

# Killer Remained Cool While Slaying Victims

**BY DALE E. FAHRBRUCH,**  
Staff Reporter  
The Lincoln Journal Newspapers.  
PERU, Neb.—Dr. Barney K. Baker, psychology professor who killed the president of Peru State Teachers college and the head of the education department Tuesday, had made elaborate preparations and left detailed instructions in preparation for his suicide.

Dr. William A. Nicholas and Dr. Paul A. Maxwell were shot to death by Dr. Baker apparently because he was being dismissed from the faculty.

J. Hyde Sweet of Nebraska City, chairman of the state normal board, said Dr. Baker came to him several months ago to discuss the dismissal question. Dr. Baker asked the Nebraska City newspaper man to go over the college president's head to keep him on the staff, Sweet said.

On a table in Baker's home was a book "Modern Criminal Investigation," with a marker in section on firearms and powder. The pistol Dr. Baker used was a .32 caliber Colt automatic.

planned his death affairs before the shooting.

Papers dated April 24—the day before the campus tragedy—were found in Baker's home, near his body, had been read to the estate and insurance policies, Dr. Baker apparently had read them in anticipation of his own death.

Investigation disclosed that the note found at Dr. Baker's home, near his body, had been typewritten on a portable typewriter in Dr. Baker's office. Investigators said the note was written before the professor traced a bloody trail thru the

school's administration building, shooting to death the president and the education department head.

**IN A STEEL BOX** were three endorsed checks totalling \$320. A personal check was made out to his wife for the balance of his bank account, and dated Monday. He had written "still good" on an insurance policy.

In a note he had written, "Notify Jay C. Baker, 910 No. Lindsey St., Oklahoma City, or Grove, Ok." His wife was visiting in Oklahoma City.

According to reports, he was very cool and deliberate at all times.



**CRIME PLAN?**—C. A. Huck, long time friend and business advisor of Dr. B. K. Baker, Peru State Teachers college psychology professor, holds a book entitled "Modern Criminal Investigation" which was found four feet from Dr. Baker's body. Diagrammed on the book cover is a room scene containing a body, Dr. Baker, who slew his two school heads at Peru, was found lying on the floor of his home in a position similar to the diagram on the book.

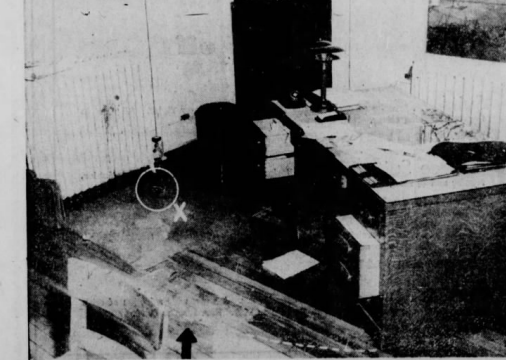
★ *Lincoln Journal Photos by Ralph Fox. More on Pages 2, 10.* ★



**DR. BAKER SUICIDE SCENE**—X marks the spot in the home of Dr. B. K. Baker where he took his own life after killing Dr. William A. Nicholas and Dr. Paul A. Maxwell, the two top administrative officials at Peru State Teachers college at Peru, Neb. State Safety Patrolman LeRoy Jensen (left) gazes at the spot where Dr. Baker's body was found while looking on (left to right) C. A. Huck, business manager for Dr. Baker; Nemaha County Sheriff Harvey H. Kuenning and Atty. John Farnese of Auburn, law partner of Nemaha Co. Atty. Fred C. Kiechel.



**WHERE DR. MAXWELL WAS SLAIN**—Dr. Paul A. Maxwell, head of the school's education department, sat at his desk at the spot marked X reading the papers on his desk. Dr. B. K. Baker, psychology professor came up from the side marked by the bottom arrow and fired three shots killing Dr. Maxwell. During the entire time, Dr. Maxwell's secretary, Mary Louise Smith sat in the chair marked by the top arrow while working on a stencil which is pictured resting on the chair. Horrified, she was an eye witness to the slaying of Dr. Maxwell. "Dr. Maxwell never looked up or knew who shot him," she said.



**DR. NICHOLAS' DEATH SITE**—Dr. William A. Nicholas was sitting behind his desk at the spot marked X when Dr. B. K. Baker, Peru State Teachers college psychology professor came up along the line of the black arrow and fired the five shots which killed Dr. Nicholas. The circle shows Dr. Nicholas' glasses which fell off his head as his body slumped backwards against the radiator. Dr. Nicholas was president of the college and was believed ready to fire Dr. Baker from his post. The desk was later moved off the floor pad along the dotted line.

**HERE** is the story pieced together by County Attorney Fred C. Kiechel.

At 11:30 a. m. Dr. Baker walked into Dr. Nicholas' outer office.

While he was waiting, Jack Kirk, an Omaha typewriter man, and his assistant came in two school heads at Peru, was found lying on the floor of his home in a position similar to the diagram on the book.

Dr. Baker chatted with Kirk for five or ten minutes about trading in a personal typewriter for a new model.

When they were talking, Miss Dorothy Stepan announced that Dr. Nicholas would see Kirk.

**DR. BAKER** objected that he had been there first, so Miss Stepan checked back with Dr. Nicholas and then admitted Dr. Baker to his office.

According to Miss Stepan, Dr. Baker said, "This won't take long."

Kiechel said Dr. Baker "very deliberately" walked into Dr. Nicholas' office and closed the door behind him.

A few seconds later the three in the outer office heard shots and Dr. Baker walked out with an automatic pistol in his hand.

**MISS STEPAN**, Kirk and his assistant rushed in and found Dr. Nicholas in his chair, a pool of blood on the floor.

Neither of the three persons, stunned when they heard the shots, made a move to stop Baker as he walked from Nicholas' office with a gun in his hand.

His assistant called a doctor, and later law enforcement officers after discovering Dr. Nicholas shot.

Lt. Harold Harold Smith, in charge of the criminal section of the state safety patrol, said Dr. Nicholas was shot three times in the upper part of the body, once in the head and once in the hand. A total of five shots.

Dr. George Wiggins, who examined the body, said it was shot thru the head that killed Dr. Nicholas. The other four would not have been fatal, he said.

**THE WOUND** in the hand showed powder burns, which Kiechel said indicated Dr. Nicholas had tried to grab the pistol.

Kiechel said that after Dr. Baker left Dr. Nicholas' office, he evidently walked downstairs directly to the office of Dr. Maxwell, reloading the pistol as he went.

Mary Louise Smith, Dr. Maxwell's secretary, said she looked up as Dr. Baker entered.

"I ASKED IF there was anything I could do for him," she said. "I was too late. Dr. Maxwell was sitting at his desk reading. He did not see who came in. Dr. Baker had the gun at his head as I spoke. He didn't say anything. I think there were two or three shots."

"Dr. Baker just walked across the hall to his own office, put on his hat and coat and left. I ran out screaming."

**HE SHOT** Dr. Maxwell, who was his superior in the education department, thru the right eye, killing him instantly.

Professors J. C. Christ and Wesley D. Sweitzer heard Miss Smith scream as they were walking down the steps from the first floor. They then saw Dr. Baker coolly leaving the building.

**KIECHEL SAID** Dr. Baker appeared unconcerned and walked deliberately across to his home, which is 200 or 300 yards from the administration building.

Before leaving the building, Kiechel said, Dr. Baker stopped in his own office for a few seconds. An empty clip from an automatic pistol was found on his desk.

On the front door of Dr. Baker's home was an envelope with the notation in red pencil, "Mr. Huck walk in and take over."

**C. A. HUCK**, a part-time instructor of mathematics at the college and an insurance and real estate man, said he had known Dr. Baker for many years and was his personal business agent.

On the floor inside the house, officers found Dr. Baker lying with a bullet thru the roof of his mouth.

**HUCK SAID** Dr. Baker "was an introvert and insanely jealous of his job. He was of an insane temperament. He had been dismissed with the previous administration at the college and was subservient to this administration. He felt he wasn't given credit for his ability."

Baker left a note to Huck ask-

## Jury Finds Maragon to Be Guilty Perjured Self In 2 Instances

**WASHINGTON**, (AP) John Maragon, who used to have powerful friends at the white house, was convicted Wednesday of lying to senate investigators.

A federal district court jury took one hour and 36 minutes to convict him of charges that he lied in testifying last July that:

1. He had only one bank account in Washington, in 1945-46. The evidence showed he had another then in Texas.
2. He had secret connections with Albert Verley & Co., a Chicago importing company, when he took a temporary job with the state department overseas in 1945.

**BUT MARAGON** was cleared on one of the main counts the government brought against him—that he perjured himself in saying he negotiated no business with the government and received no money for negotiations from 1945 to until the middle of last year.

On each of the two counts on which he was found guilty, Maragon could be sent to jail for as little as eight months to two years or for as long as 40 months to ten years.

**THE COURTS** rarely impose the maximum sentence. Maragon heard the verdict with little show of emotion.

The government has pictured Maragon as a man who circulated around government departments representing business firms, saying he spoke for Presidential Military Aide Harry Vaughan and came from the white house.

The defense contended the Greek-born, former Kansas City bootblack did nothing wrong in any dealings with government agencies.

No date was set for sentencing. Federal Judge Jennings Bailey immediately committed Maragon to jail after denying a defense request that the 56-year-old defendant be freed on bail.

## Darlington Retrial Move to Be Heard

Hearing on the motion for a new trial in the case of David Darlington, found guilty of attempted rape by a district court jury April 13, is scheduled for 10 a. m. Thursday before Judge J. H. Broady.

Meanwhile mental examination plans interrupted by the state are going ahead, Carl E. Sanden, counsel for Darlington, said Wednesday.

Sanden said Darlington, with his parents, Prof. and Mrs. George M. Darlington, spent last Friday and Saturday in Des Moines during examination of the youth by Dr. Paul Cash, former Omaha psychiatrist recommended by Dr. B. F. Williams, Salem, Ore., former Lincoln state hospital head. Dr. Williams examined Darlington here but said he was recalled to Oregon before his examination was completed.

Sanden said Darlington was to return to Des Moines in two weeks for completion of the examination by Dr. Cash.

ing that his body be cremated and the "dust" scattered on the campus.

Mrs. Baker returned to Peru Tuesday night.

A college spokesman said funeral services for Dr. Maxwell will be at 2 p. m. Friday in the Peru Methodist church. The body will be taken to Omaha for cremation.

Classes at the college will be dismissed during the afternoon services for Dr. Nicholas and Dr. Baker have not yet been announced, he said.