

School Ousts His Children

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Troubles for Angela Backer

Caruthers, Fresno county

The four young sons of a millionaire Communist Fresno county rancher who posted bail for Angela Davis were turned away from the Raisin City Elementary School when they arrived for class yesterday morning.

Rancher Rodger McAfee said he had found it necessary, after receiving death threats over the telephone, to buy a rifle — which he claimed was the first gun he ever owned. He added he was assisted in protecting his family and his property by four volunteer guards, who he assumed were students at Fresno State College.

Mrs. McAfee said her major shock came when she arrived at Raisin City with her children and was told by principal Thomas F. Davis that the 300-pupil school was no longer willing to grant interdistrict transfers to Andrew 6, Adam, 8, Eric, 9, and Mark, 10.

SCHOOL

The family, which maintained its legal residence in the Raisin City district during previous school years, is temporarily staying in nearby Caruthers, Mrs. McAfee said.

School authorities granted



AP Wirephoto

Between telephoned death threats, Rodger McAfee spent a few moments with his wife Darlene and their sons

an informal 40-day transfer agreement to the children last October so they could continue in their old school. The McAfees reported then that they would return to Raisin City when a new barn is completed this spring.

Even though the transfer agreement expired in November, no efforts were

made to oust the children until it was learned Thursday that McAfee had posted \$102,500 bond to permit Miss Davis to remain free on bail during her trial for murder, kidnaping and conspiracy.

'SORRY'

"I feel very sorry Mr. Davis (the principal) got his head caught in the chop-

ping block." Mrs. McAfee said. "He's been pushed in a terrible corner."

The principal was not immediately available for comment.

But a third unrelated Davis in the case — principal Barney Davis of the 650-pupil Caruthers Elementary School — said the McAfee

children would be welcome there.

They are legally entitled to attend the Caruthers school as long as they live in the district, he said.

McAfee said he sent his wife, his four school-age sons and a fifth son, David, 4, into hiding during the day while the threatening phone

calls continued.

"I'm not going to change my number," he added. "For each bad call I get, I get five calls praising what I have done.

"I found I had to sneak out to do the milking."

The 33-year-old rancher's role as a radical in a deeply conservative farm area south of Fresno has been no secret to his neighbors ever since his arrest in 1961 for an illegal trip to Cuba.

He attracted local attention in 1970 when he went to the Fresno State campus in the midst of student turmoil and, identifying himself as a Communist, urged a policy of non-violence.

GUN

But now the 6-foot-2, 225-pound rancher said he was prepared to use his newly purchased gun to defend his 1700-acre farm — legally a cooperative but with all ownership held by McAfee and his family.

"If the tragedy of America is forcing me to arm myself for doing what I think is right, what can be the pressures on the black people who are pushing for change and progress?" McAfee asked.

"Anyone who attempts to harm my children or my wife will get no mercy.

Our Correspondent