

The Salinas Times



Double Murder on Tyler's Ranch!

By Alisala Nunes, 7 February 1927

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Yesterday afternoon, two bodies were found in and around Tyler's Ranch of Salinas, California. The bodies were identified as Lennie Small, 35, and Elizabeth Tyler, 22. The motive for both murders remains unclear.

Lennie Small, the first victim, was a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with wide sloping shoulders. Years of working on different ranches as a migrant worker helped to build his strength and stamina.

However, Small did not have a very stable mind, and he relied on his constant companion, George Milton, for support.

Lennie Small's immense strength allowed for him to be very successful as a ranch-worker. Slim, a fellow migrant worker, recalls, "Maybe he ain't bright, but I never seen such a worker. There ain't nobody can keep up with him."

Small was not only a hard worker. He was also known to be a very kindhearted person. Other workers on Tyler's ranch claim that Mr. Small got along well with everyone he met. Crooks, a stable-buck, says, "Lennie always thought that everyone was he friend. And we couldn't help but agree."

Small's reputation does not exactly go hand-in-hand with his shady past. Small and his aforementioned companion, Milton, had to flee a ranch in the town of Weed after Small was suspected of assaulting a helpless woman.

Is it a coincidence that Small is once again suspected of assaulting

another woman? Investigators believe that this is the case. Many of Small's fellow migrant workers knew that his unstable mindset often was the cause of his childish attitude.

The second victim of the double murder was Elizabeth Tyler. She had full rouge lips, wide spaced eyes, and was heavily made up. Her fingernails were real, her hair hung in little rolled clusters like sausages. She wore a cotton housedress and red mules on the insteps of which were little bouquets.

Mrs. Tyler had recently married Curley Tyler, the son of the ranch owner. Mr. Tyler claims that Small murdered Mrs. Tyler in the barn where her body was found.

Because of the lack of eyewitnesses, investigators are unsure as to why Small, a seemingly innocent man, would murder someone in cold blood. Mr. Tyler did not have any explanation behind his claim.

Further questioning of the other workers has yielded nearly no information. Oddly, a dead puppy was found near the body of Mrs. Tyler.

Milton claims that Small's unstable mind may have lead to the accidental death of both the puppy and Mrs. Tyler.

As puzzling as the death of Mrs. Tyler is, the cause of death of Small is no mystery. His body was found near a river located a few miles south of Soledad, and a quarter mile south of the ranch.

Milton, the perpetrator, claims to have been acting in self-defense when he

shot and killed Small, the man he was supposed to be caring for and looking after.

Milton also claims that Small's mindset most likely caused him to panic and flee the barn of the ranch, making the accidental death of Mrs. Tyler appear to be a vicious murder.

Mr. Tyler, when asked, said that Milton did him a great service by avenging the death of his beloved wife. Many of the ranch workers believe the same. However, George Milton will still be going to court on the 12th of February.

The fate of both Lennie Small and Elizabeth Tyler has already been decided. All that remains is the fate of George Milton. Is he a truly a friend, or a backstabbing enemy?

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The Death Penalty: Why It Must Change

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To this day, the death penalty is a highly controversial topic. There needs to be some kind of punishment for a person who commits crimes, that is for sure. Although the justice system does not always guarantee that a felon will be punished fairly, it is arguably the best system that we have. However, it is not the jury system that needs to change — it is the death penalty system itself that needs to change.

The first problem with the death penalty system is the cost. According to Death Penalty Focus, "The additional cost of confining an inmate to death row, as compared to the maximum security prisons where those sentenced to life without possibility of parole ordinarily serve their sentences, is \$90,000 per year

per inmate."¹ This cost is so high because there is more time and effort put into the process of going to trial. This appeal process takes an immense amount of time. After all, a human life is at stake. Also, the inmates that are currently living on death row receive higher security and better care than any other kind of inmate. In fact, before their execution, inmates are given their meal of choice, and then are given drugs to ensure that their death is painless.² Keep in mind that, in order to be sentenced to death row, one has to have committed something as bad as murder or genocide. Someone who has potentially viciously murdered millions is allowed to feel nothing whatsoever during death.

The problem of cost with the death row system is that it takes more time that it needs to, costing more money than necessary. In Singapore, if someone is accused and found guilty of drug possession with the intent to sell, they are hung. This entire process takes no more than three weeks at most, and costs very little. On average, the amount of time it takes to come to a conclusion to one's guilt or innocence on death row takes approximately 17.5 years.³

The second issue of the death penalty is that the punishment of death to an inmate on death row is not enough to make up for the losses that the family or families will have to face. The death of a murder does not bring back the loved ones that people have lost. Certain executions, such as the electric chair have been deemed inhumane because of the torturous aspect of the execution. However, this should not be a concern. If someone were to murder a beloved

¹ Death Penalty Focus

² Rose, Laura

³ State of California

family member of yours, then there is nothing humane about that. If that is indeed the case, then why should it matter whether or not the execution process for the inmate is humane or not? It should not matter at all.

As if the previous claim was not considered harsh enough, here is yet another. Say, for example, that a loved one was murdered by the removal of limbs. Yes, quite grotesque. This is quite possibly the least humane thing one human being could commit to another. The only way for the murderer to receive proper punishment is to be executed in the same way that the murder was committed. An execution in this fashion needs to only happen once or twice before the crime rate will most definitely go down. If the worst that could come from murder is a life of ease and a painless death, then what is to discourage potential future murders?

My final argument as to why the death penalty system is highly flawed is that, should more people be discouraged from committing such atrocious crimes, the streets will become inevitably safer. If the punishment for murder is a slow and painful death, then that will discourage people from committing crimes. I could never stress this enough. The main reason why so many crimes are committed is twofold. The first part is that, as I have said many times already, that the repercussions are not severe enough. Also, the simple act of being convicted, not yet found guilty or innocent, can ruin a person's life. They can no longer find a job or start over, so they only thing they can do to support themselves are to commit more crimes. In an indirect way, the "justice" system encourages more crimes.

One could argue that the idea of "proper punishment" is all a matter of

opinion, which is, in a sense, true. However, society as a whole agrees that those who do wrong must be punished. The pampering that comes from being on death row is not a punishment.

To conclude these ideas, there are three main reasons why the death row system must be changed or removed altogether. The first is that it costs an excessive amount of money, and for what? There is no reason to spend so much money on the nation's felons. The second reason is that the forms of execution are nowhere nearly as bad as the means of murder committed by inmates on death row. My final argument is that if the forms of executions were actually things that potential felons actually feared, they would be discouraged from committing crimes. The last thing these people should be given is a short and sweet death, when the exact opposite was given to the innocent deceased.

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Obituaries

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Lennie Small

The recent passing of the good man, Lennie Small, has brought a great tragedy to his friends and families alike. He was killed on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 29th, and was 35 when he died. His future was looking bright, but it was cut short.

Lennie was a huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes, with wide sloping shoulders. Years of working on different ranches as a migrant worker helped to build his strength and stamina.

Lennie and his friend George Milton attended Elementary, Middle, and High School together in San Diego.

The two were practically inseparable, and this would be true if Lennie was still alive. George tells us that Lennie wanted nothing more in the world than to live on a little farm, the two of them, and tend to furry rabbits and other animals.

Lennie was and always will be known for his amazing character and strength. He never came to disagreements with anyone, and could work harder than two men combined. "He was the nicest person you would ever meet," says his friend and fellow worker Slim.

When Lennie passed away, he had no close relatives that he had left behind, but he had quite a few cousins in Nevada. They will be attending his funeral service at the local church, as well as his burial at the local cemetery in the town of Salinas. His many friends from Tyler's Ranch, save Curley Tyler, will also be attending.

Elizabeth Tyler

The young life of Elizabeth Tyler was cut short when she died on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 29th. Her tragic death ended what could have been a successful life of acting and traveling, two things that she wished to pursue later on in her life.

Elizabeth had full rouge lips, wide spaced eyes, and was heavily made up. Her fingernails were real, her hair hung in little rolled clusters like sausages. She often wore a cotton housedress and red mules on the insteps of which were little bouquets. Elizabeth always made sure to be looking her best, no matter what occasion. Many claim that this was to impress the numerous men working on her father-in-law's ranch, but Curley, Elizabeth's husband, claims otherwise. "She has never done a

bad thing in her entire life, and never would have," he says.

Elizabeth attended school in New York up until high school. She was prepared to either join a traveling group of thespians or attend a school of acting, which was very uncommon for women at the time. Instead, she ended up marrying Curley Tyler, where she moved across the country so she could live where he worked. She gave up her dreams of acting, but she still had a small sliver of hope.

A funeral service and memorial will be held at the local church and cemetery next Sunday in Salinas, California, near the ranch that she lived on. Her husband, father-in-law, and relatives from New York are expected to be at the service.

Equal Rights for All!

For years now, there has been talk of a proclamation that will free the slaves working on all the farms and ranches throughout the south and west of the United States. No longer will African-Americans be treated like something lower than an equal. Only one problem remains: it has yet to happen, and it must happen *now*.

So far, very few have taken action or done anything to gain equality for blacks. The main problem lies with the fact that those who have the power to create this equality are the ones enslaving African-Americans. This would not be a problem if the way black workers were treated were different. If they received the due respect that should be given to a hard worker, there would be no need to fight for the rights that should already be there. However,

African-Americans are being treated like slaves. They are barely paid. They are barely clothed. They are barely fed. Are they not our fellow humans that walk this planet?

This problem has lasted for too long, and it must end now. However, we must not only treat African-Americans with due respect, but all other ethnicities, cultures, races, etcetera. We must follow the values that were set forth by the founders of our country. Note the word "our." This is not my country or your country. This is *our* country. And we need to fight together for each other.

Life During the Great Depression Era

The name speaks for itself — the Depression Era is a very difficult time from our country. Not only has it affected America, but it has also affected countries worldwide. What became the spark that eventually created a bonfire of poverty was the crash of the Stock Market on October 29 of last year. The hard-earned money of many individuals went up in flames with the rest of the economy.

The effects of the Stock Market Crash, or Black Tuesday, were very devastating in both countries rich and poor. Personal income, tax revenue, profits, and prices have all dropped drastically. International trades have fallen as far as 50%. In America alone, unemployment has affected a quarter of the country. However, it seems that it is not only the economy that is acting up. Huge dust storms have been raging across the Great Plains. These storms are strong enough to rip trees out from the ground, and lift away topsoil into the wind. What remains is dust and soil with

nowhere near enough nutrients to grow a good yield of crops.

Every day, Americans are losing their jobs. More and more families are moving west in hopes of finding a good job and a new place to live. Many families find that they are unsuccessful, and have to live their lives as migrant workers.

As one would expect, the life of a migrant worker during such a time like this is not at all easy. Imagine not knowing whether or not you'd have a job the next day. A family could get kicked off a ranch at any given time, and with no warning. Also, the conditions on the ranches and orchards were not always the best. Sometimes families barely got enough to eat, even with the entire family working as hard as they can. These are hard times indeed, and the world hopes that it will soon come to an end.

Sports

The Summer Olympics are coming soon! They take place at the Los Angeles Coliseum in only three months! Make sure to buy your tickets before they sell out!

Baseball: Babe Ruth just hit his 40th home run for the Boston Red Sox against the Philadelphia Athletics. The final score was 10-3, Red Sox winning the game.

Basketball: Fort Wayne lost to Brooklyn 86-60, making Brooklyn this season's champions.

Weather

Over the course of the week, the weather can be expected to go as high as 80 degrees, and as low as 40 degrees. The chance of rain appears to be at 0%. Make sure to conserve water folks! We will also be seeing some dust storms being blow in from the east near Kansas, but nothing too severe.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Salinas Times,

I recently read your article about civil rights for black people. Are you sure that this is really necessary? Wouldn't it be easier just let the blacks deal with the problem themselves? Please explain.

Sincerely,
John H.

Dear Reader,

It is crucial that the entire country fights for the rights of one another, because our country was founded by not one man, but by a group of men. Everything that has been done for our country has been done with the aid of comrades and peers. If we are to show that everyone is to have equal rights, we need to do this together.

Alisala Nunes
Salinas Times Editor

Dear Salinas Times,

What are the conditions like on Tyler's Ranch? I hear that you have seen both the ranch in question and many others. Please give us your opinion.

Sincerely,
Catherine B.

Dear Reader,

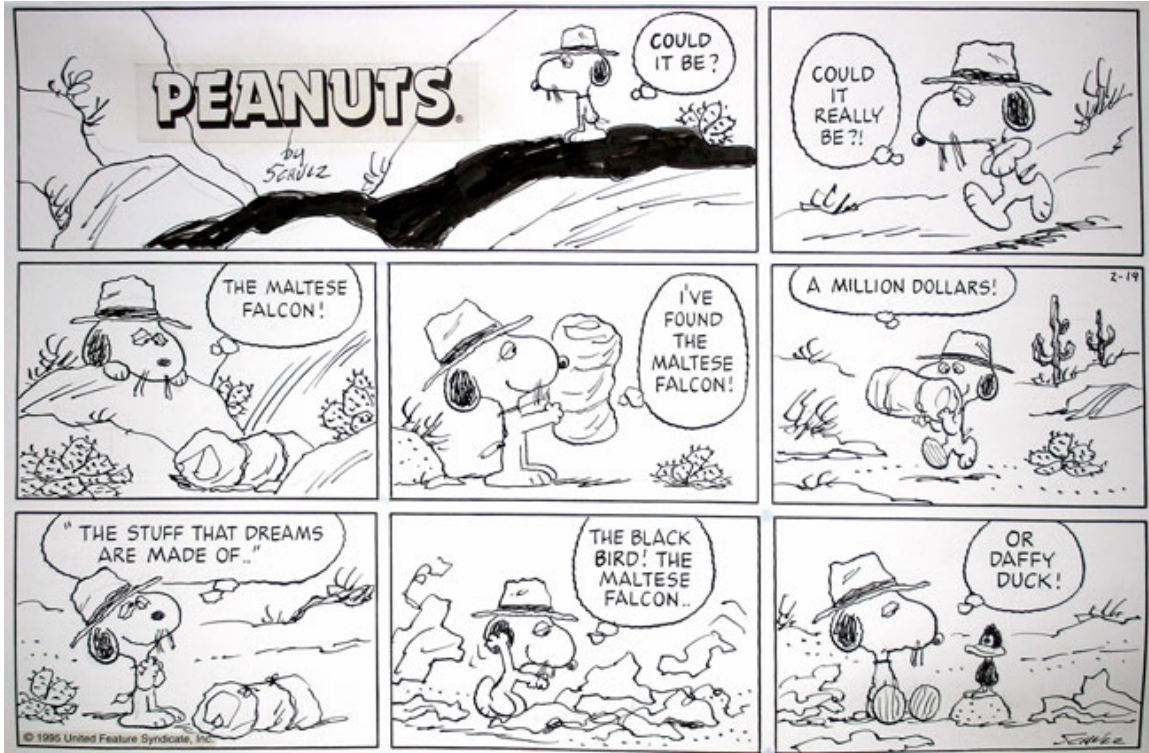
Thank you for the good question. I have indeed seen the conditions of many ranches on my exploration throughout the United States. I can say that, as a fact, Tyler's Ranch is by far the best ranch to work at as a migrant worker. The pay of \$50 a month is always there when Mr. Tyler, the ranch owner, says it will be there.

In addition, the ranch has luxuries that most other farms, ranches, and orchards don't have. There is a provided horseshoes pit to be used by all, and food, clothing, and shelter are all provided. One can go in town to get a drink at the local bar with the monthly pay provided by the ranch.

Although many workers come and go, the few who have stayed for a long time can tell you that they would rather not work anywhere else.

Alisala Nunes
Salinas Times Editor

Comics



Mr. A. Mutt Starts in to Play the Races



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