

CLAIMS 'SELF-DEFENSE'

Killer Accuses His Girl

LINCOLN, N.E. — (UP)—Mass killer Charles Starkweather calmly admitted on the witness stand Thursday the murder that may send him to the electric chair.

But the 18-year-old ex-garage hauler turned on his girl friend, Carol Ann Fugate, 14, and accused her of the slaying of a pretty high school girl.

Starkweather was on the witness stand less than an hour and his only explanation of his orgy of killings was that he committed them in "self defense."

The trial took a strange turn when Starkweather's tiny mother, a red head, too, clashed with defense attorneys and refused to back up their insanity plea.

Defense attorney T. Clement Gaughan became angry.

"You think it is normal to go

out and kill — eight, nine, 10, 11 people?" he asked.

"No," Mrs. Helen Starkweather said, "but I don't think anything is wrong with him at the present time."

She blamed her son's troubles on Carol and said the girl "had a hold" on Charles.

The cocky little Starkweather was calm and self-possessed as he has been during the trial when he rolled to the stand in his howling gait, put one foot on a knee and gazed nonchalantly at the jury.

Starkweather said he was telling the truth in his confession that he killed Robert Jensen, 17, and dumped his body in a storm shelter.

The confession said that after killing Jensen he became "mad" at Carol.

"What were you mad about?" Gaughan asked.

"For what she did,"

"What did she do?"

"She shot Carol King."

Carol King was the 16-year-old girl out on a date with Jensen when they came across Charles and Carol on a snowy country road.

Starkweather told of having severe headaches about every other day after he was struck in the head by a baling machine handle last year. He also said a doctor told him he might go blind in a year or two.

"Now, Charles," said Gaughan, "you have been accused of a lot of alleged crimes."

"Self defense," muttered Starkweather.

"You killed all these people in self defense?"

"The ones I've killed, yes."

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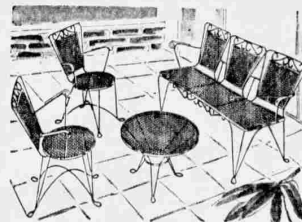
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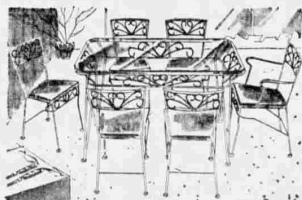
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