

# Rev. Regis Barrett, OSB

## 1920-1926

### Father Regis Is Called To Service Of Country

Father Regis Barrett, O. S. B., who had done splendid work as a missionary in mining communities of Boulder county, recently left for the east, to enter the United States service as a chaplain.

A fair held some weeks ago under Father Regis' direction for benefit of the Nederland mission netted nearly \$700. A little church is to be built in the tungsten town.

### Negro Sentenced To Hang Granted 30-Day Reprieve

(Associated Press)  
Denver, May 2.—John Jones, a negro convicted of the murder of George E. Miller, white salesman who was lured to a point near Globeville, a suburb in November, 1922, and slain and who was under sentence to hang was granted a 30 day reprieve today by Governor Sweet. The governor announced the reprieve was granted at the request of Warden Tynan of the state penitentiary and Father Regis Barrett, of Canon City. The petitioners declared Jones had the mind of a child. The governor was urged to grant the reprieve so that consideration might be given Jones.

### Units Returning Home

The units returning home are Company F and a part of Company H, 157th infantry. These companies are composed of students from the University of Colorado and the Colorado Agricultural College.

Many visitors were entertained at the camp yesterday, but all were forced to pass inspection of military and mine guards before being admitted.

The Rev. Father Regis Barrett, former rector of a Canon City Catholic Church, conducted religious services at the Catholic Church in the camp yesterday morning.

The Very Rev. Benjamin Dagwell, guard chaplain and dean of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Denver, conducted services in the afternoon at the camp. Dean Dagwell will remain at the camp and conduct military religious services next Sunday, it was announced.

### "SIMPLE SIMON" DISCHARGED FROM THE BOULDER JAIL

"Simple" Simon Rois, one of the Mexicans who was held in the county jail as a witness to the affair near the Davidson school house, six miles east of Boulder, Tuesday night, when Lemer Sosones shot Pedro Orosco in the right thigh, was released from jail yesterday afternoon on orders from Deputy District Attorney Birger Tinglof.

Sosones, who did the shooting, will be held in jail, pending the recovery of Orosco. It is said that he will recover. Rois is employed by Father Regis Barrett.

### John Callahan Shot By His Own Shotgun Was Discharged By Accident - In Hospital

John J. Callahan, a farmer in the South Boulder district, received the contents of a shot gun in his right side this morning when the weapon was accidentally discharged while he was at work in the field. Father Regis Barrett, of the South Boulder Sacred Heart church, who saw the accident, removed him to his home and later had him removed to the Boulder hospital where the wounds were dressed by Dr. Carbon Gillaspie and Dr. H. H. Heuston.

The charge broke two ribs and badly tore up the flesh. Shot, however, did not penetrate the lungs or other vital organs and no serious results are expected. Mr. Callahan is about 25 years of age and married. Mrs. Callahan, his mother, a pioneer resident of that section and other relatives accompanied him to Boulder. Friends have taken charge of the Callahan home until the return of the relatives.

- Originally from Youngstown, PA 29 July 1881,
- 11 July, 1909 solemn vows
- 2 July, 1912 ordained a priest
- Died 12 July, 1943
- Established Mission Church in Nederland

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### WEISS IS HANGED WITH PRAYER ON HIS LIPS

#### STRANGLES AS JERK FAILS TO SNAP HIS NECK

Denver Slayer of Wife Sends for Priest and Becomes  
Catholic Just Before His Execution at  
Canon City

TALKS OF HIS CHILDREN ON WAY TO GALLOWS

Spends Long Time Reading Bible; Takes 21 Minutes  
to Kill Murderer

**Special.**  
CANON CITY, Colo., May 28.—With a prayer on his lips, Harold I. Weiss died on the gallows in the state penitentiary here tonight for the slaying of his wife, Mrs. Rae Weiss, in Denver Feb. 14, 1929.

The trap was sprung at 9:24 p. m. and he was pronounced dead by Dr. R. E. Holmes, prison physician, at 9:45.

When informed just a few hours before his death that his execution was set, Weiss, who was a Jew, sent for Rev. Fr. Regis Barrett, prison chaplain, and embraced the Catholic religion.

#### Weiss in Midst of Repeating Prayer When Trap Was Sprung

Fr. Barrett baptized him and gave him his first Holy Communion.

The last hours of the doomed man were spent in reading the Scriptures and in writing farewell letters to his three children, who are with an uncle in Brooklyn, N. Y., and to friends.

When the trap was sprung Weiss was in the midst of repeating a prayer which the prison chaplain had taught him.

"Weiss died like a man," was the comment of officials. "He possessed a spiritual nature and had become quite a philosopher in the last few months."

For the second time this year the jerk of the rope failed to break the neck of its victim.

Weiss dangled for 21 minutes until physicians announced that his heart had stopped beating—that he had died of strangulation.

It required 23 minutes for death to overtake Eddie Ives, diminutive slayer of a Denver patrolman, who also died of strangulation when he was executed last January.

#### Slayer Breaks Down and Weeps While Being Led to Chamber

While being led thru the door from the death cell to the execution chamber Weiss broke down and wept for a moment.

He regained his composure in an instant, however, and mentioned the names of his three children.

The execution of Weiss was in violation of the precedent which was set at the penitentiary years ago that condemned men be led to the scaffold on the Friday of the week in which they were sentenced to die.

He was led under the rope bearing the hangman's knot and his arms were strapped to his sides and his ankles were fastened together by straps.

The noose was adjusted around his neck, with the heavy knot by his left ear.

The black cap was drawn over his head and the two guards who had fixed the rope and the leather bands stepped back.

A signal was given and a few seconds later the heavy

#### Insanity Plea Fails

He declared she nagged him to such an extent that he was unable longer to stand the nervous strain to which she subjected him.

He pleaded insanity at the trial, but was adjudged sane following examination by alienists.

He was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to hang during the week of Aug. 11, 1929.

His attorneys carried an appeal to the Colorado supreme court and the judgment of the lower court was affirmed and his execution set for this week.

The slayer's three small children, orphaned by his act and the punishment inflicted by the state, are in charge of relatives of the mother in New York.

Father Barrett spent most of Monday, yesterday and today with Weiss in his cell in the deathhouse.

For several months the doomed slayer has spent his time fashioning dolls and houses from matches and cardboard. These were distributed to poor children of the city.

- Enlisted as a Chaplain in WWI, rank lieutenant eventually achieving rank of Major
- En enviable military record
- Military was so well pleased with him, they would not send him to battle or release him after war ended (Lafayette Leader 4-9-1920)
- Father Barrett rode all night to warn people of a break in the Marshall Dam (Daily Camera 6-22-1921)
- Was a Knight
- 6 Days after Columbine Mine Massacre, presided at a mass in the church next to the mine—now the parish hall (Rocky Mountain News 11-28-27)
- Helped parishioners including employing them, applying first aide, coming to their legal defense
- Served as the Canon City prison chaplain

Biographical information provided by St. Vincent Arch Abbey, LaTrobe, PA



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### WIFE HELD WHEN CANON CITY MAN IS FOUND SLAIN

James Allen Dickey, Believed To  
Be Partly Osage Indian, Dis-  
covered Dead Beside Car on  
Road toward Pueblo

Canon City, Colo., April 16 (AP)—James Allen Dickey, formerly of Winfield, Kan., and wealthy, was found dead in his automobile about midnight last night on the Canon City-Pueblo road near here. A revolver with three chambers empty was found beside the car. His wife surrendered to police today and declared Dickey shot himself during a scuffle in the car.

Dickey died from a bullet wound in his temple, according to the authorities. The Dickeys have five children. Dickey is said to be a part Osage Indian and to have an income from oil lease royalties of \$1,000 a month in addition to other property holdings.

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Mrs. Dickey, according to court records, was granted a preliminary decree of divorce in a Colorado court several months ago, and was given \$250 per month alimony.

Dickey's dead body was discovered in his car by Rev. Regis Barrett, assistant chaplain at the state penitentiary here. The discovery was made after Mrs. Dickey, fleeing from the death car, had stopped momentarily at a new Catholic school on the edge of the city for supplication.

She bowed her head in silent prayer for approximately 10 minutes and then lifted her gaze to find the Rev. Father Barrett standing over her. She told him of what had occurred and then begged him to rush to the car to administer the last rites of the Catholic church to her husband.

Father Barrett left the school building and rushed to the car where he found Dickey's dead body.

A few minutes later two boys passed the car and the priest asked them to inform the sheriff and the coroner. He waited with the body of Dickey until their arrival and then returned to the school house, but all trace of Mrs. Dickey had disappeared.

Deputies from the sheriff's office visited her home here and found her five children all asleep at home but no trace of Mrs. Dickey. A search was instituted and ended this morning when she voluntarily appeared at the sheriff's office. She refused to reveal where she spent the night.

"We left Canon City early in the evening for a short drive. We passed thru Penrose, east of here, and then turned around and started back to the city. We had been quarreling thru-out the trip," declared Mrs. Dickey in her recital of the fatal shooting to Sheriff C. R. Glasson this morning after she surrendered. I can't say that I killed him. I can't say either that he killed himself. We were quarreling and he took his gun out of his pocket and held it in his hand driving with the other hand. I grabbed for the gun and we scuffled and the car nearly ran off the road and he stopped it. Just then the gun went off and James fell forward in the seat. I got out of the car and ran as fast as I could."

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