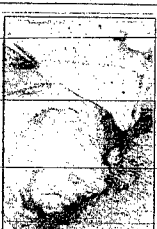


VOLLEYBALL:  
PETTIT SQUAD  
OPENS TONIGHT  
ON THE ROAD



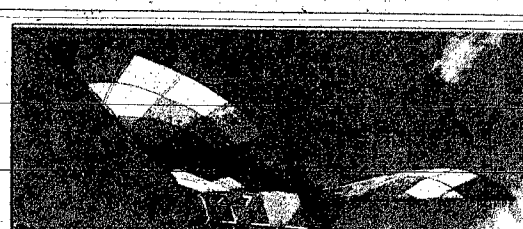
PORK PRICES:  
HOG RAISERS  
FEAR PRESSURE  
OF BIG FARMS



FRIDAY

SUNRISE EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2, 1994  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



FLYING FEST:  
KITE LOVERS  
TO DESCEND  
ON CALLAWAY

Sports Page 33

Business Page 26

Living Page 43

#### GOOD MORNING

Omaha-Council Bluffs — Chance of thunderstorms today. High: 74. Low: 56. Cloudy, warmer Saturday, and Sunday.

# Omaha World-Herald

25¢

OUR 129TH YEAR  
52 PAGES  
AN INDEPENDENT  
NEWSPAPER OWNED  
BY EMPLOYEES

## Otey Dies in Electric Chair

Execution Is the First in Nebraska Since Charles Starkweather Received Death Penalty in 1959



SAYING GOODBYE: Harold Lamont Otey hugs a visitor Thursday night at the State Penitentiary in Lincoln.

### Prison Lures Demonstrators From 2 Sides

BY HENRY J. CORDES  
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Death-penalty opponents were struggling to light candles against a cool evening breeze when Harold Lamont Otey's last hope of escaping the electric chair was extinguished Thursday night.

"The reality of all of this is starting to set in," said Jim Bowman, 53, of Lincoln, after getting word that the U.S. Supreme Court had voted down Otey's last appeal.

Others among the three dozen protesters gathered outside the Governor's Mansion hugged and wept.

"That's how I feel," Michelle Miller, 31, said after the wind blew out her candle.

Outside the Nebraska State Penitentiary, where the execution was to take place, death-penalty supporter Linda Minchow of Lincoln said she would shed no tears.

She said that after 17 years it appeared that Jane McManus, Otey's victim, was finally going to see justice done. Otey was sentenced for raping and killing Miss McManus in 1977.

"She will be able to rest in peace after all these years," Ms. Minchow said. "He does deserve what he gets. This is the law. This is what Nebraska does."

As the last seconds before the scheduled execution passed, the protesters



VICTIM: Jane McManus was 26 when she was murdered.

#### INSIDE

**MEMORIES:** The family of Jane McManus recounts details of her life. **Page 7.**

**EMOTIONAL SCARS:** Harold Lamont Otey's life was troubled from the beginning. **Page 6.**

**CONFESSION:** Miss McManus "was pleading with me to kill her," Otey said in 1978. **Page 6.**

**OTHERS:** Nearly 3,000 prisoners await execution and jam court dockets with appeals. **Page 7.**

### 16 Years In Courts Now Over

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Harold Lamont Otey was electrocuted early this morning when Nebraska carried out its first execution in 35 years.

Frank Hopkins, warden of the Nebraska State Penitentiary, said the execution sequence began at 12:23 a.m. and concluded at 12:25 a.m.

"The coroner pronounced Mr. Otey dead at 12:33 a.m.," Hopkins said.

David Stempson, an assistant Lancaster County attorney appointed as an observer of the execution, said, "He never whimpered, he never cried, he never complained."

Stempson said he thought the execution was delayed eight or nine minutes because "they were having a tough time getting the straps on tight."

Otey, 43, who raped and killed Jane McManus, 26, of Omaha in 1977, was the first person executed in Nebraska since serial killer Charles Starkweather in 1959.

"The laws of the State of Nebraska have been carried out, and justice has been done," Attorney General Don Stenberg said in a prepared statement read by spokesman Dan Parsons at 12:43 p.m.

Please turn to Page 2, Col. 1

## Woman Awarded \$7.1 Million in Harassment Case

San Francisco (AP) — A former law secretary who said a lawyer at her firm sexually harassed her was awarded \$7.1 million in punitive damages Thursday, nearly twice the amount she sought in her lawsuit.

Rena Weeks said the lawyer at Baker & McKenzie, the world's largest law firm, dumped candies in a breast pocket of her blouse, touched her breast and pulled her arms back to "see which one (breast) is bigger."

She said the lawyer, Martin Greenstein, later lunged at her breasts in the office and made sexually suggestive

comments at a luncheon. Greenstein denied the claims.

Ms. Weeks' lawyer, Philip Kay, said he believed the damages were the most ever awarded for sexual harassment. The firm said it would appeal.

"Baker & McKenzie has always respected the values of people of all beliefs and backgrounds, and rejects the implication that it tolerates personal or professional misconduct of any type," John McGuigan, chairman of the executive committee of the firm, said in a statement. The firm is based in Chicago.

A tearful Ms. Weeks said she was surprised by the verdict.

"I hope it never happens again, but if it does I'd do the same thing, because I've got my rights, my civil rights, like everybody does," she told reporters.

Ms. Weeks, 40, who worked for the 1,700-lawyer firm in Palo Alto, Calif., for about three months in 1991, was awarded \$50,000 for emotional distress Aug. 26 in the first phase of the trial.

In the first phase, the jurors found that Greenstein had sexually harassed Ms. Weeks, and that Baker & McKenzie failed to take sufficient action to

prevent it and showed a conscious disregard for Ms. Weeks' rights.

In a second phase that ended Thursday, the same jury awarded Ms. Weeks \$6.9 million from the firm and \$225,000 from Greenstein.

Ms. Weeks' lawyers had asked for \$3.5 million in punitive damages from the firm and \$200,000 from Greenstein. The six-woman, six-man jury deliberated for about a day before awarding her nearly twice that much. Two jurors said the damages against Baker & McKenzie were calculated at 10 percent of the firm's capital.

During the six-week trial, more than a half dozen other women testified that Greenstein had grabbed them, propositioned them or made lewd remarks dating back to 1988.

Greenstein acknowledged offensive conduct toward two secretaries, but he denied Ms. Weeks' allegations. His lawyer said Ms. Weeks made up her complaints to save her job.

Greenstein, 49, resigned from Baker & McKenzie in October 1993 at the firm's urging, after working there for 22 years. Ms. Weeks quit the firm and is now a preschool teacher.

## Violence Mars, Ends Short Life Of Chicago Boy

THE WASHINGTON POST

Chicago — Robert Sandifer's brief life is spelled out in the files of social workers and police officers here.

At 22 months, he was carried into a local hospital with scratches and bruises inflicted by an adult. By the time he was 3, he was a ward of the court. At 9, he was arrested for armed robbery, the first of at least eight felony arrests.

Earlier this week he was identified by eyewitnesses as the gunman in the slaying of his 14-year-old neighbor, Shavon Dean, an innocent bystander in an apparently gang-related shooting spree. For three days he was the target of an intense police search.

Tuesday night they closed the final file on Robert Sandifer at the Cook County Morgue — dead at age 11 by two execution-style bullets to the back of his head. His body — not quite 5 feet, not quite 70 pounds — was found face down under a railway viaduct close to his home on the city's far South Side.

Police suggested the same teen-age gang members who had used Robert as their hit man apparently decided he was too hot to hide and knew too much to be allowed to be taken into custody.

"I feel lost," said Brandy Thomas, 14, who grew up with both Robert and Shavon. "When I lost Shavon I lost a part of me. Robert didn't do right, but any way you look at it, another child is gone."

The killings have horrified and riveted Chicagoans, who were shocked by Robert Sandifer's young age and by the bleak circumstances of his short life. But on the streets where Shavon and Robert used to play, neighbors said none of what happened had surprised them.

"I thought if the police don't get him quick, he'll be dead," said Shavon's cousin, Lenaye Chambers, 21.

"Once the heat was on, this was to be expected," said Cook County Public Guardian Patrick Murphy, who has worked with troubled children for 25 years. "Anyone familiar with the streets knew his gang wasn't going to let him come forward and finger them."

Chicago Police Superintendent Matt Rodriguez danced around questions about the role police pressure may have played in Robert's murder. He said his comments at Wednesday's press conference, during which he identified Robert as the shooter in Sunday's attack, were "how I saw the situation."

Rodriguez said the week's events show what can happen when "immature, impressionable children are armed with some of the most sophisticated

## U.S. Interest In Irish Peace Aided Process

—THE KNIGHT-RIDDER WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington — There's an old saying in the west of Ireland: "The next parish over is New York."

The 3,000 miles of water between the United States and Ireland never have seemed shorter than in the past few days, in part because of President Clinton's intimate involvement in seeking a ceasefire in Northern Ireland.

Further, Americans from assembly lines to corporate boardrooms have significant economic, diplomatic and political stakes in the outcome of efforts to end Europe's longest ongoing conflict — whether or not they are part of the 44 million people here who claim Irish

Please turn to Page 15, Col. 1

## U.S., Cubans Discuss Legal Migration System

THE WASHINGTON POST

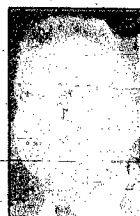
New York — U.S. negotiators proposed to Cuba Thursday to let a minimum number of Cubans migrate legally to the United States each year, asking in return that Havana stem the "chaotic and dangerous" flow of boat people, U.S. officials said.

The U.S. proposal came on the first day of talks, at the offices of the U.S. mission to the United Nations, called in response to the massive exodus of Cuban refugees by sea to Florida. The negotiations were to resume today at Cuba's U.N. mission.

The first round was dominated by the U.S. proposal, which would over time guarantee a large yearly migration of Cubans. "We gave the Cubans something to chew on," a State Department official said.

Setting a minimum — or floor, in the language used in the negotiations — is a departure for U.S. immigration policy for Cubans. Since 1984, a maximum of between 20,000 and 27,000 visas were available through the American Interests Section in Havana. However, rarely more than 2,000 or 3,000 Cubans qualified yearly. That led to complaints from Havana that Washington was blocking immigration in order to stimulate the departures by sea.

U.S. officials declined to give the numbers of visas at stake, saying they still were being negotiated with the Cubans. Just how the Cubans would return the favor was yet unclear. U.S. negotiators are reluctant to explicitly request that Cuban President Fidel Castro throw would-be exiles in jail; Castro "knows how to do it," a U.S.



Skol



Alarcon

official said.

The U.S. offer was described as a special program, consistent with U.S. law, to increase the numbers of Cubans who emigrate legally, U.S. officials said. Thursday's talks provided "details of how the United States can channel the desire to emigrate into a safe, orderly, legal, predictable and dependable process," said David Johnson, a State Department spokesman.

During the morning session, Ricardo Alarcon, a veteran Cuban diplomat who led his delegation, made an appeal for the United States to reopen trade with Cuba, banned for 33 years, but then dropped the subject, U.S. officials said. The Cuban government argues that the trade ban encourages immigration by helping to impoverish Cubans.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Skol, who headed the U.S. delegation, took pains to portray both sides as equally in need of a solution.

"We know it is in their interests, as well as in the interests of the United States, to establish a firm system of legal, safe and orderly migration," he told reporters.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAREWELL TO MOTHER: A 20-year-old Cuban woman, facing the camera, kisses her mother goodbye Thursday as she prepares to board a raft leaving Cuba off Havana's Nautico Beach.

### Inside Today

**Computer Will Compare Lawmakers' Words, Votes**  
A new system lets voters use personal computers to learn whether their lawmakers' rhetoric on spending cuts matches their votes. **Page 16.**

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# Otey Dies in Electric Chair; 1st Execution Since '59

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Otey's cruelty and viciousness brought about his own death, and brought grief and sorrow to the McManus family, to his own family and to the friends of both families," Stenberg said.

Members of Miss McManus' family gathered at the Omaha home of her mother, Joan McManus. "It's over now, and we are now very relieved," Mrs. McManus said from the front steps of her home after the execution, appearing with 12 other members of the family.

Leslie Boellstorff, a World-Herald reporter who was one of five news media witnesses, said, "The electric chair is not a very dignified way to die, but Harold Lamont Otey died with dignity."

Otey had no final statement for witnesses.

"He smiled and said, 'I love you' to the witnesses he knew," Ms. Boellstorff said. He did not cry, witnesses said.

Mike McKnight, a reporter for WOWT-Channel 6 in Omaha, said Otey stood firm and "looked each one of us in the eyes."

Then the death warrant was read. Reporters said Otey maintained his composure. "I believe he didn't want to lose that composure," said Bill Kreifel, a reporter for the Lincoln Journal.

Witnesses said it took a long time for the curtains to open and the execution to begin.

"It seemed like an eternity. In fact, I wrote in my notes, 'Waiting, waiting, waiting,'" McKnight said.

Associated Press Correspondent Ed Howard said it appeared that the first of four jolts did not kill Otey.

"He stiffened against the straps each time," Howard said. "The most graphic thing to me was that smoke began to rise from the area around and under his left knee after the third jolt."

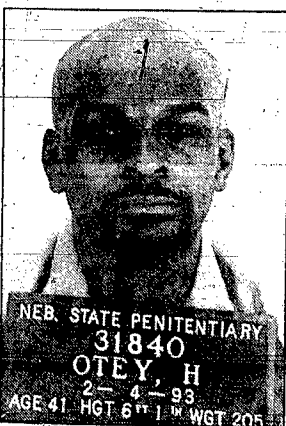
He added that there was a visible burn on Otey's left leg.

Witnesses went to the viewing room about midnight. Curtains opened about 12:08 a.m. Otey was strapped into the chair. He smiled and nodded at his four witnesses who were seated in chairs directly in front of him. He mouthed the words, "I love you," at least three times. He was still mouthing them as the curtains closed.

After several minutes, the curtains opened again. A mask covered Otey's face except for his nose.

After the second jolt of electricity he did not appear to be breathing. After the third jolt, smoke came from his left leg.

Otey's last hope for a reprieve vanished at 7:55 p.m. Thursday when the U.S. Supreme Court for the eighth time



**HAROLD LAMONT OTEY: A final court appeal failed Thursday.**

in 16 years of appeals, declined to take up his case.

At about 11:45 p.m., Parsons said calls had been made to the U.S. Supreme Court and the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals from lawyers on Stenberg's staff to see if the execution would be stayed.

A call also was made to Gov. Nelson's office to see if a late meeting of the State Pardons Board had been called.

At 12:05 a.m. today, Parsons told reporters that the final calls had been made about midnight and that no stays were in place.

After the Supreme Court rejected the last appeal, Vince Powers, one of five attorneys who have represented Otey, said he knew of no further action that could be taken in Otey's behalf.

"I think it's over," Powers said. "It's a disappointment. I don't like a human being being killed with my tax dollars."

"When I wake up tomorrow morning, Nebraska will not only have drive-by shootings, but sit-down killings. We've made the big time."

Jean Eden, a longtime member of Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty, said she was with Otey when he received word about 8 p.m. that the Supreme Court had declined to hear his case.

"He was called out of the room for a phone call from his attorney," Shawn Renner, said Ms. Eden, who recently moved to Madison, Wis., after living 35 years in Lincoln. "He came back, stuck his thumb down and said '6 to 2.' Everybody was pretty quiet. I hugged him."

Justices John Paul Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg voted to grant Otey's request to delay the execution. Newly

appointed Justice Stephen Breyer did not participate in the 6-2 ruling.

State Auditor John Breslow, one of the two independent observers, said a visitor to Otey had brought a prepared will. Otey signed the three-part document, and Breslow notarized it.

"When he signed the first signature, he said jokingly, 'Well, I don't have to write my number on this, do I?'" Breslow said. Otey smiled when making the reference to his inmate number, Breslow said, but otherwise was "as serious as serious can be."

Otey declined his final meal, which would have been a spaghetti dinner.

Thursday afternoon Nelson reiterated his resolve to see the execution through.

"While I derive no pleasure in the taking of any human life, the death penalty is the law in Nebraska, and I support it," Nelson said.

Hopkins, the warden, said Otey had a stream of visitors Thursday. Hopkins would not identify the visitors, other than to say they included Otey's attorneys. He said he did not think members of Otey's family were present.

Otey designated four witnesses to the execution: Paula Hutchinson, an attorney in Lincoln; Alim Abdullah of Lincoln, a Muslim clergyman; Joseph Munshaw; and Jessica French. Hopkins did not have a hometown or occupation for the latter two.

Prison officials began restricting other inmates to their cells beginning late Wednesday morning because of concerns that inmates might demonstrate.

Otey's case became a test of Nebraska's will to carry out the death penalty. In June 1991, Otey came within six hours of the electric chair before winning a stay from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Otey's legal battle included three state court appeals of his 1978 conviction and sentence, three federal court appeals of the conviction and sentence, a state court action challenging his 1991 clemency hearing and a federal civil rights action over the clemency hearing.

His only success was in 1991, when Lancaster County District Judge Bernard McGinn granted a stay of execution on the Pardons Board issue.

Otey confessed to police that he had raped and killed Miss McManus and committed at least 10 other rapes. He was convicted of the murder by a Douglas County jury April 13, 1978.

World-Herald staff writers Leslie Boellstorff, Paul Hammel, Henry J. Cordes, James Allen Flanery, David Hendee, Chris Burbach, Cindy Connolly and Stephen Buttry contributed to this report.



**VIGIL FOR OTEY: Jay Jolley, a law student from Lincoln, takes part in a candlelight vigil outside the Governor's Mansion Thursday night.**

## Execution Foes, Supporters Gather Outside Penitentiary

Continued from Page 1

uled execution time of 12:01 a.m. passed, a raucous crowd of death-penalty backers counted down and cheered while opponents of capital punishment held candles and prayed. State troopers estimated about 700 people were outside the prison.

Death-penalty opponents and supporters were about evenly numbered. The two sides were kept apart by two snow fences.

In the minutes after midnight, death-penalty supporters chanted "Will's dead, justice is done," and "Joubert's next," referring to death-row inmate John Joubert.

Ms. Miller, a UNL graduate student, stood with her back to the snow fence and cried. "The people on the other side of the fence are so full of anger and hate," she said. "It just scares me."

About 12:40 a.m. today, when the announcement of Otey's death was made, a cheer went up from the crowd.

Supporters of the death sentence carried signs saying "Justice for Jane McManus" and "Nebraska State Pen

first annual BBQ." Some opponents' signs said, "The death penalty is dead wrong," and "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."

Between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. Thursday, Otey waved at his supporters from a window in the prison hospital. They waved back and sang, "We Shall Overcome."

Many death-penalty opponents got emotional when talking about what the state was going to do.

"I really think we're all going to have blood on our hands at one minute after midnight," said Ruth Thone, wife of former Nebraska Gov. Charles Thone. The face-off between the two sides was often volatile. Profanity was yelled from both sides. A death-penalty opponent burned a flag.

When a death-penalty backer held up a sign with swastikas on it, a death-penalty opponent, reached across the fence, grabbed the sign and tore it to shreds.

More than two dozen state troopers kept the crowds separated.

World-Herald staff writer Chris Burbach contributed to this report.

## E.H. Wasson Dies; Was Phone Official

THE NEW YORK TIMES

E. Hornsby Wasson, a senior telephone company executive whose career included nine years with Northwestern Bell in Omaha in the 1950s, has died in Chattanooga, Tenn. He was 89.

Wasson was retired chairman of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., predecessor of Pacific Bell in California, and former president of New Jersey Bell.

His membership on several boards of directors led to a new precedent in antitrust law. In the 1970s, the Justice Department challenged interlocking corporate directorates and filed a lawsuit in October 1975, entangling Wasson.

Wasson spent almost 24 years in Bell system positions in the South before he was named vice president for public relations in 1950 at Northwestern Bell Telephone in Omaha. In 1959 he was named president of New Jersey Bell and in 1963 president of Pacific Telephone.

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The Execution of Harold Otey

# Otey Dies After 16 Years on Death Row...

## CHRONOLOGY: A REVIEW OF THE CASE

Compiled by Kevin O'Hanlon

1977

June 11: Jane McManus, 26, is raped and killed in her Omaha home.

1978

January: Otey arrested in Florida. He confesses to the killing, is extradited to Nebraska.

April 13: Convicted in Douglas County District Court of first-degree murder.

June 20: Three-judge panel sentences Otey to die in electric chair.

1979

Dec. 18: State Supreme Court affirms conviction and sentence.

1980

June 2: U.S. Supreme Court refuses to review case.

Sept. 18: Petition for writ of habeas corpus, which would require state officials to show good cause for holding Otey, is dismissed in U.S. District Court at his request.

1981

Sept. 21: Douglas County district judge denies request for hearing to review evidence used in conviction.

1982

July 2: State Supreme Court affirms denial of a post-conviction evidence hearing.

Dec. 6: U.S. Supreme Court refuses to review case.

1987

April 7: U.S. district judge denies petition for writ of habeas corpus.

1988

Oct. 13: 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel denies habeas corpus petition.

1989

March 14: Full U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denies habeas corpus petition.

1990

Feb. 23: Douglas County district judge denies request for post-conviction evidence hearing.

June 28: U.S. Supreme Court denies request for review of case.

1991

Jan. 11: State Supreme Court affirms latest denial of request for evidence hearing.

March 18: State Supreme Court denies request for last-minute stay.

June 6: U.S. Supreme Court declines to review case.

June 7: Request filed with State Board of Pardons to reduce sentence to life in prison. Request triggers automatic stay of June 10 execution.

June 29: Pardons Board votes 2-1 not to commute sentence, sets execution for July 1.

June 30: U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom of Lincoln

denies request for last-minute stay.

U.S. Supreme Court votes 8-0 against state request to immediately vacate Circuit Court stay.

July 1: 8th Circuit Court panel hears sentencing procedure arguments. Lancaster County district judge rules state must have properly signed death warrant from Douglas County. State secures death warrant from Douglas County.

Supreme Court refuses second state request to dissolve Circuit Court stay.

Lancaster County district judge issues stay until July 10 after Otey's attorneys question whether Pardons Board hearing was fair.

Order for execution expires at 11:59 p.m.

July 2: 8th Circuit panel rules against Otey, but leaves stay in place until July 15.

July 3: Lancaster County District Court agrees to hear state arguments that court had no authority to issue stay.

July 10: Lancaster County district judge extends stay of execution until decision is made on whether to hear arguments on Pardons Board hearing.

July 24: Otey lawyers argue in Lancaster County District Court that Pardons Board hearing wasn't fair, partly because Attorney General Don Stenberg sat on board while his staff presented case against clemency request.

July 31: Lancaster County District Judge McGinn rules that the state can't execute Otey without a

Aug. 5: Full 8th Circuit panel denies request for case. Federal execution expires. State appeals ruling to State



**LISTENS INTENTLY:** Julia Wheeler, Otey's mother, attends the Nebraska Board of Pardons hearing in June 1991. The board voted not to commute his death sentence.

## Emotional Scars Punctuated Life Of Harold Otey

BY CHRIS BURBACH  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

In the public eye, Harold Lamont Otey's life has been defined by the death of Jane McManus.

His January 1978 confession to Omaha police described the June 11, 1977, attack in detail. But Otey has denied since then that he killed Miss McManus.

In a 1991 hearing before the Nebraska Board of Pardons, one of Otey's attorneys said Otey had not talked about the murder in recent years because "he cannot admit to himself that he was capable of the crime."

"He has made a very sincere effort to kill that moment in him," attorney Vic Covalt told the three Pardons Board members — Gov. Nelson, Attorney General Don Stenberg and Secretary of State Allen Beermann. "He hates that in himself more than you do."

But Assistant Omaha Police Chief Charlie Parker, who as a detective took Otey's 1978 confession, said "It was almost like he was bragging about what he had done. He had this little smirk on his face which I still see every time I see him on TV."

**Came From Large Family**  
"Glimpses of Otey's life before and after the slaying of Miss McManus have come out in testimony from the 1991 Pardons Board hearing, past interviews with friends and family of Otey and his own statements.

Otey was born in Long Branch, N.J. He was the third of 13 children in a family that lived in a public housing project.

He and one of his brothers had the same father, but the fathers of some of his other siblings remained unknown to him, Otey has said.

As a child, Otey was told for a time that his mother, Julia Wheeler, didn't want him. Covalt told the Pardons Board.

By the age of 4, he had been sent to live with a great-uncle, Napoleon Otey, in Bryn Mawr, Pa. He ultimately took his great-uncle's last name.

In the videotaped interview played for the Pardons Board, Otey described the couple who took him in as having "black bourgeois values, meaning that though they were not wealthy... I mean, they probably had only a couple thousand dollars in their savings account... they owned their own home, they owned their car, they had a back yard, they went to church every Sunday, and all their furniture and stuff was paid for. And they lived that middle-class lifestyle, as if the world was entirely theirs. And their values were ingrained in me through belts."

Otey said he sometimes was spanked with a razor strap and sometimes was locked in the basement overnight without his clothes as discipline.

A neighbor, Juanita Ramsey, confirmed the whippings.

"He did not get a lot of the breaks other children did," she said.

Mrs. Ramsey testified at the Pardons Board hearing that Otey was afraid of the water as a child. She said that when she talked to his great-uncle about it, he told her, "I'm holding his head down under the water, trying to get rid of the fear."

Otey moved back to Long Branch when he was about 14, after his great-aunt died. He began sleeping on the streets occasionally.

It was there that other children gave him the nickname "Walkin' Willie" after he won a walking race, Otey has said. He later gave himself the name "Wili."

A poem Otey wrote about his teen-age years relates images of dirt fields strewn with shattered wine bottles and school children shooting drugs "next to the train tracks under the trestles used as shooting galleries."

Otey did a lot of drugs in his youth, according to his statement to the Pardons Board.

He began working at racetracks at 15, mopping stalls, feeding horses and traveling the country.

By his own description, his emotional development lagged.

"I think even back when I was 18, 20, you know, and I was around people my age, I realized that I was not emotionally on an even keel with them. ... Everything seemed to bother me. I had trouble sorting hurts from imaginary hurts or whatever."

An attempt at Army life failed. As a trainee, Otey was prosecuted 17 times for violations of regulations, and he washed out.

**Told of Rapes**

According to the taped confession that Otey gave to Omaha police — the confession he later repudiated — Otey began raping women soon after he reached age 21.

It wasn't until he was 24 that he had his first romantic relationship, which he said was with a 14-year-old girl.

Describing the first of 10 rapes and three attempted assaults, Otey said he hid in bushes and grabbed a woman walking by.

"I got off on seeing the fear in her eyes," he said.

He came to Omaha in 1977 at age 26 to work at Ak-Sar-Ben.

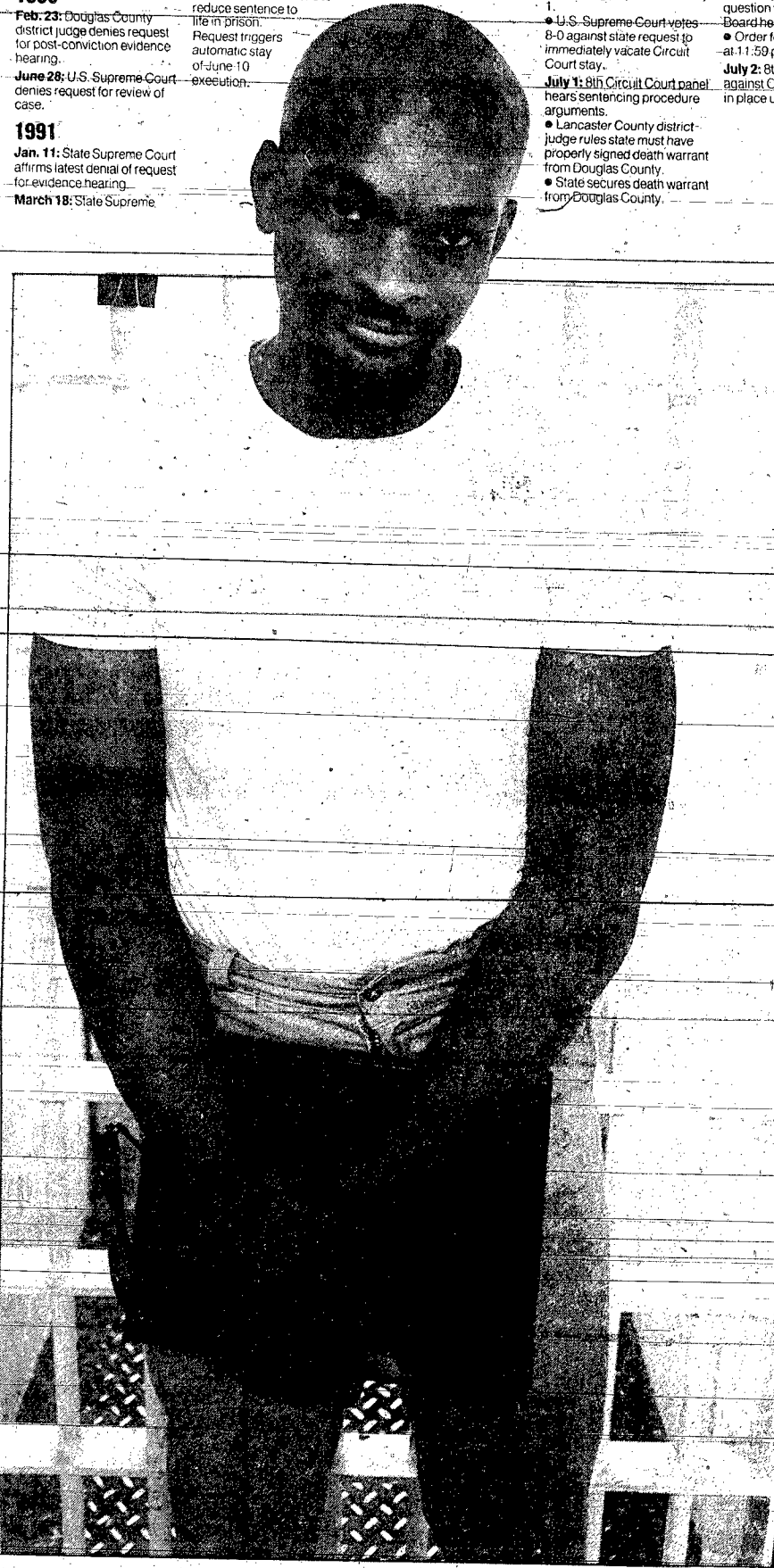
Before Otey's sentencing in 1978, psychiatrist Michael Browne said: "Mr. Otey suffers from a severe personality disorder with paranoid, narcissistic, sociopathic and impulsive character traits."

In his 1991 statement to the Pardons Board, Otey described his 13 years in prison as a time in which he learned to be less selfish. That evolution, he said, showed in the three volumes of poetry he published as an inmate.

"I can look at the first book, and I see 'I, I, I,' you know, as a very selfish person and that small framework," he said. "And the second book, I think I started thinking about there is more than just 'I.' And I think the third book actually is that affirmation that, you know, it should be 'we.'"

While in prison, Otey studied philosophy and writing. Friends and advocates, including some of his teachers, testified at the Pardons Board hearing that he had changed.

Sherry Hubbard of Plattsmouth, a counselor, testified that she had worked with Otey at Ak-Sar-Ben in 1977. She said Otey then had some intolerance and anger. "I don't see that now. ... I believe in 10 or 20 years Willie will continue to grow."



**IN THE PENITENTIARY:** The path of Harold Otey's life took him to prison. Looking back, he once said he had "trouble sorting hurts from imaginary hurts."

## Otey Relates Grisly Details In Confession

BY T.L. HENION  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Jane McManus already had been slashed and stabbed with a knife, hit in the head with a hammer and brutally raped when she made a final, desperate appeal to her assailant.

"She was pleading with me to kill her," Harold Lamont Otey said during a taped confession in 1978. "She said, 'Kill me, kill me.' OK, I figured, I went that far. Why not?"

Otey raped, robbed and then murdered Miss McManus, 26, in her rented Omaha home during the early morning hours of June 11, 1977.

Otey, an itinerant racetrack worker dubbed "Walkin' Willie," was arrested for the crime in January 1978 while working at a Florida racetrack.

During his taped confession, Otey told investigators the details of Miss McManus' murder.

**Talked Willingly**

Charles Parker was then a homicide detective with the Omaha Police Department. Parker, now an assistant police chief, said officers "couldn't stop him (Otey) from talking" about the crime.

What Otey said was chilling: Miss McManus, a waitress and student, was asleep on a downstairs sofa inside her house at 67th and Pacific Streets.

Otey, who had been partying, was walking by about 3 a.m. when he peered through a window and saw her asleep inside.

Otey told detectives that he twice went inside, looking for items to steal.

While he was in the house the second time, Miss McManus woke up.

"She must have woken up and I surprised her and I grabbed her by the throat," Otey said in his confession. "I had this fish knife. ... She asked what I was doing and I said I was going to rob her."

"Then I told her I was going to rape her. I knocked her on the sofa. She started to fight me back, and I cut her on top of the forehead with the knife."

Otey later told investigators that he slashed her with the knife "to show her I wasn't kidding."

**The Rest Was Easy**

"Once I cut her, the rest was easy," he said.

After raping Miss McManus on the sofa, Otey ordered her to find him some money. There was money upstairs, she told him.

"On the way upstairs, I noticed she was bleeding pretty bad from the cut and I panicked," Otey said during his confession. "I started stabbing her. I hit her with a hammer, and she started pleading with me."

Miss McManus did not plead for Otey to spare her life. She begged him to kill her, and he did.

Otey continued to hit her with the hammer which he had taken from atop an upstairs dresser. Then he strangled her with a belt.

"She wasn't dead at first... which I don't know, 'cause I ain't no doctor, but I strangled her just to make sure... with the belt."

An autopsy on Miss McManus' body showed that she suffered 15 major stab wounds. There were injuries on her neck and throat indicating that she had been choked, and her head was severely bruised, indicating she had been struck with a blunt instrument. She had other bruises and scratches on her body.

After killing her, Otey said, he dumped her nude body in an upstairs hallway. He took the stereo and left the house.

**Returned to House**

He said he returned around 5 a.m. to find the knife and destroy other possible evidence.

Otey said he quietly fled Omaha a few days later.

For a while, there were few leads. But about a month after the killing, a west Omaha woman told police she had been abducted by a man with a knife. He fled after she screamed, she said. She described her assailant's car to police.

Authorities spotted and chased a car matching the description. The driver escaped on foot, and police found a knife in the car. A worker at Ak-Sar-Ben said he loaned Otey the car that night.

Otey again left Omaha after the second attack.

Chicago police later identified a stereo at a horse track's tack room as Miss McManus'. The new owner of the stereo said he had bought it from Otey.

Police arrested Otey in January at the Florida racetrack.

## Nebraska's Current Death Row Inmates

*Nine people remain on Nebraska's death row while their appeals remain under review. All are there for murder. One death row inmate, C. Michael Anderson, hired another, Peter Lynn Hochstein, to commit a murder. Execution dates have been set for two of the nine: Clarence Victor, Sept. 22, and Robert E. Williams, Nov. 16.*

Name	Age	Date Sentenced
John J. Joubert	31	October 9, 1984
Robert E. Williams	57	June 30, 1978
Peter L. Hochstein	40	August 24, 1978
C. Michael Anderson	42	August 24, 1978
Carey D. Moore	36	June 20, 1980
Charles J. Palmer	56	September 6, 1984
Randolph Reeves	38	September 11, 1981
Michael Ryan	46	October 16, 1986
Clarence Victor	61	November 21, 1988

\*Two earlier death sentences, in 1980 and 1982, were set aside.

## Inmates Who Died on Death Row

Wesley Peery 64, sentenced in 1976, died of a heart attack, July 3, 1988.	Steven Harper 37, sentenced in 1979, died of apparent suicide, December 7, 1990.

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The Execution of Harold Otey

# ...Execution Is the First Since 1959

## CHRONOLOGY: CONTINUED

**July 31:** Lancaster County District Judge Bernard McGinn rules that Pardons Board hearing was unfair and that the state cannot execute Otey without another hearing.

**Aug. 5:** Full 8th Circuit Court denies request for rehearing of case. Federal stay of execution expires. State appeals Judge McGinn's ruling to State Supreme Court.

### 1992

**May 29:** State Supreme Court rules Otey not entitled to second Pardons Board hearing, saying clemency is a grace of the state and not a right.

**June 30:** U.S. District Court is asked to reconsider decision by Urborn denying review of sentencing procedure.

**July 1:** State Supreme Court sets execution for Aug. 6.

**July 7:** Otey lawyers ask U.S. District Court for stay. They claim Otey's constitutional

due process rights were violated by Pardons Board.

**July 30:** Urborn issues stay, sets Aug. 28 hearing on Pardons Board issue.

**July 31:** State asks Urborn to lift stay.

**Aug. 3:** Urborn refuses. State asks 8th Circuit Court to vacate stay.

**Aug. 4:** 8th Circuit panel upholds stay. State asks U.S. Supreme Court to vacate stay. U.S. Supreme Court upholds stay.

**Sept. 28:** Urborn gives Otey lawyers more time to submit evidence for their argument that Otey was denied equal protection because his case

was treated differently from others on death row. Urborn rejects argument that "due process" rules should apply to commutation hearings.

**Dec. 31:** Urborn rejects equal protection claim and lifts the stay.

### 1993

**Jan. 4:** Stenberg asks State Supreme Court to set "earliest possible date" for execution.

**Jan. 20:** Otey attorneys ask State Supreme Court not to set execution date until 8th Circuit Court can consider appeal of Urborn's Dec. 31 decision.

**May 14:** Circuit Court panel rules that decision in another Nebraska death-row case does not warrant another look at Otey conviction, sentence.

**Sept. 27:** Circuit Court panel says it has no jurisdiction to consider fairness of Pardons Board hearing. Stenberg again asks State Supreme Court to set execution date.

**Oct. 8:** State Supreme Court denies Stenberg's Jan. 4 request to set execution date, saying it was superseded by his Sept. 27 request.

**Jan. 3:** Full Circuit Court rules 6-4 against further review of Pardons Board hearing.

### 1994

**Feb. 4:** Otey appeals to State Supreme Court a ruling by Douglas County district judge, contending his conviction and sentence were unconstitutional. He also argues that instructions on reasonable doubt given to the jury were improper.

**March 23:** "Reasonable doubt" appeal is sunk when U.S. Supreme Court rules to uphold similar jury instructions used in California case and in convicting Nebraska death-row inmate Clarence Victor.

**June 27:** U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear third appeal on Pardons Board hearing.

**June 30:** Otey lawyers file civil rights lawsuit in U.S. District Court, again challenging fairness of Pardons Board hearing and asking for an order blocking the execution until lawsuit is decided.

**July 8:** State Supreme Court sets Sept. 2 execution date.

**July 19:** Otey lawyers petition State Supreme Court to delay execution, citing possible long-term implications of court's conclusion that it has inherent authority to schedule executions. They also argue that Supreme Court should postpone execution until the civil rights lawsuit is decided.

**July 27:** State Supreme Court declines to delay execution.

**Aug. 9:** Otey lawyers ask Urborn to stop execution and consider merits of civil rights suit.

**Aug. 18:** Urborn denies request, saying chances are "slim to none" that lawsuit will succeed.

**Aug. 22:** Urborn rules Otey's civil rights were not violated during Pardons Board hearing.

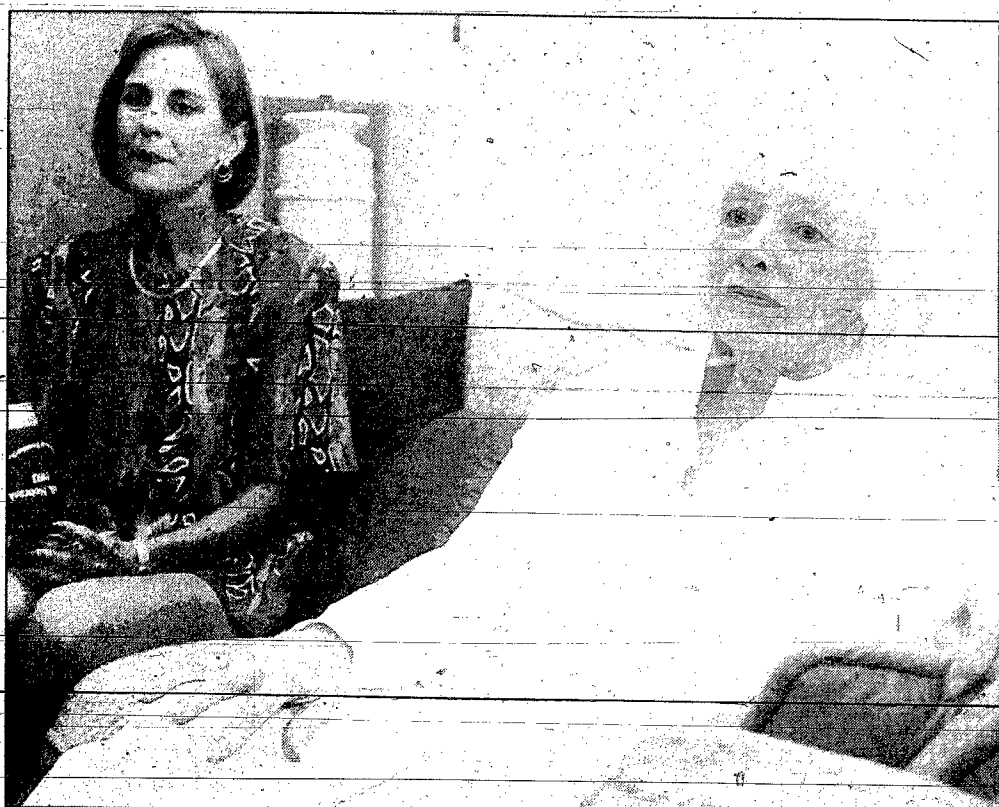
**Aug. 25:** Gov. Nelson refuses to call emergency session of Pardons Board to consider commuting sentence.

**Aug. 30:** Three-judge 8th Circuit panel in Kansas City, Mo., hears civil rights arguments on Pardons Board hearing.

**Aug. 31:** The three-judge panel of the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals votes 2-1 to reject Otey's appeal. The full 8th Circuit Court rejects the appeal on a 6-4 vote.

**Sept. 1:** Otey attorney files petition asking U.S. Supreme Court to take up case and issue stay. Supreme Court denies the request on a 6-2 ruling.

**Sept. 2:** Otey is executed.



REMEMBERING JANE: Jane McManus, a photography student, left a self-portrait of herself. Her mother, Joan, at right, and her sister, Laura, keep memories of her alive.

## Death-Row Appeals Jam U.S. Courts

BY STEPHEN BUTTRY  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Nearly 3,000 American prisoners are awaiting — and jamming court dockets trying to avoid — the punishment that ended the life of Harold Lamont Otey this morning.

Though 16 years of appeals failed to stop Otey's execution, lawyers and activists say remaining challenges offer hope for other death-row inmates. Scholars also note that the U.S. Supreme Court is pushing to streamline appeals so other condemned prisoners may not be able to stall executions as long as Otey did.

### Race Issue

The strongest challenge to the death penalty may come over the issue of race, said Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights.

"I think the race issue will get another look because it's so undeniable and it undermines the credibility of the courts," Bright said.

Such a challenge probably would focus more on the race of the victim than the race of the killer, said Richard Dieter, director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

"If you've killed a white person, you're far more likely to get the death penalty than if you've killed a black person," Dieter said.

About half of all murder victims are black, he said, but 85 percent of all capital cases involve white victims.

Bright said the racial numbers were particularly stark in Georgia, where 65 percent of all murder victims are black. In the 18 murders for which Georgia prisoners have been executed since 1977, though, the victims were white in 16 of the cases, Bright said.

"What makes a case a death penalty case in the Deep South is a black person charged with killing a white woman," Bright said.

The U.S. Supreme Court considered the impact of racial discrimination in a 1987 ruling on a case from Georgia. The court rejected a "call to overturn the state's death penalty because of racial bias, but said evidence of bias could be considered in individual cases.

### 37 States

Each appeal, whether based on broad issues such as race or the particular points of an individual case, will face increasing competition for the courts' attention. The 2,800 inmates currently on death row already have snarled the courts so that appeals can drag on for years. The caseload is growing. Kansas this summer became the 37th state with a death penalty.

The federal crime bill passed last month by Congress added more than 50 federal capital crimes to the books. Currently, only six federal prisoners are awaiting execution.

"There's a potential for thousands of cases under the crime bill," Dieter said. "It would take a lot more federal prosecutors, federal public defenders and federal judges to handle more cases."

At the same time, the Supreme Court is hoping to clear the death penalty logjam by streamlining appeals related to the constitutional prohibition of habeas corpus, or wrongful imprisonment.

"That should cut down on habeas corpus appeals," said Alan Slobodin, president of the legal studies division of the pro-death penalty Washington Legal Foundation.

**Inadequate Defense**  
Though the court has objected to the repeated appeals, it has not established guidelines to end them.

In Southern states especially, the current load is so heavy that many condemned prisoners cannot get an adequate defense, death penalty critics say.

"Some people have been represented by lawyers who were in way over their heads," Bright said.

Dieter said cases of poor defense counsel could result in some sort of standards, possibly devised by the Supreme Court, that lawyers must meet to handle capital cases.

"Death penalty cases have actually become a specialty of the law," he said.

Providing good defense lawyers in capital cases is an expensive proposition for the taxpayers, because most defendants are indigent. "Most people facing the death penalty don't get the kind of legal representation that O.J. Simpson is getting," Bright said.

## Victim's Family Patches Together Memories

BY KRIS MULLEN  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

On those long-ago summer days, Joan McManus would pick up a loaf of bread, a jar of mustard and a couple packages of lunch meat at Baker's, then head to the neighborhood swimming pool.

It would be about noon, and by then her children had been at the pool for nearly five hours — first for swim team practice, then just for fun.

George, Laura, Francie, Jeanne, John and Jane. They would come out to the station wagon with their friends for lunch and then go back to the pool until it was time to go home for dinner.

Some 30 years later, Mrs. McManus said she would have burned details of those moments, as mundane as they seemed, into her memory if she had known that Jane would be murdered at age 26 by Harold Lamont Otey.

### Feels Robbed

"I just wonder if he knows what he's taken from us," Mrs. McManus said, "if he knows what he's robbed from us."

Mrs. McManus and Laura McManus talked about Jane in an interview Tuesday. The recollection of one memory triggered another and another.

The memories, though, are snippets. They are a family's memories of "an adventurous girl who never lost that quality but was murdered before it was clear who she'd become as an adult."

"Here was someone who was 26 years old," Laura McManus said. "We didn't have a whole life to get to know her."

Jane Marie McManus was born Feb. 17, 1951, to Joan and Hubert McManus.

He was a partner in a real estate company and she a homemaker who shepherded their household of children. Jane was the third of 10 kids.

To accommodate them all, the McManuses built a house in the Westgate neighborhood near 72nd and Center Streets. At the top of the stairs that ran up the center of the house were two rooms: the blue room on the left for the five boys and the pink room on the right for the five girls.

Only when the girls were old enough to sleep over at friends', Laura McManus said, did they learn that others had their own bedrooms. Jane eventually moved her bed and dresser into a 7-foot-by-14-foot closet in the pink room.

### Typical Family

There were the usual arguments over hair rollers, the telephone and clothes that had been borrowed without asking. But Jane McManus also found advantages to being part of a big family.

Mrs. McManus kept a list of chores, with one of the children's names by each one. Their assignments changed from week to week.

"Before we could make any weekend plans, we had to have our job done by noon Saturday," Laura McManus said. "Jane would pay a brother or sister to do her job. She had such a love for life. She didn't want to wait."

Jane McManus might have avoided chores. But she taught herself to sew on the machine her mother kept in the basement. She also liked to cook.

When she worked at a fabric store, she made clothes for the mannequins and she

once sewed a blouse for her mother. She prepared a tasty Mexican dinner, too, and Laura McManus still uses some of her recipes, like the one for hot pork chili.

Laura McManus said she and her sisters learned from their mother, who in 1961 beat out a dozen other women for the title of Mrs. Nebraska. The women wrote essays, ironed shirts, designed and sewed aprons, baked cakes, styled hair and were interviewed by a panel of judges.

The McManus family was part of a neighborhood full of kids whose lives revolved around St. Joan of Arc School and Church. It wasn't unusual for Mrs. McManus to add an extra plate or two or three to the dinner table for friends.

"Our house always was the headquarters" of the neighborhood, Laura McManus said.

It remained that way after the kids moved on to high school. Jane McManus and her sisters went to Marian High, by bus at first and by carpool when they were old enough to drive.

Mrs. McManus recalls that Jane McManus' grades were neither outstanding nor worrisome. She had a couple of boyfriends in high school, but nothing serious. Mostly she palled around with girlfriends, listening to music — she liked the Supremes and the Temptations — or hanging out at Memorial Park.

After she graduated from Marian in 1969, she attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha for a year, and then enrolled at Denver University. She lived

in Denver a year, going to school, working at a sporting goods store and driving a used Volkswagen Beetle.

She returned to Omaha and was hired as a secretary for a ceramics supply company, Tucker Brown, at age 20 a year younger than she, worked there. Two weeks after they met, they moved into a house together on Charles Street.

"It was her spirit," Brown said Wednesday in describing what attracted him to her. "She had a spirit I'd never seen in a woman before and I just wanted to be around it."

Eventually they rented a house at 1022 S. 67th St. They decorated it with furniture from a Goodwill store, 150 plants and some of Miss McManus' pottery and macrame.

### Gathering Place

"It was a meeting place for everyone to have fun," Brown said.

They lived together nearly four years. Julio, a mutt, became their pet when Miss McManus kept friends from having him put to sleep.

Brown estimates they ate more than 100 times at Mr. C's restaurant, surrounded by the Christmas tree lights. Miss McManus, who loved seafood, sometimes ordered lobster.

One time they went camping at Two Rivers State Park with some of the McManus family and friends. When the weather became hotter than expected, Miss McManus cut a table cloth into halter-tops for all the women.

In February 1976 the two of them took a three-week, 11-state trip in Brown's Chevy Luv truck. He still has the snap-

shots: Jane carrying skis at Purgatory in Colorado. Jane posing at Hoover Dam.

"I swear to you, I knew her for four years and never once saw her sit down," he said.

When she took art photography classes at Metropolitan Technical Community College, she'd show him photos she'd taken.

"She'd drive me crazy. 'What do you think of this one?'" Brown said. "She was looking for that perfect picture. Just like she was looking for that perfect place in life where she fit."

### Sister Moved In

Brown said he moved out of the 67th Street house in spring 1977. They talked about getting back together, he said.

"I was in love with her," he said, "and playing whatever games you play at that age."

Martha McManus moved in with her sister Jane. But Jane McManus was alone in the house after 1:30 a.m. June 11, 1977.

Her brother, John, found her body upstairs the next morning. She had been raped, beaten, stabbed and choked to death.

Laura McManus planned her sister's funeral at Christ the King Church. A few days later, on a hot, muggy day, Mrs. McManus went to the house and piled at the front door the furniture and belongings that no one wanted.

Then she called Goodwill to carry them away.

"It was like a chain," Mrs. McManus said of her family. "Everyone was a link. And now it's broken."

## Nebraska's Executions Since 1903

The State Penitentiary was given responsibility for executions in 1903. Since then, 21 people, all men, have been legally put to death.



Name	Age	Date Executed
Gottlieb Neigenfind	28	March 13, 1903
William Rhea	18	July 10, 1903
Harrison Clark	31	December 13, 1907
Frank Barker	27	January 17, 1908
R. Mead Shumway	27	March 5, 1909
Bert Taylor	39	October 28, 1910
Thomas Johnson	39	May 19, 1911
Albert Prince	24	March 21, 1913
Allen V. Grammer	22	December 20, 1920
Allison B. Cole	21	December 20, 1920
James B. King	26	June 9, 1922
Walter B. Simmons	24	August 11, 1925
Henry E. Bartlett	35	April 29, 1927
Frank Carter	46	June 27, 1927
Frank E. Sharp	49	October 19, 1928
Henry Sherman	20	May 31, 1929
Joseph T. MacAvory	23	March 23, 1945
Timothy Iron Bear	22	December 1, 1948
Roland Dean Sundahl	20	April 30, 1952
Charles Starkweather	20	June 25, 1959
Harold Otey	43	September 2, 1994



TIGHT SECURITY: Surrounded by law enforcement officers, Charles Starkweather is taken from a Lincoln courtroom in 1958. Before today's execution, Starkweather was the last person to die in the electric chair in Nebraska.