

Valley Red Put Up Bail Security

Special to The Examiner

CARUTHERS (Fresno County) — The man who guaranteed Angela Davis' bail is a big, ruddy-faced 33 year old farmer whose parents were once San Francisco school teachers.

Rodger McAfee, head of the McAfee Family Cooperative which puts up the deed to 405 acres of rich farm land as collateral for Miss Davis' \$102,500 bail, said he is a Communist though not officially a member of the Communist Party.

He said he risked the \$330,000 property, mostly planted to alfalfa as "a matter of justice, a matter of humanitarianism and a mat-

ter of my responsibilities to a fellow Communist."

McAfee met Miss Davis two years ago at a demonstration outside of Fort Ord and, he said, developed a "great deal of respect for her."

He said his Communist philosophy "evolved from my childhood, my education," and said his father, Ray, a retired San Francisco teacher, was a Socialist "in the early days."

"I hope the Communist Party will honor me some day with membership," he declared.

McAfee placed the deed to

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MR. AND MRS. RODGER McAFEE IN 1962 PHOTO

He put up farm for Angela Davis' bail bond

—AP Photo

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the 405 acre tract in the hands of Albert J. ("Mickey") Lima, Northern California secretary of the party, more than a year ago in case it was needed for Miss Davis' bail, he said.

After pledging the acreage to back the bail bond, he reported:

"We went into the jail (at San Jose) and brought Angela out . . . It was the thrill of a lifetime."

After that, he continued, he and about 35 or 40 friends of the accused 28 year old former UCLA philosophy teacher went to a San Jose home and "broke some bread together, had some good wholesome food, and Angela breathed some fresh air."

Had to Leave Early

He had to leave the party early to go back to the McAfee co-op.

"I could have stayed all night," he said, "but someone had to do the milking."

The acreage is "some of the best farm land in the world," he declared.

He and his parents have been building up the cooperative since 1961.

Its other members are his wife, Darlene, and their five sons aged 3 to 10.

The co-op now owns 1400 acres of farm land, much of it leased out, and operates an 84-cow dairy producing about 2500 gallons of milk a week.

Though the setup appears undeniably profitable, McAfee said the Davis case is a "humanitarian issue to replace the capitalistic system with a higher, more efficient form of socio-economics."

Dressed in overalls, he

has appeared several times at free speech rallies at Fresno State College.

McAfee was asked how his leftist political views jibe with the ideas of his neighbors in Fresno County, generally regarded as conservative.

"When you work with people in the fields and ditches, help them with their problems, lend equipment, get to know them on a person-to-person basis, you get along," he said.

North Beach Native

McAfee was born in San Francisco's North Beach, where his parents were teachers. The father, who once ran unsuccessfully as a Republican for the 24th Assembly District seat then held by Superior Judge Edward F. O'Day, was a World War I veteran and University of California graduate.

Before going into teaching, McAfee Sr. took a job as a ditch digger so he could learn more about the "average man."

The son said his parents sent him to Europe for more

than two years of travel when he was a teen-ager. He said his interest in farming began when the parents began taking city children into the country "where they could get into fresh air and do some honest work."

He said he had worked as a volunteer providing technical assistance to farmers in Latin America and in Cuba, and was deported from Mexico in 1963 on charges he held "alien ideas."