Need Is Told

#### 'U. S. to Proceed on Own if Talks Fail'

Washington (AP)—Chairman

