

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MAYES COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

RECEIVED
9:50 AM
SEP 16 1966

SHERIFF OFFICE
MAYES COUNTY, OKLA.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,

Plaintiff,

-VS-

GENE LEROY HART,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 1848

FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
SEP 20 1966

ELOISE GIST, Court Clerk
BY Marshall Dean Deputy

NOTICE AND LIST OF WITNESSES TO
BE CALLED IN CHIEF BY STATE

TO: JOE FAIRCLOTH, Sheriff of Mayes County, State of Oklahoma:

You are hereby commanded to notify and serve upon Gene Leroy Hart, and upon W. M. "Bill" Thomas, his attorney of record in the above entitled and numbered cause, the following list of witnesses who will be called in chief by the State of Oklahoma to prove the allegations in the Information contained and filed in said cause against the above named defendant, Gene Leroy Hart, together with their post office addresses, and thereupon to make due return hereof to the Clerk of the District Court of Mayes County, State of Oklahoma:

Kathy Nipp	252 E. 52nd Street North, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Marjorie Holland	1662 E. 72nd Street North, Tulsa, Oklahoma
L. L. Weaver	Pryor, Oklahoma
Joe Faircloth	Pryor, Oklahoma
Riley Wishard	Chouteau, Oklahoma
Shelby Fly	Pryor, Oklahoma
T. J. Summerlin	Pryor, Oklahoma
Chas. Newton	Pryor, Oklahoma
Leo Albro	Jay, Oklahoma
Al Jones	Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Dr. Pat Williams	Pryor, Oklahoma
Alfred Million	Loop Rt., Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Buddy Davidson	Loop Rt., Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Ina Barrett	Grand Valley Hospital, Pryor, Oklahoma
Violet Kay	Grand Valley Hospital, Pryor, Oklahoma

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA }
MAYES COUNTY } SS.

FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
OCT 14 1966

In the District Court of the 12th
District of the State of Oklahoma,

ELOISE GIST, Court Clerk

Deputy

Sitting in and for MAYES County, Oklahoma

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Plaintiff,
vs.

GENE LEROY HART

Defendant.

No. 1859

JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE ON PLEA OF GUILTY

Now, on this 14th day of October, 1966, the same being a juridical day of said court, and the time duly appointed for judgment in the above-entitled cause, and said cause coming on for judgment, and the defendant, Gene Leroy Hart, being personally present in open court, and being duly represented at all appearances before the court by h^{is} attorney of record, and having been legally charged with the offense of KIDNAPPING and having been duly informed of the nature of the charge and having been duly arraigned thereon, and having duly and properly entered h^{is} plea of guilty to the crime of KIDNAPPING after having been fully advised of h^{is} rights and the effect of such plea; and the defendant having been asked by the court whether he has any legal cause to show why judgment and sentence should not be pronounced against him, and he stating no sufficient cause why judgment and sentence should not be pronounced against the defendant, and none appearing to the court, it is the judgment of the court that said defendant is guilty of the crime of KIDNAPPING;

It Is Therefore Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed by the Court that the said Gene Leroy Hart be committed to and be imprisoned in the State Penitentiary for a term of ten (10) years to run for the crime of KIDNAPPING concurrently with Case No. 1848 said term of sentence to begin at and from the delivery of the defendant to the Warden of the State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma; and that said defendant pay the costs of this prosecution taxed at \$_____, for which judgment is hereby rendered against the defendant; and thereupon the defendant is by the court notified of h^{is} right of appeal.

It is Further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed by the court that the Sheriff of Mayes County, Oklahoma, transport said defendant to the said State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, and that the Warden of said penitentiary detain the said defendant according to this judgment, sentence and order, and that the clerk of this court, do immediately certify,

under the seal of the court, and deliver to the Sheriff of Mayes County, Oklahoma, two copies of this judgment, sentence and order, one of the copies to accompany the body of the said defendant to said penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, and to be left therewith at the said penitentiary, said copy to be warrant and authority for the imprisonment of the said de-

fendant and the other copy to be the warrant and authority of said Sheriff of Mayes County,

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MAYES COUNTY

SS.

In the District Court of the 12th Judicial
District of the State of Oklahoma,

Sitting in and for Mayes County, Oklahoma

OCT 18 1966

ELOISE GIST, Court Clerk

BY Maya Hill Deputy

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Plaintiff,

vs.

Gene Leroy Hart

Defendant.

No. 1860

JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE ON PLEA OF GUILTY

Now, on this 14th day of October, 1966, the same being a juridical day of said court, and the time duly appointed for judgment in the above-entitled cause, and said cause coming on for judgment, and the defendant, Gene Leroy Hart, being personally present in open court, and being duly represented at all appearances before the court by his attorney of record, and having been legally charged with the offense of KIDNAPPING and having been duly informed of the nature of the charge and having been duly arraigned thereon, and having duly and properly entered his plea of guilty to the crime of KIDNAPPING after having been fully advised of his rights and the effect of such plea; and the defendant having been asked by the court whether he has any legal cause to show why judgment and sentence should not be pronounced against him, and he stating no sufficient cause why judgment and sentence should not be pronounced against the defendant, and none appearing to the court, it is the judgment of the court that said defendant is guilty of the crime of KIDNAPPING;

It is Therefore Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed by the Court that the said GENE LEROY HART be committed to and be imprisoned in the State Penitentiary for a term of ten (10) years to run for the crime of KIDNAPPING concurrently with Case No. 1848 said term of sentence to begin at and from the delivery of the defendant to the Warden of the State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma; and that said defendant pay the costs of this prosecution taxed at \$, for which judgment is hereby rendered against the defendant; and thereupon the defendant is by the court notified of his right of appeal.

It is Further Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed by the court that the Sheriff of Mayes County, Oklahoma, transport said defendant to the said State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, and that the Warden of said penitentiary detain the said defendant according to this judgment, sentence and order, and that the clerk of this court, do immediately certify, under the seal of the court, and deliver to the Sheriff of Mayes County, Oklahoma, two copies of this judgment, sentence and order, one of the copies to accompany the body of the said defendant to said penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, and to be left therewith at the said penitentiary, said copy to be warrant and authority for the imprisonment of the said defendant and the other copy to be the warrant and authority of said Sheriff of Mayes County, Oklahoma, for the transportation and imprisonment of the said defendant as hereinbefore provided. Said last named copy to be returned to the Clerk of said Court with the proceedings thereunder endorsed thereon.

District Judge

(SEAL)

Attest:

Court Clerk

By
Deputy Court Clerk

FILED 8 10/18/66

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA }
COUNTY } SS.

I, _____, Court Clerk of the District Court of the _____ Judicial District of the State of
Oklahoma, sitting in and for _____ County, Oklahoma, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true,
correct, full and complete copy of the original judgment and sentence in the case of The State of Oklahoma vs. _____
_____, as the same appears of record in my office.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this _____ day of _____ 19____
(SEAL)

Court Clerk
By _____
Deputy Court Clerk

SHERIFF'S RETURN

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA }
Mayes. COUNTY } SS.

I received this judgment and sentence this 14th day of October, 1966, and the same executed by trans-
porting the within named defendant to the State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, and delivered him to the Warden thereof on
the 15th day of October, 1966, as herein ordered.

Judgment & Sentence. \$1.00
Mileage. 220 \$22.00
TOTAL \$23.00

Joe Faircloth.
Sheriff
By Keith Page
Deputy Sheriff

No. _____	In the District Court County, Oklahoma	STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Plaintiff vs. Defendant	JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE ON PLEA OF GUILTY	SOUTHWESTERN - FORM 10-3-64
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NOTE: This receipt to be retained by court clerk. Any erasures on this receipt makes IT VOID.

By _____
RAY H. PASTER, Warden
Record Clerk

NOTE: TWO TEN YEAR CASES, #1859 #1860, TO RUN C.C. WITH ABOVE.

On this 15th day of October, 1966,
RECEIVED OF Joe Faircloth
Sheriff of Mayes County
74417 IND Gene Leroy Hart
under sentence of Ten (10) years
for the crime of Rape, First Degree
NOTE: TWO TEN YEAR CASES, #1859 #1860, TO RUN C.C. WITH ABOVE.
McAlester, Oklahoma
District Court Case No. 1848

OKLAHOMA STATE PENITENTIARY

INFORMATION

The State of Oklahoma

vs.

Gene Leroy Hart

Locust Grove

Defendant.

In The DISTRICT Court
of Mayes County, Oklahoma
Case No. 1860

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

CARL W. LONGMIRE

Now comes _____ the duly qualified and acting County Attorney,

in and for MAYES County, State of Oklahoma, and gives the DISTRICT

Court of Mayes County, State of Oklahoma, to know and be informed that _____

GENE LEROY HART

did in Mayes County, and State of Oklahoma, on or about the 4th day of

June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and 66

and anterior to the presentment hereof, commit the crime of _____

KIDNAPPING (21-741)

in the manner and form as follows, to-wit:

That the defendant on the day and year aforesaid, in the County and State aforesaid did then and there unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously, without lawful authority, forcibly seize, kidnap and confine one Marjorie Holland from a place in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, to-wit: and bring said Marjorie Holland into Mayes County, Oklahoma, with the unlawful and felonious intent then and there on the part of said defendant to cause the said Marjorie Holland to be secretly confined and imprisoned in this State against her will;

FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SEP 27 1966

ELOISE GIST, Court Clerk

contrary to the form of the statutes, in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the state.

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mayes County

ss.

Carl W. Longmire
County Attorney

I, CARL W. LONGMIRE

being duly sworn, on oath state that

INFORMATION

The State of Oklahoma
 vs.
Gene Leroy Hart
Rt 1 Box 119K2, Locust Grove
 Defendant.

In The DISTRICT Court
 of Mayes County, Oklahoma
 Case No. 1848

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Now comes Carl W. Longmire the duly qualified and acting County Attorney,
 in and for Mayes County, State of Oklahoma, and gives the District
 Court of Mayes County, State of Oklahoma, to know and be informed that
Gene Leroy Hart

did in Mayes County, and State of Oklahoma, on or about the 4th day of
June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and 66
 and anterior to the presentment hereof, commit the crime of
RAPE - First Degree (Force & Fear) 21-1114

in the manner and form as follows, to-wit: That the defendant, Gene Leroy Hart,
 on the day and year aforesaid, in the County and State aforesaid,
 did unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously with the use of force and
 violence and by means of threats of immediate and great bodily harm
 to one Kathy Nipp, a female person not the wife of the said defendant,
 overcome all resistance on the part of the said Kathy Nipp, and did
 then and there rape, ravish, carnally know and have sexual intercourse
 with said female against her will and consent;

FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
 MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
 JUNE 2 1966

BY Eloise Gist Court Clerk
 Deputy

contrary to the form of the statutes, in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of
 the state.

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
 Mayes County } ss.

I, Carl W. Longmire being duly sworn, on oath state, that I
 have read the above and foregoing information, and know the contents thereof and that the facts stated there-
 in are true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 22nd day of June, 1966

Carl W. Longmire
 County Attorney

Mozelle Parker
 Notary Public

INFORMATION

The State of Oklahoma

vs.

Gene Leroy Hart

Defendant.

In The DISTRICT Court
of Mayes County, Oklahoma
Case No. 1859

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Now comes CARL W. LONGMIRE the duly qualified and acting County Attorney,
in and for MAYES County, State of Oklahoma, and gives the DISTRICT
Court of Mayes County, State of Oklahoma, to know and be informed that
GENE LEROY HART

did in Mayes County, and State of Oklahoma, on or about the 4th day of
June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and 66
and anterior to the presentment hereof, commit the crime of
KIDNAPPING (21-741)

in the manner and form as follows, to-wit:

That the defendant on the day and year aforesaid, in the County and State
aforesaid did unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously, without lawful
authority, forcibly seize, kidnap and confine one Kathy Nipp from a
place in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, to-wit: and bring said Kathy Nipp
into Mayes County, Oklahoma, with the unlawful and felonious intent
then and there on the part of said defendant to cause the said Kathy
Nipp to be secretly confined and imprisoned in this State against her
will;

FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT

MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SEP 27 1966

ELOISE GIST, Court Clerk

BY

Betty Gist
Deputy

contrary to the form of the statutes, in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of
the state.

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mayes County

ss.

Carl W. Longmire

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF Mayes COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

State

vs.

Gene Leroy Hart

Case No. 1848

JURY LIST

Plaintiff's Challenges For Cause

1. Passed
2. Passed
3. Passed
4. Passed
5. Passed
6. Passed
7. Passed
8. Passed
9. Passed
10. _____

Defendant's Challenges For Cause

1. Passed
2. Passed
3. Passed
4. Passed
5. Passed
6. Passed
7. Passed
8. Passed
9. Passed
10. _____

FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT
MAYES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SEP 27 1966

ELOISE GIST, Court Clerk

BY Mayes County

Deputy

Plaintiff's Peremptory Challenges

1. Waived
2. Waived
3. Waived
4. Waived
5. Waived
6. Waived
7. James Senor
8. Waived
9. Waived

Defendant's Peremptory Challenges

1. Jayce Hester
2. Walter Brown
3. Sammy Hagg
4. Orlando Vandevant
5. Mervin Cross
6. Cassie Cooper
7. Charles Schenker
8. Waived
9. Waived

The following are a true and correct list of jurors in the above styled and numbered cause, to-wit:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>Phoebe Robbins</u> | 7. <u>Linda Martini</u> |
| 2. <u>Lige Cagle</u> | 8. <u>Ben Heller</u> |
| 3. <u>Daphin B. Cleyde</u> | 9. <u>Trud Crisp</u> |
| 4. <u>George A. Maghin</u> | 10. <u>J. A. Woodard</u> |
| 5. <u>Marlene Littlefield</u> | 11. <u>Edgar Green</u> |
| 6. <u>Oscar W. Sparks</u> | 12. <u>L. A. Ziegen</u> |

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

State of Oklahoma, Mayes County, ss.

I, Eloise Gist, Court Clerk of Mayes County, Oklahoma,

do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct list of Jurors in the case of

State, Plaintiff, vs. Gene Leroy Hart, Defendant.

Witness my hand and official seal this 26th day of Sept, 1966

Eloise Gist Court Clerk.

By _____ Deputy

Father remembers details of death on search of camp

By RON GRIMSLEY
News Editor

"I was told at 11:45 a.m. on Monday. The word came from my wife. Her voice was quivering, and all she could say was that Michelle was dead. My first question was 'how?' but all she could say was 'I don't know... they just say she is dead'."

That's how Richard Guse described the first word that he and his wife, GeorgeAnn, received that their daughter had been killed.

"I went home from work knowing that my daughter was dead. A few hours later we heard the news about the camp, and we knew," Guse told the Times.

Michelle was nine. The family had agreed that on her tenth birthday, July 22, they would buy her a 10-speed bicycle. Guse's voice rises slightly when he says, "She never got it."

Michelle and two other girls, ages eight and ten, were attacked and killed on the first night of a camping trip at a Girl Scout camp just south of Locust Grove two weeks ago. All three were sexually assaulted.

"After we knew what had happened," Guse said, "the first thing I did was to contact the family. I called my brother-in-law, and then my brother who was working in Ohio."

"My parents were on a camping trip, and had been gone from their home in Illinois about two weeks. I told my brother to find them and tell them before they heard it on the news."

The brother, by contacting the police who entered the grandparents' home, determined their location in West Virginia. The brother flew there, and stayed with them.

"I realized I wasn't rational," Guse said, "so I called an attorney to help with the arrangements. We met with a minister here in Broken Arrow, selected a funeral home, made our wishes known as to the arrangements and decided to establish a memorial fund instead of flowers."

"I wanted to see the body. We were afraid we would never see our daughter again, and we knew about the sex thing, but all, but I kept thinking, 'My God, this is my daughter that this thing has happened to.' Always before, it was somebody else, but this time it was our daughter."

Guse, who is 42, has a son, Mike, 13. "I knew that we had to take care of the living first," he said, "which was my wife and son. The first night was very rough, but Mike had a baseball game, so I went with him. We are very proud of him, and the way he plays."

The medical examiner released the body early Wednesday morning, and Mr. and Mrs. Guse were able to see their daughter's body privately on Wednesday evening.

The family had arrived late Tuesday evening, and they also were able to view the body later.

"Somehow we had the inner strength, and I know there were many prayers for us. It certainly must have helped, because the strength was there. We had ten wonderful years with her, some people never have that."

Talking with Guse, the impression is very definite that it is the memory of those ten years which sustain him now. He speaks of his daughter in a very calm and gentle way.

"Michelle was a shy and retiring person. She never wanted to be a leader like stepping forward, but she was very motherly. I think she would have become a leader in time with very little trouble."

"I didn't think I'd make it through Mike," he grins, "but a daughter is different, she always just rolled with the punches. She

loved to read, and had just gotten glasses, and was very vain about her appearance in them. She wanted to be a math teacher like her mother, and used to help my wife grade papers. She played well with one person or ten."

Guse joined the volunteers who searched the camp area on Friday, and while there talked with the press and other searchers.

"I made the decision to join the search on Wednesday," he said, "after discussing it with my wife."

He said that he then cleared the time necessary with the Tulsa department store which employs him as a credit manager, adding, "I wanted to clear it with my employer because I think a man should do a day's work for a day's pay."

On Saturday, after reading reports that the searchers were "ragtag", Guse reacted by saying, "I thought it (the search) was well organized. All these men may have been ragtag, but I'd sure hate to mess with any of them. They were serious and grim, and I felt that if they were doing this for me, the least I could do was to do it for myself."

"The hope was there that I could find something that could help. I don't think anybody there was looking for a killer... we were looking for evidence, something that could be of value to the investigation. You walk in those woods, and see how ragtag you are."

Guse also reacted to reports that some people in the Locust Grove community believe a suspect, Gene Leroy Hart is innocent of this crime, and is simply being "tagged" with it.

"This man is not to be admired," Guse said, "if he did this thing. No one is out to lynch anyone. We need to know about this person. He should be questioned by a professional law enforcement person. This 'Robin Hood' theory of 'protecting your own' won't stand up."

"The fact that he is an Indian doesn't mean a thing. If there is reason to believe that he is involved, everyone should be concerned and help as much as possible, whether he's red, black or Chinese."

"Why create a racial war? I don't care if the Cherokee Nation or the courts handle it, just as long as he is questioned... to determine his involvement."

"When the people of Locust Grove want to find him, they will find him. Some people don't think anyone local can be hurt, that whoever the man is wouldn't do that. But when will he change his mind? In fact, who knows what's in his mind?" And what does the future hold in store for the Guse family?

"Time will tell," Guse said. "I have a wife and son, and they both have futures. We don't believe in emotionalism. We will continue to live in the Broken Arrow area. We have a strong attachment to the area and especially a strong attachment to the people of Pryor for what they have done to try to conclude this situation."

"I think through this thing that we have found out that we are strong people. We don't join just to be joiners. We believe in doing one thing, and doing it the best we can. You do what you can for what you believe in."

When Richard Guse, by his own choice, decided to inconspicuously join a line of 400 men to tromp through the insect-infested ground where his only daughter's life was taken perhaps in terror...

Maybe, just maybe, he told us something about what we all believe in.

Weaver rips claim by Hart's relatives

Relatives of Gene Leroy Hart Saturday said they were not convinced he had anything to do with the slaying of three Girl Scouts and said the fact that he is an Indian may have prompted the charges against him.

Mayes County Sheriff Pete

Weaver said the claim was "ridiculous" and said sympathizers in the Locust Grove area represented "only a minority" of community thought.

Millard Johnson, 21, a half-brother of Hart, said, "I think it's crazy, because anytime

something happens in this area, they always go to him."

Ruby Leach, a cousin, said, "I think they're after him because he's an Indian."

Meanwhile, law enforcement officials apparently operating under the theory that Hart, or someone,

is still in the dense woods of the Skunk Mountain area continued their search Saturday.

Police have advised residents of the farms, ranches and homes to stay in their houses and keep the doors locked. Many are

frightened.

"If they don't catch him, what's he going to do next?" wondered one housewife in this northeastern Oklahoma area. "What do we do next? Where do we go from here?"

(Continued on Page 2)

The Daily Times

Volume No. 44 Number 125

Sunday, June 20, 1977

32 Pages 2 Sections

Weaver rips claim . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

We can't just hibernate.

And, from the locked security of her nearby home Mrs. Jim English said:

"You feel more conscious of this thing at night. At night you don't know what's coming through the woods."

The manhunt is in a 10-square-mile area about three miles from the Girl Scout camp where, with his footsteps muffled by a thunderstorm, the killer struck on June 13.

On Thursday, three counts of first-degree murder were filed against the convicted rapist who escaped nearly four years ago from the Mayes County jail at nearby Pryor.

More than half an inch of rain fell late Friday, washing out old tracks but also helping by making new ones more visible.

Temperatures rising toward 90 and humidity above 80 per cent made the tick-

infested woods a steambath for the searchers and those standing by at Camp Scott, where the girls were slain.

About 50 patrol troopers, along with State Bureau of Investigation and FBI agents awaited developments at the camp, ready to move in with tracking dogs and aircraft should any sightings be reported.

And on Saturday, the state police sent in special teams of khaki-clad troopers armed with rifles.

Hart, 33, was linked to the case through two tattered photographs found near the death scene, an annual retreat for hundreds of Oklahoma Girl Scouts.

"You don't know what to do. There's nothing really you can do. . . . But we keep our pistols on the bar all day and a shotgun by the bed all night," said Mrs. Wayne McCartney.

Not far away, at the R. L. Stamper quarterhorse ranch, Randy Stamper said several families gathered in his father's house and kept an armed radio vigil deep into the night.

"There are a lot of people sitting up at night listening to their CB radios. They've got their doors locked and their guns loaded. The women are afraid to go into the yards by themselves."

Said one woman, "Please

don't identify me. They haven't apprehended this fellow yet. He's still here with us, unfortunately. And the thing about it is, he's been with us a good long while and he may stay with us awhile longer.

One newsman drove up to a farmhouse to use a telephone. A screen door slowly opened, a grizzled old man stepped out, pointed a shotgun at him and said:

"Listen, around here, in these times, if you want to come up to my house, you honk first, step out of the car and wave your hands so I can see what you got."

Mayes County Dist. Atty. Sid Wise vowed to continue the hunt.

"First, we're going to catch Mr. Hart, and then we're going to determine to our satisfaction whether he killed the girls. And, if not, we'll look for somebody else."

The Tulsa Tribune

'Possible slaying weapon' tested at Crime Lab

By SUSAN WITT
and JERRY WEBER

Lawmen looking for clues in the savage murder of three Girl Scouts found "a heavy, blunt instrument" Friday that may have been used to kill the girls, Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver said today.

The sheriff said the possible death weapon was probably taken in a burglary of the nearby Jack Stroll cabin sometime during the night the girls were slain.

Weaver wouldn't describe the instrument, but said field examination of it did not reveal bloodstains or fingerprints. He said Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents took it to Oklahoma City Friday night for laboratory tests.

United Press International reported some "good" fingerprints had been found on the instrument, but this was not confirmed.

Weaver said he was hopeful test results would be available today.

THE SHERIFF said the instrument was found "discarded" at Camp Scout near where the bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8; Doris Denise Miller, 10; and Michelle Guse, 9, were found. Two had been beaten to death and one was strangled, authorities said.

Dist. Atty. Sid Wise, however, disclaimed knowledge of the instrument described by Weaver. OSBI officials also denied any such instrument had been found.

Weaver said the instrument was found by authorities re-searching the camp grounds.

"It was overlooked in earlier searches," the sheriff said. He added that the instrument did not appear to have been purposely hidden but was just "tossed aside."

The instrument was believed to have been found several hundred feet from the camp scene near a back gate to the camp.

Weaver said the instrument was found in "heavy vegetation close by" the death scene.

The sheriff said investigators weren't waiting on test results, however, and were continuing foot searches throughout the area 45 miles north-east of Tulsa.

THE SHERIFF ALSO discounted reports there were a number of "good" suspects in the slayings and that all were residents of Locust Grove, the small town nearby.

Dragging operations Friday at one of four ponds on the Sheriff farm proved fruitless. The search centered on the pond after three search dogs led authorities there.

Shroff, a construction tradesman who lives in Tulsa, took and passed a polygraph test here Friday. He reported his house on the 14 acres adjacent to Camp Scout burglarized sometime Sunday night or early Monday.

The girls' bodies were found by scout workers early Monday morning in sleeping bags some distance

from the main tent area.

Two crop dusting planes sprayed the crime scene with water shortly after sunrise today to help put some moisture back in the soil and vegetation to enable the trained dogs to pick up the killer's scent.

DICK WILKERSON, OSBI investigation coordinator, said the dogs definitely tracked the Sheriff's farm burglar to the killings.

Mrs. Shroff contacted a Tulsa home today, said the instrument found possibly was a crowbar or piece of pipe. Shroff has been building a farm home on his property in his spare time since buying the land nine years ago, she said.

Mrs. Shroff said her husband "is a little careless" and leaves crowbars, piling and other building tools and materials at the farm. She added that Shroff locks up hammers and other valuable tools in a nearby barn.

Shroff's wife said a crowbar was apparently used to pry open the front door to the house sometime after Shroff left the farm Sunday afternoon.

Shroff is a millwright and carpenter and subcontractor work for construction firms here. His wife is a medical secretary for a Tulsa doctor.

WEAVER SAID THE instrument is something you would find around any residence. It is readily available.

Shroff reported the house burglary when he went to the farm Monday to take two head of cattle to a slaughterhouse, his wife said.

About 25 state and area law enforcement officers are involved in the investigation.

"We just keep going back over the ground again and again," Weaver said, "looking for evidence and any possible clues."

77 6-24-77

Posse hunts suspect in Scout murders

Times State Staff
LODEST GROVE — An army of armed lawmen, aided by hundreds of volunteers, began tramping through rocky, tick-infested wooded hills today in search of a Cherokee Indian charged with brutally murdering a crime victim in a crime that shocked the nation.

Early before noon today, one of the 40 specially-trained bloodhounds released in the area limped into the main camp where his trainer is stationed.

The black dog had been beaten on the back and legs and was bleeding. Authorities believe the animal probably was clubbed by fugitive Gene Leroy Hart, the 23-year-old prisoner-escapee charged with killing the girl Scout and believed to be hiding in this area.

FOLLOWING ORDERS of some of the state's top law officers from their Chattanooga headquarters, the volunteers formed a human chain around a two mile area Thursday night and today to prevent Hart from escaping.

Other volunteers searching a five-mile area near the camp site this morning found a man's jacket, a small blouse or shirt and a pair of shoes hanging on a tree. It is not known if any of the items belonged to Hart.

The area was surrounded by searchers late Thursday after a farmer spotted a man fitting Hart's description hiding along a cliff overhang.

The man ran and climbed more than 500 yards to a cliff top where he hid. The man ran and climbed more than 500 yards to a cliff top where he hid.

Close to Camp Scott where the three Tulsa area girls were slain June 15 to an area about two miles west of there, known as Satan's Corner.

The man believed to be Hart, a few hours later, was County District Atty. Sid Wiles announced three

murder charges were being filed against Hart.

THE COUNTS charge Hart with murdering Louella Farmer, 8, Doris Denise Miller, 10, and Michelle Guse, 9, the first night of a two-week campout the girls had worked to attend.

The girls' bloody bodies — naked from the waist down — were carried on a blood-soaked trail about 150 feet from the small tent where they had been sleeping. One of the girls was strangled and her body was still warm when discovered by a search party on the night of June 15.

It was learned today that a note which said three little girls will be killed in one of the tents was found at the campsite in late April — more than a month before the murders.

The note was discovered by Girl Scouts at the camp for the weekend. Whoever left the note also ate about half a package of donuts, the girls told their leader. The leader destroyed the note, thinking it was a joke.

A light rain slowed the search this morning as volunteers and lawmen walked more than five miles through the rugged terrain. Police Ivy reached as high as the searchers' waists and several snakes were spotted.

Officials said the rain may have handicapped searchers but it will help bloodhounds pick up new scents.

AT NOON, an Indian man was seen hitchhiking about a mile from the search area. He was immediately arrested, but officials said he is not Hart and is not the man who has been hiding.

At least 200 lawmen — local, county, and from throughout the state — came to the Lockett Grove area

Market strong

NEW YORK (AP) — Prices on the stock market advanced broadly today buoyed in part by what investors saw as a favorable report on the nation's money supply.

The 5 p.m. Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 4.07 to 899.44 after slipping 1.6 in the previous day.

A sharp rise in interest rates by the Federal Reserve among issues listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Hercules, off 1/2 to 1 1/2, was the most active issue on the NYSE.

Dust, fear, sweat mark midnight search

By E. N. EARLEY

Dust from police cars speeding down rural roads burned your eyes, the yelping of specially trained bloodhounds and the humming of a helicopter overhead filled your ears, and the night's light rain beat down on your face.

If it rained down your face, you would have been excited — lawmen and bloodhounds were hunting for a man believed to be the killer of three little Girl Scouts whose bodies were discovered June 15 about 150 feet from their tent.

Hours before few people had been at the entrance of the camp. Quiet citizens in pickup trucks with waving antennae pulled into the area eagerly waiting to help; and countless news reporters

huddled near police monitors and questioned anyone who would stop to talk about the scene near Camp Scott late Thursday after a farmer in the area spotted a man authorities believe could be the killer of three little Girl Scouts whose bodies were discovered June 15 about 150 feet from their tent.

Hours before few people had been at the entrance of the camp. Quiet citizens in pickup trucks with waving antennae pulled into the area eagerly waiting to help; and countless news reporters

Thursday after hearing that a man thought to be Hart had been seen.

Bloodhounds from state prisons at McLeod and McAlester were rushed to the scene and from 300 to 500 volunteers came to help find Hart.

Some volunteer searchers came to the area armed, ready to shoot if necessary, Weaver says. Deputies contacted a half dozen weapons and six persons were arrested for possession of marijuana.

But most of the searchers were welcomed by Weaver and others, and radio hobbyists — mainly in all night vigil — listening to their radios and trying to aid lawmen.

HUMORS AMONG the searchers is that Hart is armed with a 30 gauge shotgun and a 22 caliber rifle and, shortly after 9 p.m. Thursday, two shotgun blasts about two minutes

See POSSE, page 4A

prisoners from the Mayes County jail in Pryor.

"He's crafty," Mayes County Sheriff Glen Price Weaver, who was the first to suggest Hart might be the girl Scout killer, said late Thursday. "We're going to get him and if he's

The volunteers were asked to form a human fence, to leave their car lights on all night if necessary to light the area and keep the suspect from slipping out.

"He's crafty," Mayes County Sheriff Glen Price Weaver warned sternly, "and he's dangerous, too. We're going to get him and if he's

And as you sat in your pickup truck without a weapon with only that CB radio blaring out, you reached over and locked the door and looked out at him."

What would you do if you were in his shoes?

And the answer scared you.

Comment.....

By Michael Wheat

HEAP BIG POSSE

District Attorney Sid Wise and company couldn't find fugitive from justice Gene Leroy Hart last week. Now the Big Boys from J. Edgar Hoover land have come, like the Seventh Cavalry, to the rescue.

But while Sid and the OSBI and the Highway Patrol and the County Sheriff are charged with developing a case, searching for evidence and checking out leads, all the FBI has to do is find Hart.

SHADES OF GARY GILMORE

Gene Hart plead guilty to two counts of first degree rape in the assault of two pregnant Tulsa women. He has a long record of arrests and convictions, and escaped from the Mayes County jail. Now Hart has been charged with three counts of first degree murder. If someone wants to make Hart a folk hero, that's their business. But if we see a Gene Leroy Hart teeshirt, we are going to throw up. Hart still owes society, as one agent said, forty to a hundred and forty years for his past crimes.

GOOD JOB IN TOUGH GOING

Mayes County dispatchers Maxine Randolph and Pat Cooper have been doing a fine job these past two weeks keeping the office running while most of the deputies were down in Locust Grove. "There would be no way we could carry on the investigation without them," Sheriff Weaver told us.

THINGS HEARD ON THE CB

A truck driver said the other day that after Highway 69 gets a little bit rougher, the state will put up toll gates and charge everybody to drive on it. Ten-four.

FINAL REPORT

All that District Attorney Sid Wise wants to say in his final summation to the jury is, "We seen him, we chased him, we caught him."

GRDA —

September bill to their consumers. This is a normal period for billing.

Huddleston spent most of the three-hour meeting answering questions about GRDA's current operations and financial condition.

At two previous meetings, municipal customers have voiced concerns about recent rapid rate increases passed on to them by GRDA. They said they feared GRDA may ultimately be unable to compete with private investor-owned power suppliers. GRDA electric base rates were increased January and again in May.

"We should be able to do business cheaper than the investor-owned firms," Huddleston commented. "Both Public Service Co. and Oklahoma Gas and Electric have asked for rate increases. I think if you will compare the rates, you will be pleasantly surprised."

Huddleston said GRDA has been put at an extreme disadvantage in recent months because of very low rainfall in the Grand River basin.

Over the past 12 months, the state-owned public power agency has been able to generate only 14 percent of its system needs, forcing it to buy more and more power.

And at the same time, the

cost of purchased power has risen by 49 percent. In addition, GRDA's system load has outstripped the installed capacity of all its hydro-electric generating plants.

"This is why we want to build the coal-fired generating plant. We need to either get into the power production business or get out," Huddleston said. "When we have to buy most of our needs, we are only a middle-man to the consumer, and that just adds another layer of expense."

CAREER —

projects underway now, including a planned development on North Elliot street as well as a housing project near Highway 69 and 69A.

"I hate to quit the insurance business," Jackson said, "there's always something new."

"The insurance business is not what it used to be," Jackson said. "Years ago I could give somebody a quote on insurance without looking at a rate book. Now, there's fifty or sixty different rates for car insurance alone."

Jackson says his long interest in civic activities has helped not only his community but himself. "I was always under the impression that if you wanted something, you just went out and got it, not wait around for it to come to you."

"The problem with Pryor today is that there isn't enough interest in the town. If more people took an active part in civic affairs, we'd have a much better town."

Jackson cites several major problems in Pryor, including parking, housing and drainage.

What will Jackson do in his limited spare time? Travel, work in his lapidary shop and fish "a little". But mostly Jackson will be working.

FESTIVAL —

oped in a scenic area surrounded by the finest recreational facilities in Oklahoma. Unlimited camping is available, with electrical hook-ups.

Park rules for the festival will be no alcoholic beverages, and pets must be on a leash. There will be full dress policemen at the park. Admission for Thursday, Friday and Sunday's performances will be \$4. Saturday's performance will be \$5. Tickets are available for three days of music at \$11, and for four days at \$14. Children under 14 will be let in free if accompanied by parents.

FACT —

other problems. As officers try to zero in on fugitive Gene Leroy Hart, investigators have been confronted with friends and relatives of Hart who are lying through their teeth, according to one source.

"The one thing I can't understand is why some people are putting a halo on Hart," said Weaver. "They should remember that Hart plead guilty to charges of first degree rape." Hart was charged with the rape of two pregnant women after he abducted them near Tulsa.

Weaver said that while Hart remains the prime suspect in the murders, authorities aren't ruling out other possible suspects. "But there is a difference between a lead and a suspect," he said. "First we get a lead, and then if it amounts to anything, we might have a suspect."

"We've got lots of leads," Weaver said. The investigation now into its third week, consists primarily in checking out those leads.

FBI —

On Monday, aircraft equipped with heat sensing devices joined the search, but high ground temperatures prevented any success.

By Wednesday, a large number of FBI agents had entered the investigation. haps as many as 80.

Sheriff Weaver said the initial search phase of the investigation has ended, and now authorities are checking out the many possible leads in the case. Weaver said that although the most intensive investigation is taking place in the Locust Grove areas, agents of the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation and FBI are checking leads in several other cities.

District Attorney Wise went to Oklahoma City Wednesday to check on reports from the various agencies.

Although Hart has been described as the prime suspect, authorities aren't ruling out other suspects. Some investigative sources believe that an arrest may take place before this weekend.

Old Building Reconstruction The reconstruction of a plantation style two story log hut, built near Fort Gibson about 1822 and believed to be the earliest permanent family home in Oklahoma still in existence, is underway by the Muskogee County Historical Society. William M. Kelley is president of the Society.

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Loaded with officers and tracking dogs, a four-wheel-drive vehicle begins a patrol near Skunk Mountain where authorities last week believed fugitive Gene Leroy Hart had been seen. Hart was charged in the murders of three Girl Scouts last Thursday. (Jeffersonian Staff Photo)

Searchers
Begin

WATERPROOFING

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

Sherriff . . .

Hart denies killing girls

Tribune State Staff
told lawmen when he saw the newsmen.

ESTER — A stoic Gene Hart, charged in the grisly slaying of three Girl Scouts at a summer camp near Oklahoma City last June, denied to authorities that he killed the young girls, it was learned today.

One of few statements the accused Cherokee made to a Tulsa Tribune reporter was that he was being held under guard after eluding for nearly a year the largest manhunt in Oklahoma history.

The procession moved up the prison steps and into the lobby where Hart shed his noisy following and proceeded alone with prison guards into the rotunda area.

BILL ARENDTS, deputy warden at the state prison, said Hart was processed as "a returned escapee," then given a shave and haircut.

Arendts said that after a physical examination, he was taken to a cell on Death Row for safekeeping.

Later today, Hart will be removed from the prison and taken under heavy guard to Pryor and arraigned on the triple murder charges.

Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver said today he will have extra deputies on duty and arrange special security when Hart is taken to the county jail.

See HART, page 4-A



CAPTURED FUGITIVE—Gene Leroy Hart, accused of killing three Girl Scouts, struggles with heavy wrist and ankle shackles as he inches his way up the front steps of the state prison between Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents Larry Bowles (left) and Bud Ousley, followed by Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver (behind Ousley) and Deputy A. D. David. Agents caught Hart late Thursday in a shack near Stilwell and took him to prison for safekeeping. (Tribune Photo By Ben Newby)

WAS transported to the prison by OSBI agents Highway Patrol in a three-car caravan that entered the state shortly before 9 p.m. Hart had kept vigil since news of the slaying. He was walked from the gate nearly 100 yards to the entrance steps, a pretty big crowd," Hart.

TULSA TRIBUNE
4-13-1978

Hart feared hunters, harboring suspect says

By SUSAN WITT

Gene Leroy Hart sought help from a Cherokee medicine man because he was afraid the hordes of lawmen and volunteers looking for the killer of three young Girl Scouts were going to kill him, one of the men accused of helping Hart said Wednesday.

The man said Hart denied he was the killer.

William Lee Smith, 58, a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, admitted in a telephone interview that Hart came to his home near Vian and that he drove the fugitive to the area of a shanty where Hart was captured last week.

Smith and Sam Pigeon Jr., 60, a full-blooded Cherokee who lived in the shanty, were charged Wednesday in Cherokee County District Court with harboring a fugitive for aiding Hart, accused in the June slayings of three Girl Scouts near Locust Grove.

PIGEON WAS arraigned on the charge Wednesday, but Smith, who is working out of state, was unaware he had been charged when contacted by the Tribune.

Cherokee County District Attorney John Russell said authorities will arrest Smith when he returns to Vian Friday.

"I understand he has worked on the railroad 28 years. We're not worried about him," Russell said.

Smith said Hart came to his home and "asked me if I could help him in any way."

"He said, 'They're going to kill me... can you help me?'"

"I didn't want him to be around, so I got rid of him the quickest, quietest and safest way I knew how," Smith said.

"I didn't want nothing to do with it. So I took him off and dumped him," Smith said.

Smith said he couldn't remember exactly when Hart came to his home.

"But he didn't stay long, I'll tell you that."

PIGEON HAS SAID Hart came to his cabin in August, two months after Hart was charged with the murders.

"I imagine somebody dropped him off, but he came alone to the door," Smith said, but added he thinks some of Hart's relatives brought him to his home.

"I've known his family for a long time. I know them because of my daddy. He was an Indian doctor and he treated some of them," Smith said.

Smith said he, too, is a "sort of" Indian doctor.

"I really didn't want to be involved so I took him way up in the area of Caney Ridge and let him out," Smith said.

"I said to him, 'Do your best to stay inside and stay safe,' and told him to go up there and see if some one there might help him."

SMITH SAID he let Hart out near where Pigeon lived. He said he had known Pigeon from "a way back yonder," having met him in the 1940s when Smith was building some houses near the wooded area of Cherokee County where Pigeon lived.

The Vian native, who says Indians and whites from the area all "depend on him," said he may move from his home because of the trouble caused by his involvement with Hart.

He said Hart's relatives visited him last weekend after Hart's capture and "wanted to know how come Gene got caught."

"They figured somebody got the reward for turning him in and they are out to find out."

"They said whoever it is will never spend that money they got," Smith said.

Smith said Hart's mother, sisters and about three other relatives who visited him "wanted me to find out who turned him in."

"I SAID I would try to find out, but I didn't have much time to be finding out," he said.

Smith works for the Kansas City Southern Railroad and is out of the state much of the time working.

"I know they're going to be back, and God, I hope they don't think I done it," Smith said.

"Plenty of people around here knew where he (Hart) was. I over-

heard it two or three times where he was."

"But I didn't want nothing to do with it," Smith said.

"I'm concerned. I have three kids at home and my wife and I are worried about what might happen. I'm thinking about just moving away from there."

Smith said he had admitted everything to agents of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation when they interviewed him Sunday.

"THEY TOLD ME they would keep it all quiet and I wouldn't need to worry about it and I might not even have to appear in court."

"I thought everything was going to be all right, but now I just don't know. I have two more days to work."

See HART, page 4A

Hart case suspect...

Continued from page 1A

before I go home, if I can tough it out," he said.

Pigeon also said OSBI agents had assured him he didn't need to worry.

Smith and Pigeon are both members of a religious and traditionalist band of the Cherokee tribe.

Pigeon, who works at a nursery south of Tahlequah, earlier admitted to reporters he had allowed Hart to live with him because he was convinced the 34-year-old Cherokee was innocent.

Hart was arrested last week at Pigeon's tarpaper-and-wood shack in an isolated portion of the Cookson Hills some 50 miles from the camp where the girls were slain.

THE CHARGE against Smith alleges that Smith took Hart to Pigeon's home last August and returned from time to time with food and money.

Pigeon, through his attorney, John Ghostbear of Tulsa, pleaded innocent Wednesday to a charge of "harboring a fugitive from justice."

Pigeon was released on a \$5,000 bond posted by his nephew, Richard Holcolm, who lives near Welling. A preliminary hearing was set for May 9.

Holcolm served as an interpreter during the arraignment.

Pigeon understands some English but usually speaks in Cherokee.

DEPUTY SHERIFF Scott Bread, a full-blooded Cherokee, as is Hart, said the slaying suspect was provided with help because "it's the code of the hills. They were only following the code—helping one of their own in a time of need. It has always been this way."

Russell said he "had no choice" but to charge Smith and Pigeon.

"I would be derelict in my duties if I did not prosecute them," Russell said.

Assistant District Attorney Russell, 33, who also is a Cherokee, said Pigeon and Smith belong to the Keetowah band of the tribe. He said that band, also known as the Nighthawks, is "religious, highly conservative and traditionalist."

Pigeon returned to work following the hearing Wednesday. His lawyer said Pigeon had never been arrested before.

Hart, being held in the Mayes County Jail in Pryor, was visited by his mother and two sisters Wednesday.

The women spoke to Hart through a narrow opening in his maximum security cell door. They avoided news media after the visit.

Hart is being held under tight security. He escaped from the jail twice in 1973 and had been a fugitive since Sept. 16, 1973.

Court Sets Strict Rules for Conduct of Murder Hearing

In expectation of one of the most highly publicized trials in Oklahoma history, Special District Judge Jess Clanton has issued 19 rules for the preliminary hearing of Gene Leroy Hart, accused murderer of three Girl Scouts.

Judge Clanton issued the rules Tuesday in preparation for the hearing which begins next Wednesday.

The rules are designed to control the crowds which are expected to attend the hearing as well as maintain security of the courtroom and witnesses.

Judge Clanton noted in the rules that they apply only to the third floor of the Mayes County Courthouse.

The rules are as follows:

1. The courtroom will be

locked until 9:00 o'clock a.m.

2. The general public will be admitted through the south door in the rear of the courtroom at 9:30 o'clock a.m. on a "first come - first serve" basis. No special passes will be issued and no special seating will be authorized.

3. Persons entering courtroom will be subject to being searched.

4. No one will be admitted as a spectator once the existing seats are filled. All spectators will be seated. Seats vacated during a session will remain vacant until the following recess, and will not be reserved by the person vacating.

5. Aisles in the courtroom and outside hallways and stairs will remain clear and unobstructed.

6. No weapons of any kind will be allowed, except by security personnel and on-duty officers. Witnesses not in this category will not bring weapons to court.

7. No packages or parcels will be allowed in the courtroom. All packages, parcels and briefcases on the 3rd floor of the courthouse are subject to spot search. No briefcases will be allowed in the courtroom other than those of State and Defense Attorneys and the court reporter.

8. No drinking, eating, or

smoking is allowed in the courtroom.

9. No cameras or electronic recorders will be allowed in the courtroom, except by the court reporter. The media personnel may use the small courtroom, south of the main courtroom for storage of equipment. This room will be reserved for that purpose.

10. No one except court personnel, attorneys, and key security personnel will be allowed in the Judges' Chambers.

11. No radio communications transmitters will be allowed on the 3rd floor of the courthouse by anyone, except

See COURTS Page 2

COURTS —

security personnel for use in an emergency.

12. Spectators will not be allowed to use court telephones or intercom equipment anywhere on the 3rd floor. DON'T ASK.

13. No television or movie cameras may be used on the 3rd floor of the courthouse. "Still" cameras may be used but no long cords or tripods will be permitted, as hallway space is minimal.

14. No electronic recordings, other than authorized by law, may be made of courtroom proceedings.

15. No admittance by spectators will be allowed through the double doors on the east side of the courtroom. The windows in these doors will be covered.

16. Witnesses for the State of Oklahoma will wait in the District Attorney's Office or the Law Library. Witnesses for the Defense may wait in the Law Library. Spectators will not be allowed into the Law Library area, and no interviewing of witnesses by media personnel will be allowed there. Access to Judge's Chambers from Law Library will be blocked.

17. During the noon recess, the main courtroom will be vacated and locked. Access after noon will be as before, beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. or other time announced by the Court. Spectators will not be permitted to eat lunch on the 3rd floor or stairs.

18. All cameras and media electronic equipment will be removed at night, and no spectators will remain on the 3rd floor of the courthouse or stairs at night.

19. The Sheriff is responsible for security of the courthouse and grounds, and for the Defendant's security. The Court, together with the assistance of the Sheriff's security personnel, Bailiffs, and other Court officers, will control the admission of spectators and the courtroom.

Wise, Tulsa DA Team Up

Fallis to Enter Hart Murder Case

In a surprise move Wednesday District Attorney Sid Wise announced that he has asked Tulsa County District Attorney S.M. Buddy Fallis, Jr., to assist in the prosecution of accused Girl Scout slayer Gene Leroy Hart.

Wise, who charged Hart with the three Girl Scout murders, and in whose jurisdiction the case will be tried, said he and Fallis discussed the possibility of Fallis joining the prosecution a few days ago, and that the decision was "weighed by the state's need to preserve the continuity of the prosecution."

District Attorneys of separate districts may assist one another under Oklahoma law.

Wise is a candidate for State Attorney General and will not hold the District Attorney position after next January. Wise and Fallis both said they doubted the case would extend past that date, but wanted to insure

in such an instance that someone would be available with first hand familiarity with the state's case.

Wise said "The defense has indicated it may ask for a lengthy continuance after the State rests in the preliminary hearing. The judge during the preliminary said he would consider such a motion at that time, and would grant a continuance if good cause can be shown."

"While we don't anticipate such a delay," Wise said, "it could happen. The assistants in my office, those who have worked on the Hart case since the beginning, have entered into private practice."

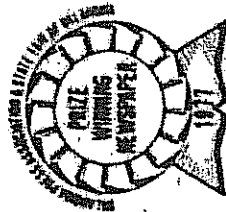
"I feel it is imperative," Wise continued, "should the case extend beyond my term of office, that someone be available that has both familiarity with the case and the expertise and experience to successfully represent the State of Oklahoma."

"In my estimation, no one better fits that description

than Mr. Fallis," Wise said. Fallis said his interest and participation in the case was more than justified because all of the three victims of the Camp Scott murders were residents of Tulsa County.

Fallis said, "I have read the accounts of the previous court appearances and the statements by the defense as to the number of attorneys involved in the presentation of the defense. I am well aware of the problem of limited staff and resources available to the District Attorney, and I believe that by combining our efforts, Mr. Wise and I can assure the State of Oklahoma a fair and equitable representation."

"I am now in the process of reviewing Mr. Wise's case," Fallis said, "and I believe it to be sound. If my assistance can, in any way, serve the cause of justice, then I am ready and willing."



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"Your Community Newspaper"

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1973

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 25

Prosecution, Defense Prepare For Hart's Preliminary Hearing

By MICHAEL WHEAT
Jeffersonian News Editor
Gene Leroy Hart will be returned to Mayes County jail next week to prepare for his June 7 preliminary hearing for the June 1977 murders of three Girl Scouts at Camp Scott.

Hart, who has been kept in maximum security quarters at the Oklahoma State Prison in McAlester, is expected to be brought to Pryor Thursday, June 1.

Attorneys for Hart have twice requested that he be brought to Pryor before June 1, but both applications for visit have been turned down by Special District Judge Jess Clanton. Chief defense counsel Garvin Isaacs requested the visit because, according to the application, the attorneys are "unable to take time to drive to McAlester for a visit."

In the application Isaacs said, "Serving subpoenas,

interviewing witnesses and preparing pleadings occupy the time of all of Hart's attorneys. It is of the utmost necessity that his attorneys have convenient access due to time limitations."

The requests for visits were made Tuesday and Wednesday and were overruled by Judge Clanton.

Hart's attorneys have requested and been issued 85 "in blank" duces tecum subpoenas which are being served. The subpoenas re-

quire those served to bring evidence to court.

A number of motions are expected to be heard in court beginning on Friday, June 2, including two defense requests for the discovery of evidence.

District Attorney Sid Wise said that his special investigator Beverly Hough "is devoting her entire efforts to preparing and itemizing" evidence and statements in the case. The preliminary hearing will begin June 7.

"We are preparing to issue subpoenas for the prosecution," Wise said, "as well as coordinating the staff personnel who will assist me in the presentation of the evidence and testimony in the hearing."

Several people are expected to testify for the prosecution, including Camp Scott personnel and law enforcement authorities, Wise said.

See HART Page 2

HART —

One of the first witnesses expected to testify will be Carla Wilhite, a counselor in the Kiowa camp area who discovered the bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michelle Guse, 9, and Doris Milner, 10.

The bodies were found about 150 yards from their tent just after 6 a.m., on June 13, 1977.

Others who are expected to be subpoenaed include Camp Scott Director Barbara Day, Highway Patrol Trooper Harold Berry, Mayes County Medical Examiner Dr. Donald Collins and Sheriff Pete Weaver.

"One of the most time consuming aspects of any case this size," Wise said, "is the sheer organization necessary in order to have continuity in the presentation of literally volumes of evidence and a number of witnesses."

Wise said members of several investigative agencies will also testify concerning evidence discovered in the case.

Judge Clanton has said that admission into the courtroom will be on a "first come, first seated" basis. During an earlier hearing Clanton said that once all the seats are taken in the courtroom, no one else will be admitted. Everyone entering the courtroom will be searched, according to Sheriff Weaver.

Counselor Begins Testimony In Girl Scout Murder Case

Girl Scout counselor Dee Elder detailed activities at Camp Scott the day before the murders of three Tulsa area Girl Scouts in the first day of preliminary hearing for Gene Leroy Hart

Hart, accused in three counts of first degree murder, sat quietly in the courtroom, speaking occasionally with defense attorneys Garvin Isaacs and Gary Pittslynn

CASE —

alone monitors were set up by Tulsa television station KOTV. KOTV and the Tulsa Tribune had requested that the courtroom be "expanded" by allowing a single television camera in the courtroom, and using existing sound systems in the courtroom.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled Monday that the project would be allowed, under specific guidelines.

Judge Clanton met with newsmen Tuesday to discuss the media coverage of the preliminary hearing. Clanton issued a second set of rules concerning "Courtroom B" in the Community Building. The rules stated that no cameras or recording instruments

could be used in Courtroom B, and that a bailiff and proper security would be provided.

In a short hearing Tuesday, Hart stated that he had no objection to the television camera in the courtroom.

Judge Clanton cautioned newsmen about the project, saying "If there is any witness who is unable to testify (because of the camera) I won't hesitate to shut it down."

On a request from Isaacs, Judge Clanton ruled that one bench in the main courtroom would be reserved for Hart's immediate family. A similar request by Wise was also granted to give seating to members of the victims' families.

District Attorney Sid Wise called Miss Elder as his first witness about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. She made a drawing on a courtroom chart-board showing the general layout of the Kiowa camp ground at Camp Scott.

Under questioning by Wise, Miss Elder said that three counselors were in the Kiowa area, all sleeping in one tent.

Miss Elder also testified about the first day of activities for the young Girl Scouts on the camping trip. She said the girls chose their bunk mates after arrival and

that she made a chart showing where each girl slept.

In testimony Wednesday afternoon, Miss Elder is expected to describe how the bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, Michelle Guse, and Doris Milner, 16, were found the next morning.

The bodies of the girls were found about 150 yards from their tent shortly after 6 a.m. on Monday, June 13.

Also expected to testify in the preliminary hearing will be camp counselor Carla Wilhite, Camp Scott director

Barbara Day and a number of law enforcement officers. An estimated 100 persons packed the third floor courtroom in the Mayes County Courthouse. The spectator seats were quickly filled as a first night trial seated 100 persons in an auditorium with rules set down by Judge Clanton.

Another 300 persons watched the preliminary hearing across the street in the Abraham Community Building where three televi-

See (ASF) Page 2

Murder Testimony Reviewed

6-15-78

By MICHAEL WHEAT
Jeffersonian News Editor

In the first week of the preliminary hearing for accused Girl Scout murderer Gene Leroy Hart the prosecution, headed by District Attorney Sid Wise, has presented a methodical, often lackluster case.

A parade of no less than 23 witnesses has testified in the hearing during the past five days, as the prosecution attempts to put all the pieces in place.

What follows is a day-by-day summary of the first week of testimony.

WEDNESDAY - Camp Scott counselors Dee Elder and Carla Wilhite detailed the activities of Sunday, June 12, the day 140 children arrived at Camp Scott and the following day, June 13, when the bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michelle Guse, 9, and Doris Milner, 10, were found about 150 yards from their tent in the Kiowa unit of Camp Scott.

THURSDAY - Camp Scott Director Barbara Day testified about the discovery of the dead Scouts, how law enforcement authorities were called, and told of security precautions taken at Camp Scott. Mrs. Day also testified about a mysterious note which was allegedly discovered at Camp Scott about two months before the murders which threatened that three girls would be murdered.

The first law man at the death scene, Highway Patrol Trooper Harold Berry, testified that he arrived at Camp Scott about 6:40 a.m. and secured the area. Berry said he notified Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver and Highway Patrol Headquarters in Vinita that a homicide had occurred.

Ambulance driver David Parker told of his arrival at Camp Scott and that he transported the bodies of the three girls to the Medical Examiner's office in Tulsa.

FRIDAY - Tulsa Medical Examiner Dr. Neil Hoffman testified that Lori Farmer and Michelle Guse died from blows to the head and that Doris Milner died from

See REVIEWED Page 2

REVIEWED—

strangulation. Dr. Hoffman also testified that the girls died between the hours of 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. June 13 and that no fingerprints were found on the bodies.

No traces of sperm were found on the girls' bodies, Hoffman testified.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent Arthur Lindville told how evidence was gathered at the scene of the murders, including the removal of a portion of the floor of the dead girls' tent, the recovery of a red flashlight, eyeglasses and case, and other items which he transported to the state crime lab for processing.

Lewis Lindsey testified that while he was a clerk at the Granite State Reformatory, some pictures that he took at a 1969 wedding were processed by Gene Hart.

OSBI agent Larry Mullins told the court that no fingerprints which could be identified were taken from the flashlight which was found at the murder scene.

Another OSBI agent, Paul Boyd described several pieces of evidence, including a gag which was used on the Milner girl fashioned from a roll of cloth with a cord in the center.

Agent Larry Mullins testified that he found a hair on a piece of tape used to bind the Milner girl, which was taken to the crime lab for further processing.

OSBI technician Dennis Reimer testified that he got a "positive" result during a test for seminal fluid on samples of swabs taken from the Milner girl and the Guse girl.

MONDAY — Willis Thompson, described how he and a hunting partner discovered a cave about four miles south of Camp Scott and how his dog bristled when he approached the cave. Thompson said he found a sack of flour at the cave, and later notified authorities of the cave's location.

Lake Patrolman Leon Rice told the court how he and Highway Patrol Trooper Charles Newton searched the cave, and a nearby cellar. Rice said they discovered a number of items in the area, including a roll of masking tape, newspapers, photographs, gloves, some glasses in a case, and tin cans.

Agent Arthur Lindville returned to the witness stand to testify that he found a small piece of green plastic attached to the roll of masking tape. Lindville also said that Gene Hart's name had been mentioned "numerous times" during the first few days of the investigation and that he had noted a similarity between how two Tulsa women had been bound with tape during a rape that Hart pleaded guilty to in 1966, and the way the Milner girl had been bound.

Lindville also said no fingerprints were taken from a crowbar found near the death scene.

Girl Scout counselor Susan Emery testified that her purse was missing when she returned to the Kiowa area the day after the murders. Miss Emery described a pair of glasses which were in the purse.

Larry Dry, who twice escaped the Mayes County jail with Hart in 1972 testified that he and Hart had spent "some time" near the cellar and cave four miles south of Locust Grove.

Dry also said that he had seen some pictures in Hart's possession in October 1973, which a previous witness had identified as those which Hart processed while a trusty at Granite State Reformatory.

Dry said that Hart suffered from "rough blindness and often would try to find a pair of glasses to see if it would help." He said he once threatened Hart with a shotgun when he and Hart got into an argument over whether or not they should "do something" to a young girl swimming in Spring Creek. Asked which side of the argument he was on, Dry said, "Shouldn't."

Dry also testified that he received three letters which he believed were from Hart threatening his wife and daughter. "I told anybody where he was." One letter said, "It would be pretty easy to do because you can look around and see what's already been done." Dry testified.

Chief Defense attorney Garvin Isaacs called Dry's testimony "a fabricated lie."

TUESDAY — OSBI agent Tom Jordan testified that pieces of masking tape used to hold a section of green plastic on a flashlight found at the death scene were from the same roll of tape found near the cellar.

Donald Claudfelter, a forensic chemist from the OSBI said that pieces of black duct tape used to bind the hands of the Milner girl were from a roll of tape discovered near the bodies.

OSBI documents examiner Bruce Plank said that a piece of newspaper found inside the flashlight was from the same edition of a Tulsa newspaper found near the cellar.

Rev. Jimmy Ray Beck testified that he had seen Hart in the home of Hart's mother, Ella Mae Buckskin on the morning of May 28, 1977 about two weeks before the killings.

Agent Larry Bowles, who was at the scene when Hart

was arrested, said Hart told him "You'll never pin that on me, you can get me for escape, but you can never pin that on me." I said, "What?" and he said "Killing those three little girls." Bowles said that Hart was wearing a pair of women's eye glasses when Hart was arrested.

Ann G. Reed, a forensic chemist for the OSBI said that hair found on the bodies of the Girl Scouts was "consistent in all microscopic characteristics" with known hair samples taken from Gene Hart. "The hairs could have the same source," Mrs. Davis said, but she added that she couldn't make an absolute identification from the hair comparisons.

Hart Defense Witness Surprises Courtroom

The prosecution and defense were surprised last Friday when a state convict testified that Gene Leroy Hart "woke up in a cave and had blood all over" him.

Jimmy Don Bunch, serving a 12 year term for kidnapping and escape, was the first defense witness called by Garvin Isaacs in the preliminary hearing for Hart, charged with the June 13 murders of Girl Scouts Lori Lee Farmer, Michelle Guse and Doris Milner.

Bunch said Hart was placed in a cell next to his on Death Row at the prison in McAlester after Hart's April 6 arrest. Bunch was on Death Row for protective custody.

Bunch said Hart told him that he had been smoking marijuana and drinking wine for three days. "All I know is that I woke up in a cave and had blood all over me," Bunch quoted Hart as saying

"Did you do it?" Bunch said he asked Hart. He said Hart "dropped his head sort or and said, 'I don't know.'"

Bunch was called to the stand by Isaacs to corroborate a statement Isaacs made

Former Pryor

Newsman Arrested

Former Pryor newsman Ron Grimsley was arrested last weekend on charges of obtaining property by false pretenses and released on a personal recognizance bond.

Grimsley, also the former manager for District Attorney Sid Wise's Attorney General campaign, was arrested in Drumright.

at McAlester. In the statement, Bunch told Isaacs that a prison guard was serving as a go-between for an unidentified Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent who promised Bunch a parole if he could "get us some information" on Hart. In the statement, Bunch said he was guaranteed a "one-way ticket home" if he would testify against Hart.

But Bunch admitted on the witness stand that he lied to Isaacs.

Frustrated by his own witness, Isaacs told Bunch "You lied to me. I trusted you. I made a big mistake."

Attorneys Put Careers on Line

By MICHAEL WHEAT
Jeffersonian News Editor

Caught in the eye of an intense "media blitz" are the careers of two attorneys and the fate of an accused murderer.

An estimated 100 journalists, photographers and artists are in Pryor for the preliminary hearing for Gene Leroy Hart, accused in the June 13, 1977 sex-killing of three Girl Scouts.

The case takes on astronomic proportions with important and perhaps crucial sidehlights.

For the first time in recent memory a court hearing is being televised in order to

expand the courtroom.

For District Attorney Sid Wise, a candidate for Attorney General, the case could be the stepping stone to that state office.

For Chief Defense counsel Garvin Isaacs, the Hart case could make him known throughout the nation. This is the first murder case Isaacs has handled.

Before Wise officially announced that he would run for the office of Attorney General, he said he was conducting a name recognition survey across Oklahoma. Wise, who describes himself as a career prosecutor, received national attention last summer during the investigation into the killings of the Girl Scouts. He received additional media attention this spring during a preliminary hearing for the bankrupt United Farmers Association fraud case.

Although the UFA hearing resulted in two UFA officials

See ATTORNEYS Page 2

ATTORNEYS—

being bound over for trial, the case was eventually dismissed because of a judge's ruling that the charges were faulty.

Since that time Wise has been busy both campaigning and preparing for the Hart murder case.

Last week Wise's name again popped up on television and the press. His former campaign manager Ron Grimsley placed an advertisement in the Tulsa Tribune offering "shares" of a book Grimsley is writing concerning the Girl Scout slayings. In the ad, Grimsley said he was the only reporter to cover the case "from the inside." The telephone

number listed in the ad was that of Sid Wise campaign headquarters at the Will Rogers Hotel in Claremore.

Wise told reporters that he had terminated Grimsley some two weeks before the advertisement was published and that he knew nothing about the ad. Wise did say that Grimsley had talked with him about writing a book.

Grimsley later apologized to Wise through the press saying that he didn't want to give Wise a black eye.

Wise surprised some members of the media last week when he requested that Tulsa County District Attorney S. M. Buddy Fallis, Jr., join the Hart prosecution team.

The move convinced some that Wise had a stronger case against Hart than was previously believed. "Fallis doesn't take on losing cases," one courthouse source said.

For defense attorney Isaacs, the Hart case could give him a national reputation. Known as an expert in courtroom infighting, Isaacs is a former public defender from Oklahoma City.

But controversy has surrounded the Hart defense since his arrest. Tulsa attorney Larry Oliver originally announced that he would represent Hart. But Oliver backed out after Isaacs, Pitchlynn and Duke Wheeler moved in.

And last week Wheeler withdrew from the case reportedly because of a dispute about how money should be spent.

Isaacs has been criticized privately by members of the prosecution because of the defense tactic of issuing subpoenas to members of the media and local law enforcement.

In court Wednesday, Wise said that members of his staff have been subpoenaed by Isaacs, and told Judge Clanton to consider that to be harassment.

Watching all of this is perhaps the largest assembly of newsmen in Oklahoma history. Every move by either side will be scrutinized, analyzed and utilized on television, radio and print.

And watching even closer is the defendant, Gene Hart. Whatever the outcome of this preliminary hearing, Hart will return to the state prison at McAlester to finish serving a 40-140 year sentence for first degree rape. He also faces charges in connection with his two 1973 escapes from the Mayes County jail.

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6-15-78

By MICHAEL WHEAT
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See REVIEWED Page 2

Hart Preliminary Ends Thursday, Judge Says

The preliminary hearing for Gene Leroy Hart is expected to end Thursday, the deadline announced by Special District Judge Jess Clanton.

Hart is charged with the June 1977 murders of three Girl Scouts at Camp Scott.

Clanton made the Thursday deadline after chief defense counsel Garvin Isaacs called a series of witnesses who provided little additional evidence in the case. District Attorney Sid Wise accused Isaacs of "fishing" for information, but Isaacs said

that calling witnesses was the only way he could get some people to talk to him.

Isaacs has called more than 50 witnesses to the stand in seven days of hearing. The prosecution called 23 witnesses in six days before resting its case against Hart.

Darren Creekmore, who testified that he had met Hart in 1973, said that he lied to Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver about meeting Hart last summer near Camp Scott. Creekmore said he lied because he thought he could get a \$700 reward for providing information leading to Hart's arrest. Creekmore was an inmate in the Mayes County jail last summer when he told Weaver of meeting with Hart near a cave.

Isaacs called a series of news reporters, asking each if they had ever used official reports by the FBI, OSBI, or District Attorney's office as a source of information for news stories. Each reporter replied he had not, although two said they had used information from an interview with agents in news stories.

A handwriting expert, Ernest Smith, testified that he will compare hand printing from Hart with printing found on the wall of a cave near Camp Scott. The cave writing says "The killer was here, bye bye fools," and was dated just four days after the June 13 killings.

Isaacs said that Hart would provide 15-20 samples for Smith's comparison.

If Hart is bound over for trial, a special jury docket could be called, according to courthouse sources. The next regular jury docket is slated for October, but a trial for Hart might be held as early as August or September.

Indian Hog Fry, Singing Set Friday for Gene Hart

Planners for the second Gene Hart benefit supper and gospel sing are getting ready for "about twice as many people" Friday night at the Cherokee Heights Community Building.

An "old fashioned Indian hog fry" and gospel singing will begin at 6 p.m., according to Quannah Chuleewah. Singing will start at 8 p.m.

The dinner will cost \$2 per plate and will include barbecued hog, biscuits, black bread, beans and wild onions. Several pies and cakes will be available for dessert.

Many gospel singing groups have volunteered to perform for the singing, including the Little Rock Cherokee Singers, Vann's Lake Gospel Four, the Gospel Echoes, the Fields Family, the Standingwater Family, Ned Ballou and the Ballou Sisters, the Glory Road Singers, the Cedar Tree Four, the Rockey Road Octett, Sammy Rabbitt and the Country Gospel Singers, and the Haynes Sisters.

The singing will be performed in Cherokee and

English. Rev. Bill Grass will be master of ceremonies, Chuleewah said.

A drawing will be held during the evening for a box of groceries, a quilt made by Ella mae Buckskin, and a piece of sterling silver jewelry by Quannah.

Persons attending the gospel sing should bring lawn chairs as the singing will be held outside.

The Cherokee Heights Community Building is located three and a half miles east of the Highway 69-49A junction and then south through Sportsman Acres.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1979

VOLUME 72 NUMBER 1

Psychologist to Help Hart Defense Select Trial Jury

By Michael Wheat
Jeffersonian News Editor

Gene Leroy Hart's chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs filed a motion in Mayes County District Court Tuesday requesting permission to have a psychologist sit at the defense counsel's table during jury selection.

Isaacs said in the motion that Cathy Bennett, a "juris-
tic psychologist," had been hired to aid in jury selection for Hart's March 5 first degree murder trial.

Contacted in Oklahoma City, Isaacs told the Jeffersonian that he had withdrawn the motion because District Judge William Whistler agreed to let Ms. Bennett sit at the defense table.

The psychologist will ex-

pedite the trial and avoid delays and distractions of having to talk to her outside the bar," Isaacs said in the motion.

Isaacs said Mrs. Bennett will "help defense counsel intelligently exercise peremptory challenges and challenges for cause."

A juristic psychologist uses "body language" and verbal responses to specific questions to aid in jury selection.

Tulsa County District Attorney, S.M. "Buddy" Fallis, Jr., was skeptical of the use

of a psychologist for jury selection. "I don't think it is necessary to have somebody come in and analyze jurors," Fallis told the Jeffersonian. "If I was a juror, I'd feel uncomfortable. We don't intend to have the jurors psychoanalyzed."

Fallis said he would, during jury selection, talk to the parents of the three victims about prospective jurors. "I think they (the parents) ought to have a say in this."

Isaacs also filed three other motions, each concerning the sequestration of jurors. Isaacs asked District Judge William Whistler to prohibit jurors from watching television because they may see news reports of the Hart trial. He also asked Whistler to order that pictures not be taken of the jurors and that their names not be released for publication.

Judge Whistler told the Jeffersonian he would probably hear the motions on the first day of jury selection, March 5. Whistler said he

talked with Isaacs about the psychologist. "I told him that if he didn't have too many people at the defense table, I didn't care," Whistler said.

In a related matter the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals will hear oral arguments Feb. 21 on Isaacs' request that the Hart defense team be given access to secret investigative reports concerning the Camp Scott murders.

Isaacs is seeking the docu-

ments on the grounds that the prosecution has waived their right to secrecy because a former newsmen gained access to them last summer.

Ron Grimsley, former Daily Times news editor, testified in November that he and former District Attorney Sid Wise took several hundred pages of the investigative reports to the Craig County Courthouse in Vinita.

See HART Page 2

HART

where they copied them.

Grimsley had also given about 30 pages of the reports to the Hart defense team last summer.

The Court of Criminal Appeals requested a transcript of Grimsley's testimony Tuesday in preparation for the Feb. 21 hearing.

Murder Trial Preparations Continue, Jury Notices Due

Notification of prospective jurors for the murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart will be made this week according to a spokesman in the Mayes County Court Clerk's office.

District Judge William Whistler said 900 names were selected earlier this year from the lists of registered voters in Mayes County.

The majority of those

prospective jurors will report for the first day of Hart's trial Monday, March 5 to begin jury selection.

While Judge Whistler is planning on beginning the trial as scheduled, action in the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals could possibly delay the trial.

A hearing is scheduled in Oklahoma City next Tuesday in the Court of Criminal Appeals to hear arguments from Hart's chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs.

Isaacs is seeking access to more than a thousand pages

of secret investigative reports. Isaacs said the defense should be able to study the reports because former District Attorney Sid Wise allegedly made them available to a third party last summer.

Isaacs argued last fall that because former Daily Times news editor Ron Grimsley had access to the reports, that the prosecution waived its right to keep them secret from the defense.

Grimsley and Wise each testified that they took about 1200 pages of the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation reports to the Craig County Courthouse last summer and copied them.

Grimsley testified that he copied several hundred pages without Wise's knowledge for his own use. Grimsley had

planned on writing a book concerning the Camp Scott murders.

Wise and Grimsley also testified that they co-signed an authorship contract to jointly write the book.

If the Court of Criminal Appeals orders the prosecution to turn over the lengthy reports to the defense, Isaacs is expected to ask for a continuance in the trial.

In the meantime, Judge Whistler and local authorities are planning for the sequestration of the jury.

Isaacs filed motions last week requesting Whistler to order that the jury not be allowed to watch television or listen to radio during the course of the trial. Isaacs also asked that jurors not be

See MURDER Page 2

MURDER —

identified in news accounts of the trial and that they not be photographed. Whistler is expected to rule on those motions March 5.

The 12-man jury and alternates will be sequestered in a Pryor motel for the duration of the trial.

Jury selection may take a full week, and the prosecution expects to complete their part of the case in another week. Isaacs told the Jeffersonian he expects the trial to last about three weeks.

3-5-79

Plaintiff's Challenges For Cause

1. Nina Lorraine True
2. Warren G. Whitely, Jr.
3. Lennie Stafford
4. Iola May Beaver
5. Otto Coger
6. Rocky Littlefield
7. Connelton J. Graham
8. Naomi R. Craig
9. Charles D. Bowling
10. Johnny D. Holman

Defendant's Challenges For Cause

- 26x. Rouella Mae Terhune
- 27x. Darlene Rowland
- 28x. Barbara Allen
- 29A. Gloria D. Weaver
- 30B. Barbara Garner
- 31A. John M. Carter, Jr.
- 32x. Henry LeRoy Bucky
- 33x. Leslie Irving Arnold
- 34x. Kenny L. McHair
- 35B. Ronald Lynn Dryden

Number of Jurors Passed for Cause

Plaintiff's Peremptory Challenges

1. Donald Ray Murphy
2. Cleton W. Allen
3. Betty Lou Brown
4. Pauline S. Lipp
5. Martha Joann Koch
6. Donald Daily
7. Donald D. Watt
8. Johnnie Junior Fletcher
9. Wayne Frank Brady

Defendant's Peremptory Challenges

- 36x. Della Elora McLaughlin
- 37x. J. T. Northcutt
- 38x. George Ruten Reese
- 39x. Ernie L. Canthron
- 40x. Leroy Reed
- 41x. James Courtland
- 42x. Lynda Cheryl Irwin
- 43x. Debbie Ruth Miller
- 44x. Gloria Allen McMillin

The following are a true and correct list of jurors in the above styled and numbered cause, to-wit:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20x. Mary Bell Anderson | 45x. Jim Odell Daugherty |
| 21x. Sheri Lee Irons Wood | 46x. Willie Lee Herman |
| 22x. Carson L. Burk | 47x. Cleophas R. Simon |
| 23x. Calvin Ernest Correll | 48x. Allen Francis Simon |
| 24x. Ida Mae Cooper | 49x. Alan Dale Shrum |
| 25x. Kelly Gene McTenny | 50x. Lucille L. Balenti |

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MAYES COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

State of Oklahoma vs. Gene Leroy Hart

ALTERNATE

Case No. CRF 77-131

JURY LIST

Plaintiff's Challenges For Cause	Defendant's Challenges For Cause
1. Billy R. Kerns	1. Eva Lamm Ramsey
2. Bobby Powell	2. Danny Lee Rosebrough
3. Henry J. Neftzger	3. Billie R. Haley
4. Ron C. Reiser	4. George W. Lauremore
5. Leroy Lee Pritchett	5. Shelby L. Hicks
6. Billy Joe Kirby	6. _____
7. Frank J. Kludowski	7. _____
8. Carl Ward Osborne	8. _____
9. Gary L. Trout	9. _____
10. Bob Curtis Sholer	10. _____

Number of Jurors Passed for Cause 6

Plaintiff's Peremptory Challenges	Defendant's Peremptory Challenges
1. Helen G. Ivey	1. Charles David Peck
2. Steven Ross Osage	2. Johnny L. Mitchell
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____

The following are a true and correct list of Jurors in the above styled and numbered cause, to-wit:

13. Jerald W. Mend	7. _____
14. Nellie Bell	8. _____
3. _____	9. _____
4. _____	10. _____
5. _____	11. _____
6. _____	12. _____

State of Oklahoma

vs.

Gene Leroy Hunt

Case No. OKF-77-121

JURY LIST

Plaintiff's Challenges For Cause

- 5 1. Carl W. Propp
- 5 2. William Hoden Long
- 5 3. Hazel Moore Russell
- 5 4. Ruby Mildred Davis
- 5 5. Bob E. Roberson
- 5 6. Herbert Weaver
- 5 7. Homer L. Dunifkin
- 5 8. Wanda B. Steyer
- 5 9. Joan A. Sellers
- 6 0. Rozella Paulsen

Defendant's Challenges For Cause

- 70 1. James L. Gibbs
- 71 1. Curtis W. Sharp
- 72 7. Jimmie S. Cavolin
- 73 A. Albert W. Cantor
- 74 7. Sondra Ann Gifford
- 75 A. Van R. Steyer
- 76 T. Jeffrey L. True
- 77 B. Walter Dry, Jr.
- 78 8. Ralph M. Linnville
- 79 10. Gerald G. Leonard

Number of Jurors Passed for Cause

Plaintiff's Peremptory Challenges

- 6 1. James W. Gray
- 6 2. Johnny Nichols
- 6 3. Louis R. Caldwell
- 6 4. Carman E. Justus
- 6 5. Alta Bernice Mitchell
- 6 6. Jerry Stites
- 6 7. Kenneth B. Pritchett
- 6 8. William W. Crawford
- 6 9. Bobby Jean Harris

Defendant's Peremptory Challenges

- 80 1. David B. Harris
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

The following are a true and correct list of Jurors in the above styled and numbered cause, to-wit:

1. _____
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9. _____
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11. _____
12. _____

State of Oklahoma

vs.

Gene Perry Hart

Case No. CRF 77-131

JURY LIST

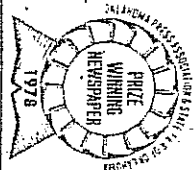
Plaintiff's Challenges For Cause	Defendant's Challenges For Cause
1. Darcy Keel	1. _____
2. Linda Kay Jumper	2. _____
3. Mr. Frank Burnett	3. _____
4. Willie Lee Rex	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____

Number of Jurors Passed for Cause _____

Plaintiff's Peremptory Challenges	Defendant's Peremptory Challenges
1. Josephine Baker	1. Hilda Marie Spencer
2. James W. Rowbotham	2. Karen R. Denmore now Goss
3. James L. Blackwell	3. Deborah Kaye Foster
4. Donnie Ray Johnson	4. Cornelia Floyd
5. Almada R. Hurley	5. Robbie Gail McLoie
6. Virginia L. Brannon	6. Daniel L. Proctor
7. James E. Womeldorf	7. Owen Eugene Petus
8. April Cherise Bailey	8. Mark A. Stang
9. Waived	9. Thelma Brewer

The following are a true and correct list of jurors in the above styled and numbered cause, to-wit:

1. Leota Mae Jackson	7. Marion L. Richard
2. Vanda Vugle Shipp	8. Lawrence G. Berry
3. Lela Ruth Ramsey	9. Sadie Louie Young
4. Jack R. Mitchell, Jr.	10. Wanda Ruth Hale
5. Okey D. Skambler	11. Sandra Jean Ganett
6. George C. Kelly	12. Cecelia Joan Littlefield



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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1978

Jury Selection Begins in Hart Trial

After attorneys for George Leroy Hart made several frantic attempts to delay Hart's first degree murder trial, jury selection began Monday.

Garvin Isaacs, chief defense attorney, announced Monday morning at the beginning of jury selection that the defense was not ready. District Judge William Whistler denied all motions to delay the trial however.

While more than 100 prospective jurors waited in the Graham Community Building, individual jurors were

taken into the courtroom to undergo long and detailed questioning by Judge Whistler, prosecutor S.M. "Buddy" Falls, Jr., and Isaacs.

Some jurors were questioned for more than an hour before being tentatively seated or excused.

At least two jurors were excused because they didn't believe in the death penalty and others were excused because they said they had already formed an opinion on Hart's guilt or innocence.

By noon Wednesday, only nine jurors have been com-

mitted to the jury pool. The jury of 12 is selected, the state and prosecution have

Some of the jurors who were called for duty in the "Gene Hart trial this week have been excused, according to a spokesman for District Judge William Whistler.

"Jurors who were summoned for duty Thursday March 8 and Friday, March 9 are excused and do not need to report," the spokesman said. "But jurors who were summoned for Monday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 7 are ordered to report to the Graham Community Building Friday, March 8 and Friday, March 9 at 9 a.m."

\$1.1 million civil lawsuit against former District Attorney Sid Wise, Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver and former Daily Times news editor Ron Grimsley. Isaacs said the three violated Hart's constitutional rights.

Isaacs filed the suit in federal court in Tulsa, asking for damages against Wise, Weaver and Grimsley, as well as for some 1100 pages of Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation reports on the Hart case. Isaacs also asked that the trial be postponed. But Federal District Judge

Some Jurors Are Excused

Some jurors who were called for duty in the "Gene Hart trial this week have been excused, according to a spokesman for District Judge William Whistler.

JURY —

The state and defense attorneys to the bench several times after clashes. At one time Whistler told the attorneys "There is only one God in heaven and there is only one girl in this courtroom, according to pathologist reports. Each had been sexually assaulted.

Hart, a two-time escapee from the Mayes County Jail was charged with the crimes ten days later. He eluded arrest until April 1978.

The defense team is using a juvenile psychologist, Cathy Bennett, to help in the selection process. Ms. Bennett said she is only trying to get a fair shake for Hart.

Hart is charged in the June 1977 murders of three GAT Scouts at Camp Scott. The bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8,

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

Scout Murder Trial Starts Monday

Nearly 21 months after the grisly-morning murders of three Girl Scouts at Camp Pryor, the man accused of those murders will stand trial. Gene Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist, will stand trial Monday for the sexual killings of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michelle Guse, 9, and Doris Milner, 10. The three Tulsa area Girl Scouts were found dead June 13, 1977, their bodies in sleeping bags about 10 yards from their tent in the Kiowa Campground at the 40-year-old Camp Scott south of Locust Grove.

From the outset the case attracted national attention and was often surrounded by controversy. Hart was accused of the killings ten days later, but eluded arrest for nearly ten months. He was arrested in a ramshackle cabin in Cherokee County on April 6, 1978 after Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents tracked down a tip that Hart was living with Sam Pigeon, owner of the cabin.

Hart was bound over for trial on first degree murder charges after a four week preliminary hearing last summer. More than 100 witnesses testified in the hearing. The trial was originally scheduled to be held in August, but delays brought about by a series of defense motions finally led to the March start date.

Motion hearings in November of last year brought to light several controversial aspects of the case. Former Daily Times news editor Ron Grimsley testified that he and former District Attorney Sid Wise signed a "co-authorship contract" in 1977 to write a book about the Camp Scott murders.

It was also brought out that Wise and Grimsley had copied several hundred pages of secret Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation reports shortly after Hart was arrested.

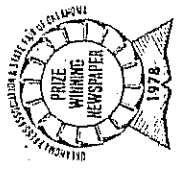
Wise said he needed copies of the reports to prepare for the preliminary hearing. Grimsley testified that he copied the documents without knowledge or approval from Wise.

Chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs sought access to the documents, alleging the prosecution had waived the "work product rule" by allowing some of the reports to fall into the hands of an outsider.

But District Judge William Whistler denied Isaacs' motion after hearing arguments from Tulsa County District Attorney, S.M. "Buddy" Falls, Jr.

Isaacs then appealed Whistler's ruling to the State Supreme Court.

See TRIAL Page 2



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TRIAL

Court of Criminal Appeals. The high court heard Isaacs' motion and oral arguments Wednesday.

When the trial begins Monday with jury selection Judge Whistler expects as many as 100 local, state and national reporters to be present. But Whistler has only issued about 20 "press passes" allowing journalists to enter the courtroom early. Reporters will sit in two rows. Whistler also reserved one row each for Hart's family and the families of the three victims.

During the trial members of the jury will be kept isolated from the public. A court bailiff will escort the jury to meals and to lodging each day. The jury will stay at a Pryor motel for the duration of the trial.

Jury selection is expected to take about a week to complete. The defense team of Isaacs and attorney Gary Pitchblum are expected to use a "jurisic psychologist" to help with jury selection.

District Attorney Falls said he didn't intend to have prospective jurors "psych-analyzed".

The prosecution is expected to weave a very careful case against Hart. First witnesses will probably be Camp Scott counselors who discovered the bodies. Other witnesses will include the pathologist who performed autopsies on the bodies, laboratory experts who examined hair and blood samples, and persons who discovered evidence during the initial investigation.

Isaacs was given permission last summer to have an independent expert make tests of evidence in the state crime labs in Oklahoma City. One defense expert is expected to testify on hair comparisons.

Other prosecution witnesses are expected to testify concerning Hart's whereabouts during the spring and early summer of 1977.

The trial will last about four weeks.

Trial To Begin

Gene Leroy Hart will start his Monday for the 1977 murders of three Girl Scouts. The trial is expected to attract national attention. (Continued on page 3) By Betty Smith

Hart Jury Selection Moves Into 9th Day

By MICHAEL WHEAT
Jefferson News Editor

Jury selection for the first degree murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart, 35, moved into its ninth day Wednesday amid speculation that testimony may not begin until late this week.

Nearly 100 prospective jurors have been questioned in the lengthy process which included a rare Saturday session ordered by District Judge William Whisler.

Hart is charged in the June 13, 1977 killings of Lori Lee Farmer, 6, Michelle Guse, 9 and Doris Denise Milner, 10 at Camp Scott. The Girl Scouts were on the first night

of what would have been a week-long camping trip.

Judge Whisler said he believed jury selection would be completed this week, "but that's just a guess."

Most courthouse observers believed that jury selection would be finished late Thursday.

Fort Worth County District Attorney S.M. "Buddy" Falls, Jr., said he was "hopeful" that the jury could be empaneled by Thursday.

Whisler said about 100 additional prospective jurors are available.

Twelve jurors were temporarily seated in the first three days of selection last

week, but as defense and prosecuting attorneys began using "preemptory" challenges, the number of jurors seated has remained at 10 or 11 since Friday.

Chief defense attorney, Garvin Isaacs, has asked the court for a mistrial several times, alleging the prosecution has withheld investigative and technical reports, that statements made to the press by the victims' parents may have "influenced" prospective jurors, and that members of the jury may have been contaminated because of news reports.

Whisler over-ruled all motions for a mistrial.

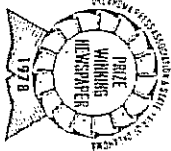
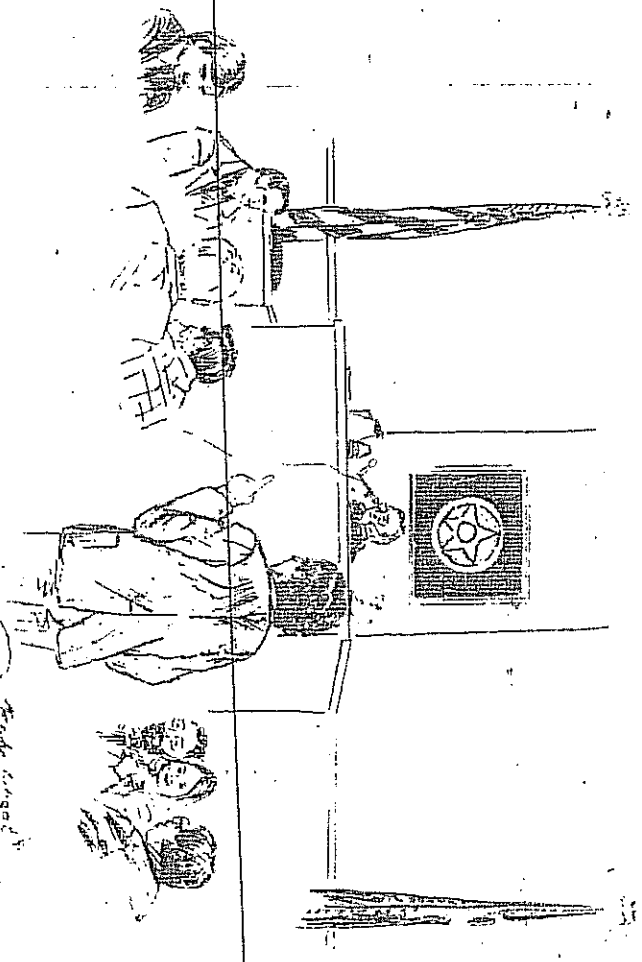
Once the jury is sequestered, Whisler said they would not be allowed to read news accounts of the trial. But Whisler said he could not prevent the jurors from watching television. "I don't know how you can,"

Whisler also said the jurors would be allowed some outside activities during the expected four-week trial. He said they may be taken to a movie, "if they want to go" and to church on Sundays.

A court bailliff will accompany all excursions by the sequestered panel.

Most of the prospective

See HART Page 2



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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 5

HART

jurors who have been excluded from duty told the court they had an opinion on Hart's guilt or innocence. Others were excused because they said they could not impose the death penalty.

On a request by newsman Judge Whisler said he would allow Hart to be questioned by reporters after the jury is sequestered. Reporters will not be allowed to ask Hart questions concerning the crime, his escapes from the Mayer County Jail, or his arrest.

Hart jury completed

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

REFERENCE DIVISION

By SUSAN WITT
Of The Tribune Staff

PRYOR — Six men and six women are seated today, ready to decide the fate of Gene Leroy Hart, the man accused of murdering three Girl Scouts at a camp a few miles from his mother's Locust Grove home.

Anticipation filled the courtroom late Thursday as the last juror was selected — spectators suddenly realizing the group of men and women soon would begin hearing the case so many had been waiting for.

Jury selection had dragged on for 10 days of tedious questioning.

Hart, 35, is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10.

The small girls were raped and beaten or strangled, and dragged from a tent where they were sleeping.

THE CRIME SHOCKED the na-

tion and haunted people in this small rural county.

For nearly two years, people here have talked and wondered and thought about the murders.

"I think it was the brutality of the thing that stood out in my mind," said one prospective juror when defense attorney Garvin Isaacs asked him what he remembered most about the reports of the crime.

"The fact that they were small, totally defenseless children," he continued.

All of the 113 persons questioned as jurors said they had followed news accounts and talked about the case with friends and neighbors.

Many of them were excused after admitting they had fixed opinions about Hart's guilt or innocence that would be nearly impossible to change.

All of those persons called as jurors who lived in Locust Grove were excused.

Most of them knew Hart, a former high school football star.

Others knew members of his family.

Testimony in the case is expected to begin Monday after alternate jurors are selected today.

THE JURY PANEL will be housed at a Pryor motel for the trial, which is expected to be lengthy.

The jurors are mostly housewives and blue collar workers. Their ages range from about 30 to 55.

There are no Indians on the jury, or none who are recognizable as Indians.

Hart is a Cherokee Indian, and his attorneys concentrated on that point when questioning jurors.

They objected when two Indian women tentatively seated on the panel were excused.

One woman was challenged by prosecutor S.M. Fallis Jr., the other

See HART, page 4A

Hart jury completed

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DIVISION

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DIVISION

was excused when she said she learned after being tentatively seated that she was distantly related to Hart.

The jurors include six Pryor residents, five Adair citizens and a woman from Spavinaw.

Each one was questioned by District Judge William Whistler, Fallis and Isaacs.

Isaacs often questioned them for nearly an hour.

In addition to the tedious and often prying questions by Isaacs, the defense team had about a dozen law students crisscrossing the county, checking out jurors.

THE LAW STUDENTS questioned townspeople about many of the jurors, angering many of the residents they approached.

"I don't appreciate some of the things they were asking," one woman said.

"They were pushy, and I won't let them come in here again," she said angrily.

The jurors include a fourth-grade science teacher at Adair and a basketball coach who was a former Cub Scout master and camped at Camp Garland, adjacent to Camp Scott, where the crimes occurred.

Other jurors from Adair include a housewife, an airline structural mechanic who works in Tulsa, a former waitress and antique store owner, and an electrician for the Grand River Dam Authority.

A Spavinaw housewife also was seated on the jury.

Jurors who live in Pryor include a housewife and grocery store checker, a utilities foreman who works for the city of Pryor, and a New York native who moved to Pryor five years ago to manage a manufacturing plant. The juror once played baseball in the New York Giant organization.

OTHERS ARE a department store worker and has children who were active in scouting; a grocery store employee who had sons and daugh-

ters in scouting, and a welder and former truck driver.

Whistler asked newspapers not to publish the jurors' names at this time.

"One telephone call to any one of them could torpedo all the work we have accomplished," the judge said, and urged jurors to notify authorities at once if anyone attempts to contact them.

Both the prosecution and the defense voiced satisfaction with the jury.

"We're happy. Gene is happy. We feel comfortable with the jury," Isaacs said.

"We're glad we got to this point," Fallis said.

"I think they are going to do a good job. They all sounded sincere and that is about all you can ask," said Mrs. Charles Farmer, mother of one of the slain girls.

She had sat through all 10 days of questioning and had taken careful notes on each and every juror selected.

Scout Murder Case

Experts to Testify

After 11 days of jury selection, testimony began Monday in the first degree murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart.

Hart, 35, is accused of the June 1977 sex-killings of three Tulsa area Girl Scouts at Camp Scott.

Tulsa District Attorney S.M. Buddy Fallis, Jr., began the prosecution by calling Camp Scott counselors who described for the jury the first day's activities at Camp

Scott on Sunday, June 12, 1977. The counselors, now both college students, also described how the bodies of the dead girls were discovered about 100 yards from their tent in the Kiowa compound at Camp Scott.

Other witnesses included Camp Director Barbara Day who notified authorities of the killings, Highway Patrol Trooper Harold Berry who was the first law enforcement officer to arrive at the

scene and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent Arthur Linville who testified about how evidence was gathered at the crime scene.

Tuesday's testimony centered around the discovery of additional evidence at a cave and cellar area about two miles south of Camp Scott.

Linville said items recovered at the cave site included a pair of glasses and glasses case, a roll of masking tape, a pair of ladies red panties, a pair of gloves, and some faded photographs.

Experts testified during the preliminary hearing last summer that the photographs had been processed by Hart while he was a trustee at Granite Reformatory.

The glasses were also determined to belong to a camp counselor who discovered them missing the day of the murders.

Dr. Neil Hoffman, state pathologist, testified Wednesday morning about autopsies performed on the bodies of the three girls in Tulsa. Three color slides were shown to the six-man-six-woman jury which detailed how the girls were killed and assaulted.

Hoffman testified that Lori Lee Farmer, 8, died from a single blow to the head by a blunt instrument, that Michelle Guse died from several wounds to the head and Doris Denise Milner, 10, died from strangulation.

Each of the girls had been sexually abused, Hoffman testified.

Other witnesses expected to be called in the trial will be OSBI laboratory technicians, handwriting experts and chemists.

See EXPERT Page 3

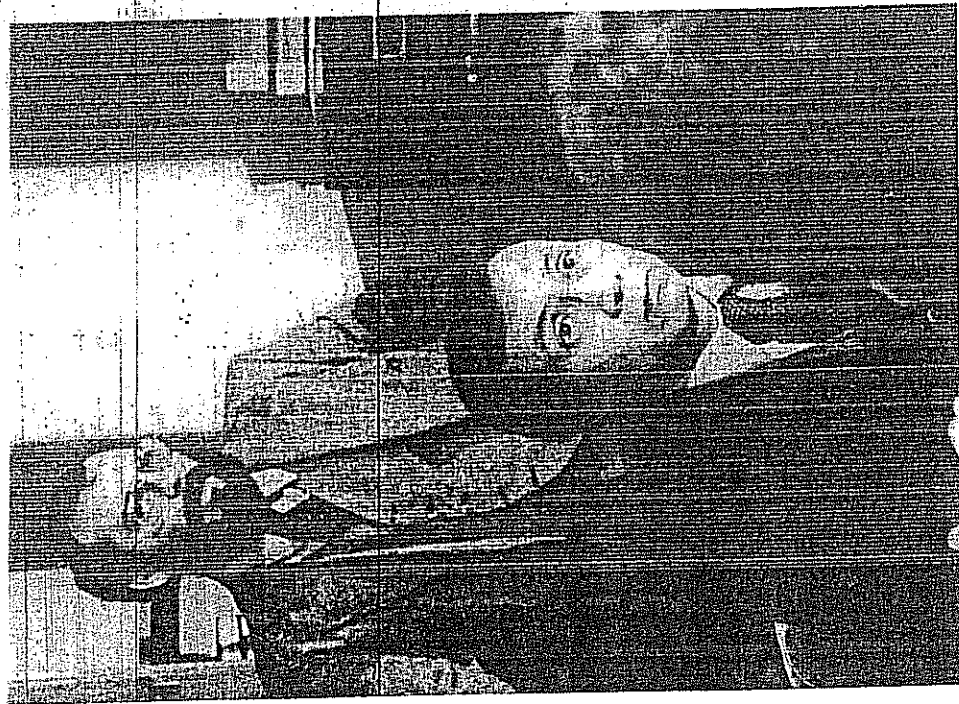
EXPERT —

The quickly paced prosecution may finish this week.

Chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs indicated earlier that he didn't know what type of defense he would produce. During opening arguments he told the jury that Hart was in Tulsa at the time of the murders, but said he doubted if he could produce an alibi witness. "I don't know if we can produce the people who were with him," Isaacs said.

Isaacs also suggested during his initial statement to the jury that some of the evidence may have been planted by law enforcement authorities.

Hart Faces Reporters for First Time



By MICHAEL WHEAT
Jeffersonian News Editor

Accused Girl Scout killer Gene Leroy Hart faced a firing squad of television cameras and reporters Tuesday in his first public interview since his arrest last year.

But most of the questions fired by reporters were "blanks" and even Hart called one question "inane" concerning his daily routine in the Mayes County jail.

Hart, who was dressed more like a man running for office than a man running for his life, answered questions from reporters for 30 minutes during the noon recess of his first degree murder trial.

The 35-year-old full blood Cherokee is charged with the June 13, 1977, sex-murders of three Girl Scouts at Camp Scott.

"We felt it was time for Gene to talk," said Hart's chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs. But Isaacs and the defense team carefully screened a list of questions

offered by reporters covering the trial so that no questions would be asked concerning the murder case.

The interview took place in the Law Library on the third floor of the Mayes County Courthouse. About 30 reporters and broadcast technicians crowded into the small room, surrounding Hart with microphones, tape recorders and reporters armed with note pads.

Tulsa radio newsmen Richard Dowdell conducted the interview. While nothing surprising came out of the interview, some facets of Hart's personality and interests were revealed.

Hart said his family and religion, are the most important parts of his life. "Family and religion is a way of life. If you cease to have families you cease to exist."

He said he misses his personal freedom and his family most since his arrest. "My family has suffered as had many people through this whole thing and they are

suffering now."

About religion Hart said, "My religion is the Bible, I believe in God, I believe there will be a second coming. But I also believe in our ancient traditional Cherokee religion. And in the end I would guess that it would be my opinion that they both will eventually relate to the same one. Because there's only God. So in the end we all worship the same one regardless of whether we call Him God or whether we call Him Our Split."

Hart said he is a member of the Keetowah society, a Cherokee religion group. "It's just a religion that stresses clean mind, pure heart. So we can better live in harmony with Mother Nature and Mother Earth."

He was also questioned about the mass of publicity concerning the trial and the treatment he has received by the media. "It's rather like living in a fish bowl," Hart said. "I've had no lasting

impression because in a sense I've been rather isolated from the media in that I don't read newspapers and I'm in jail. And I don't have a TV or radio."

Questioned about his appearance in the courtroom wearing tailored three-piece suits, Hart said, "My clothes are made and purchased by relatives and friends. And if you had to live in a fish bowl wouldn't you rather be a goldfish as a catfish?"

Hart said it was possible that he represents an issue broader than being accused of murder. "To some people I don't know how they think. I don't know how they think about your host?" Hart replied "No Comment."

Hart said that he did a lot of reading in his jail cell and cited authors James Michener, Hemingway and Graham Green as his favorites. "I'll reserve judgment on Sidney D. Wise and R.L. Grimsley," Hart said, referring to an agreement between former District Attorney Sid Wise and former

attorneys who own the land. We have nothing left but our freedom

and our dignity." Hart declined to discuss personal experiences with discrimination. He also declined comment on alleged threats against him and his attorneys.

Several times responses from Hart brought laughter from the assembled newsmen. When asked about his treatment in the Mayes County jail, Hart replied "My mamma always told me never to say anything about your host...say anything bad about your host."

Asked by Dowdell, "Do you have anything good to say about your host?" Hart replied "No Comment."

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See FIRST Page 3

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Final Arguments Possible Thursday

The first-degree murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart may go to the jury Thursday on Friday, according to Tulsa County District Attorney S.M. "Buddy" Pallas, Jr.

Hart is accused of the June 1977 killings of three Tulsa area Girl Scouts at Camp Scott, near Locust Grove.

Much of the prosecution's case rests with technical evidence which the defense has tried to discredit.

Hair samples taken from Hart were "identical in all microscopic characteristics" to hairs found on the body of Doris Denise Milner, 10, said Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation technician Ann G. Reed.

But Ms. Reed, on cross

examination by Isaacs, admitted that positive identification cannot be made by hair comparison.

A world-renowned fertility expert, Dr. John MacLeod, professor at Cornell University, New York, testified that sperm samples taken from Hart's underwear were "strikingly similar" to samples of sperm taken from the bodies of the girls during autopsy.

But again, Dr. MacLeod said that positive identification could not be made on sperm samples alone.

Ms. Reed did tell the six-man, six-woman jury "I can't make a positive identification, however I can say the hair came from the same

source, or one with exactly the same microscopic characteristics."

Ex-convict Larry Dry, who twice escaped the Mayes County jail with Hart, testified that he saw the controversial wedding pictures in Hart's possession in 1973, shortly after he and Hart escaped.

The pictures found in a cave near the death scene a few days after the killings, were processed by Hart while he was a prison trustee at Granite Reformatory.

Dry also testified that he and Hart modified flashlights with a covering to reduce the amount of light. "We used the covering to cut down the light so we could

walk at night without being seen," Dry said.

The state's final witness was former Girl Scout counselor Karen Mitchell who identified a small corn cob pipe and hand mirror that had been in her foot locker at the time of the killings.

The pipe and mirror were confiscated during a search of the Cherokee County house Hart was arrested in. But Isaacs determined that the items were not taken until the house had been searched three times by agents of the OSBI.

Testifying for the defense, Hart's relative, Bobby Jo Blossom, said that the glasses Hart was wearing belonged to her. But

Murder Trial May Go To Jury

advice of her attorney, Ms. Blossom refused to answer whether she saw Hart in 1973 or whether she gave him the glasses.

Two defense experts disputed the findings of state experts involving sperm and hair comparisons. Herbert Maxey, former Oklahoma Health Department chemist said hair comparisons can "give you, maybe a race clue, that's about it as far as it goes. It doesn't give you any particular person."

John T. Wilson, chief forensic chemist with the Kansas City police department said sperm samples "appeared to be similar" but

See TRIAL, Page 4

couldn't be used as a positive identification.

Oklahoma City lawyer Tom Kite, testifying for the defense said he was "eighty percent sure" that Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver told him that Hart was armed and considered dangerous in July 1977 when Hite and four other former military personnel staked out a portion of Camp Scott seeking Hart.

The most controversial defense testimony came Tuesday when, Owen Short identified the flashlight found at the death scene as one he had given to his mother in May 1973. Short's mother, Joyce Paine, said she had given the flashlight to William Stevens and Duane Peters and that on the day of June 13, Stevens stopped by the Paine home in Okmulgee looking shaken.

Larry Short said Stevens "had claw marks on his arms and neck, red stains on his boots and was jittery." Short testified that Stevens tried to wash the stains from his boots in the bathroom.

Stevens and Peters are currently in a prison facility in Kansas. Stevens is serving time for rape.

Fallis told the Jettersonian that tests had been performed on Stevens and Peters and that they were cleared as suspects early in the investigation.

Perhaps the most damaging testimony came Tuesday afternoon from a former Mayes County jailer, Allen R. Little who said he saw the incriminating pictures in Sheriff Pete Weaver's desk in 1973. Outside the courthouse, Weaver denied ever seeing the original photographs Little worked only two and a half months as jailer and was working there when Hart escaped.

State rebuttal witnesses Wednesday morning included OSHI technician Ann Reed who testified that tests she performed on hair samples from Stevens and those taken from the body of the Milner girl did not match.

Fallis said he planned on calling four more state rebuttal witnesses Wednesday afternoon.

MARCH 29, 1979

Hart Investigator Arrested for DUI

A private investigator working for Gene Hart's defense team was arrested Friday night by Pryor police and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and transporting an open container.

Robert Mark Wallace, 34, was stopped by Pryor patrolman Rick Stephens after Stephens saw the Wallace vehicle "weaving" in the road.

Wallace failed an alcohol breath analysis test and was jailed. Oklahoma City attorney Gary Pitchlynn, also one of Hart's lawyers, was present when the test was performed.

Wallace was released Saturday morning.

Read this very close Tony.
Emotions ran very high, especially for a
Bad, Bad, Sheriff who can't legally close this case.

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Hart Innocent; Case Won't Be Reopened

By DOUG HICKS

PRYOR — The investigation of the Girl Scout murders will not be reopened despite a jury's decision that Gene Leroy Hart is innocent of the crimes, Sheriff Pete Weaver said Friday.

One of the jurors, after being promised anonymity, said all 12 jurors

The jurors reviewed the case for four hours Thursday, decided to sleep on their decision, and then decided only 40 minutes Friday before giving the decision to the court, a flight below the deliberation room.

"There was never any problem," the juror said. "We were all in agreement but we just wanted to be certain."

At one point during the Thursday deliberation the panel heard taped testimony concerning evidence lying the murder scene at the Girl Scout camp south of Locust Grove to a shack 30 miles away where Hart was captured nearly 10 months after the sex slayings occurred.

See "Gene Hart Verdict"

On A-10

Related news on A-17, D-1

agreed that Hart was innocent after only five minutes of deliberation.

"We just wanted to make sure we were straight on some dates," the juror said.

Some members of the prosecution team had taken that action as a sign the jury was not going to give a verdict. Guardedly optimistic, they had gathered at a motel south of Pryor Thursday night to sing, drink and talk about the case.

Friday morning, they and many others who believed Hart guilty were shocked.

Weaver leaned against a wall in the courthouse and admitted he was "shocked and disgusted."

"I don't intend to re-open the investigation," said Weaver, who had

been indirectly accused throughout the trial of planting evidence against Hart. Only one defense witness — a former jailer who had once worked for Weaver — put any credence in the accusation.

Another ex-jailer and Weaver had done that testimony "very after," said Weaver, the making it up.

He said Weaver had lied, but he said Weaver had lied nearly two years to hear that one word — guilty — in the courtroom.

Ted Lemke, chief inspector of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation which spent countless man-hours tracking down Hart and developing the case, confirmed it won't be re-opened.

"There are no plans to re-open it," said Lemke, who had traveled from his Oklahoma City office to hear the verdict. "Why should we? We had the right man."

Under Sheriff Al Boyer — a longtime friend and employee of Weaver — Weaver had been appointed on a TV newsmount in the hallway.

"You boys get in everybody's

way," Boyer said, pushing the newsmount against the wall.

Pandemonium broke out in the courtroom the instant Court Clerk Elsie Gist read the first of the three verdicts. Hart's supporters and relatives jumped from their benches and shouted and applauded.

Chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs pounded his fist on the table. His law partner, Gary Pichayon, put his fist in his mouth and an emotionality.

"Everyone out of the courtroom!" Weaver shouted back at the "Ev-eryone out of the courtroom!" Weaver and other officers escorted the group out of the courtroom.

Upon hearing the first verdict, Hart placed his hands over his face and wept. He continued crying until after all three verdicts were read.

The first verdict was in connection with the strangulation death of Doris Denise Milner, 10.

Her mother, Betty Milner, of Tulsa, remained composed until she left the courtroom and then broke into tears.

The next verdict, Miss Gist read was in the death of Denise's tent-mate, Lori Farmer. Farmer was killed by a blow in the head.

Dr. Charles Farmer hugged his wife, Sherry, hiding her tears with her hands. Later, she said she picked up her belongings and left the street in the Sheriff's car on the night of the June 13, 1977 murders.

The items included a letter Lori had written to her parents.

The third verdict was in connection with the girls' other murders, Michele Guse, 9, who died of multiple blows to the head.

Richard Guse, his wife, George Ann, and their 10-year-old son also quickly left the courtroom.

"It's not over," Guse later said from his Broken Arrow home. He did not explain why he meant and declined an interview.

As the jurors rose from their chairs and prepared to leave, Hart asked District Judge William J.

See Jury on A-1



Jury Took Only Five Minutes for Decision

Continued From A-1
Whistler, "Your honor, may I make a statement to the jury?"
"You may not," Whistler said.
While the jurors walked by him, Hart said, "Thanks ... thank you very much ... thanks" and often addressed them by name.

Three minutes after the trial was officially over, Hart was led handcuffed to a Highway Patrol cruiser and taken to the state penitentiary in McAlester where he faces from 145 to 325 years for rape, kidnapping and burglary sentences he received prior to his 1973 escape from Weaver's jail.

DEPUTY WARDEN BILL ARREDS said Hart was placed in "protective custody," but indicated he might soon be transferred into the prison's general population.

"Now that the trial is over and he has been acquitted, we don't feel like his safety is in jeopardy at this point," said Arreds, mentioning that Hart agreed.

Hart is scheduled to be interviewed early next week by the prison classification committee, which conceivably could give him some kind of job within the walls.

Arreds said Hart told him he was "anxious to get back into the routine of prison life."

"In any case, he's going to be here for a long, long time," Arreds said.

ISAACS HAS VOWED HE WILL immediately begin pushing for post-conviction relief on the string of sentences. Technically, he may have already served the rape-kidnapping sentence.

Hart committed four burglaries in Tulsa in May 1969 while on parole for the rape-kidnapping, records show. Tulsa County's chief prosecutor is S.M. Fallis Jr., who by request adopted the murder case and prosecuted Hart at the trial.

Fallis was not in the courthouse when the verdict was announced. His assistant, Ron Shaffer, dropped his head into his hands. The two prosecutors had worked together on the highly publicized case since last summer.

HART'S MOTHER, ELLA MAE Buckskin, was at her home in Locust Grove when the trial ended. Her niece, Tootsie Christie, left her teaching job at the Locust Grove elementary school and drove a weeping, rejoicing Mrs. Buckskin 18 miles to Pryor.

"The kids at the school cheered when they heard the news," Mrs. Christie said.

Earlier in the week at a Pryor grade school, she said, 32 of the 35 fourth-grade children had voted Hart innocent.

Mrs. Buckskin hurriedly walked the flight of stairs at the "Hart Hotel" — the defense headquarters — a half-block from the courthouse — and broke into tears again as she hugged Isaacs and Pritchlynn.

SHE TOLD ISAACS SHE "SAW A vision" at church Wednesday night that her son would be found innocent. After the crimes occurred 1 1/2 miles from her home at the time, she said another vision showed her that Hart had not committed the crimes.

"God is going to bring the boy home to me," Mrs. Buckskin said, hugging Isaacs again and again.

"I'm so happy," said Hart's sister, Nancy Baker.

"It is a miracle," said his other sister, Mille Littlepage. "God did this."

ABOUT \$27,500 HAS BEEN spent to defend him, although more money is owed. As the family rejoiced Friday, they mentioned to many people that another fund-raising supper is scheduled April 6.

Isaacs may need some of the money to defend himself. Shortly after the jurors were dismissed, Whistler told Isaacs he was citing him for two counts of contempt of court.

Calling Isaacs' conduct "contemptuous and juvenile," Whistler said the 33-year-old defense attorney accused the judge and Fallis of "gang-banging up on him" while questioning a prospective juror.

Whistler said the other citation involved a flareup Thursday during closing arguments when Isaacs shouted three times that Fallis had lied regarding a piece of evidence brought up by the defense.

A HEARING ON THE CIVIL charges — which could carry jail time and a fine — is scheduled April 24. The hearing was to have taken place only hours after the trial, but Whistler postponed it at the request of David Poplin, one of three attorneys who came to the courtroom to defend Isaacs.

Poplin is from Pryor. The other two, D.C. Thomas and associate Jim Patterson, drove from their office in Oklahoma City.

Thomas defended former Gov. David Hall on bribery and extortion charges in 1976, and was the special prosecutor for the Oklahoma Court of the Judiciary in auster proceedings against Durant Judge Sam Sullivan. Thomas and Patterson defended Norman Judge Elvin Brown in a similar ouster proceedings.

THE TRIAL HERE LASTED three fewer days than Hart's 14-day-long preliminary hearing — reportedly the longest in state history.

Jury selection took as long as the trial, Isaacs and Hart said. Their jurist psychologist, Cathy Bennett, of Santa Barbara, Calif., had "been a real help" in gaining the verdict.

"She went beyond the questions we normally would have asked," Pritchlynn said. "She put special meaning on some of the answers and helped us tell who would hear the case with an open mind."

The jurors were George L. Kelly, the foreman and a Pryor plant manager; Jack Mitchell Jr., Adair basketball coach who lives in Pryor; Sandra Garrett, housewife; Spavinaw; Mrs. Melvin Young, housewife, Adair; Lela Ramsey, housewife, Pryor; Vanda Virgie Shipp, utility foreman, Pryor; Lawrence G. Berry, aircraft structure mechanic, Adair; Leota Maye Jackson, inventory clerk, Pryor; Wanda R. Hale, grocery store employee, Pryor; Oke D. Shamblyn, pipefitter, Pryor; Marion Richard, electrician, Adair, and Joan Littlefield, lender operator, Adair.

Camp Scott, June 13, 1977

By MICHAEL WHEAT

Jeffersonian News Editor

In the early morning hours of June 13, 1977 a man entered a secluded tent in the Kiowa area of Camp Scott.

He carried a red, six-volt lantern, the lens covered with a piece of green plastic trash bag material. He carried a roll of tape, and a short piece of cord around which was wrapped some towelling, carefully sewn with thread. The man wore shoes with a distinctive sole pattern. He also carried what a pathologist would later describe as "blunt instrument."

Inside the tent slept eight-year-old Lori Lee Farmer, daughter of a Tulsa physician and former school teacher. Lori had written to her parents just hours before, "I met two new friends," she wrote.

The friends, sleeping nearby were nine-year-old Michelle Guse and ten-year-old Doris Denise Milner.

Michelle was from Broken Arrow, Doris lived in Tulsa.

The man who entered the tent murdered Lori and Michelle as they slept, authorities believe. But not

Doris

Not yet

Doris would be bound and gagged. Her hands were tied behind her back with cord and tape. The short cord wrapped with towelling was used as a gag.

She walked or was carried some 100 yards away. Doris was raped, beaten and finally strangled. In their death, Lori and Michelle were also sexually abused.

In the cold hard words of the State of Oklahoma each of the three girls did "languish and die."

The killer then put Lori and Michelle into their sleeping bags and carried them to where Doris lay.

It was that scene that a Girl Scout counselor discovered in the gloom of the June morning.

What followed would be one of the most intense investigations in Oklahoma history. District Attorney Sid Wise, who coordinated the investigation, had to deal with the total efforts of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, the Mayes County Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of

Investigation and other federal and state agencies.

The investigation culminated in the arrest of Gene Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist who had twice escaped the Mayes County jail.

Following a marathon, often hostile preliminary hearing, Hart was bound over to face trial on three murder charges.

Friday, March 30, a six-man, six-woman jury found Hart "not guilty" of the killings.

Chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs said the verdict was a victory for his client, and vowed to fight ten pending charges against Hart involving his earlier escapes.

Lawmen saw the verdict as the loss of nearly two years' effort.

OSBI agents said they doubted if the case would be reopened. "We had our man," said one investigator.

"There's one thing I carry in my mind to this day," said Mayes County Sheriff Pate Weaver. "That's the big brown eyes of Lori Farmer when we opened her sleeping bag."

PAGE 2 - PRYOR JEFFERSONIAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1979

Editorial

Camp Scott Case Finished, But Not Over

Controversy erupted from the first day of the Camp Scott homicides. And each day since then a new chapter is added with plots and sub-plots as complicated as the Watergate conspiracy.

The case became quickly entangled with allegations of racism and scapegoatism, and was tainted by ambition and greed.

Political plans blossomed and died while visions of Pulitzer Prizes vanished in the 22 months since that June 13.

But if Camp Scott brought out the worst in humanity, it also brought out the best. Hundreds of volunteers helped in searches and dozens of dedicated law officers worked days

A man was charged and after an extended hunt, arrested.

But through the clouds of controversy, through the doubts of discovery, the seeds of evidence proved not enough.

The decision of the Mayes County District Court jury has done little to eliminate the debate. In the eyes of the law, Gene Leroy Hart was found "not guilty."

In the minds of many the controversy still reigns.

In the minds of the parents of the three victims, only tragedy remains.

Hart's Escape Trial Scheduled for May 21

Gene Leroy Hart is scheduled to stand trial May 21 on escape charges in connection with his 1973 escape from the Mayes County jail.

Hart, serving time for rape and burglary, was in the county jail awaiting a post-conviction relief hearing. Hart escaped with cellmate Larry Dry. Dry was arrested a short time after the escape, but Hart remained at large until his arrest in the spring of 1978.

Hart was found not-guilty in March in the killings of three Tulsa-area Girl Scouts at Camp Scott in June 1977.

Hart will be represented by Oklahoma City attorney Garvin Isaacs.

Five other charges against Hart, all dating from 1973, were continued to another court docket. Hart is charged with injuring a public building, three counts of second degree burglary and possession of a firearm.

THE PRYOR JEFFERSONIAN

FIVE SECTIONS
54 PAGES

"Your Community Newspaper"
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ESTABLISHED IN 1907

PRYOR, OKLAHOMA 74361

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1979

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 15

Gets Three Years Hart Pleads to Seven Charges

Gene Leroy Hart made his last appearance in Mayes County Court Monday to plead guilty to seven charges dating from his 1973 escape from the Mayes County jail.

In a "plea arrangement" between Hart's attorney Garvin Isaacs and District Attorney T. Jack Graves, Hart received seven three year sentences to be served concurrently. District Judge Byron Ed Williams told the attorneys and Hart that he was satisfied with the arrangement.

It was Hart's first appearance in court here since a six man, six-woman jury found Hart "not guilty" of the June 1977 sex-killings of three Tulsa area Girl Scouts at Camp Scott.

After a request by a newsman, Judge Williams permitted photography in the courtroom. It was the first time

that still cameras have been allowed during a Mayes County court session.

The seven charges included three counts of second degree burglary, two counts of injury to a public building, one escape charge and one count of possession of a concealable weapon after a former felony conviction.

Hart plead guilty to the May 25, 1973 burglaries of the Jim Yarbrough, Locust Grove residence and the Hoyt DeArmond residence in Salina and the May 31, 1973 burglary of the Tom Jones residence in Strang.

Judge Williams asked Hart if he understood the charges and Hart answered "Yes, sir."

Hart waived his rights to preliminary hearing and pre-sentence investigation and then Williams sentenced Hart to the three year terms.

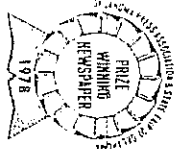
The three year total will be added to the 40 to 305 year sentence Hart is presently serving for the rape of two Tulsa women and four Tulsa County burglaries.

After the short hearing, Hart was taken back to the state prison at McAlester.

Several of Hart's friends and relatives attended the hearing, including his sisters Nancy Baker and Millie Littledave. Hart received a new pair of shoes from the family after the hearing, as well as a new pocket watch.

Several local lawmen were critical of the "plea arrangement" citing the lenient sentences. Hart could have received a total of 63 years if given the maximum sentences and nine years for the minimum prison term.

One officer predicted Hart could be free within three years.



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15

THE PRYOR JEFFERSONIAN

Services Friday in Locust Grove

Gene Hart Dies of Heart

Attack at State Prison

Gene Leroy Hart, who was acquitted two months ago of the sex killings of three Girl Scouts, died Monday night after suffering a heart attack at the state prison in McAlester.

Hart, 35, had been jogging and exercising at the prison when he collapsed. Efforts to revive him at a McAlester hospital failed. An autopsy performed in Oklahoma City Tuesday showed that Hart had serious heart damage, and that he probably suffered a heart attack within the past three years.

Two weeks ago Hart made his last appearance in court, pleading guilty to seven charges in connection with his 1973 escapes from the Mayes County jail. Hart received seven three-year sentences on the charges.

Hart's death ends one of Oklahoma's most controversial murders and trials; he was charged with the murders of Lori Lee Farmer, 8,

Mitchelle Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10, Girl Scouts who had started a week-long camping trip at Camp South near Locust Grove.

The girls' bodies were found about 100 years from large until April 6, 1978 when

HART —

month of trial a six-man, six-women jury found Hart "not guilty" after five hours of deliberation.

Services for Hart are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday in the Locust Grove High School gymnasium with Rev. Bill Grass officiating.

The Jones-Wilson Cunningham funeral home is conducting arrangements.

Hart is survived by his mother, Ella Mae Buckskin, of the home; a son, Donald Eugene Hart, of Locust Grove; three brothers, Jimmy Buckskin, Albus, and Millard Johnson, and Thurman Johnson, both of Locust Grove; a foster brother Kirby Vaughan, Locust Grove; three sisters, Millie Little, Locust Grove, Nancy Baker, Salina, and Fanny Buckskin of the home and a half-sister Rena Hart, Tahlequah.

he was arrested in Cherokee County.

Hart had escaped from the Mayes County jail in 1973 while he was awaiting a post-conviction relief hearing for a kidnap and rape conviction.

A preliminary hearing which started a year ago in Mayes County attracted dozens of newsmen from around the nation. Associate District Judge Jess Clanton allowed a closed-circuit television camera in the courtroom to allow persons in the Graham Community Building, across the street, to view the proceedings. The month-long hearing resulted in Hart being bound over on three counts of first degree murder.

Originally scheduled for trial last fall, Hart's defense attorney Garvin Isaacs succeeded in delaying the case until April. But after nearly a

See HART PAGE 3

— Routine day —

(Continued from Page 1)

prison law library, ate in the dining room and exercised in the prison yard.

"Hart was well-regarded by the other inmates," Deputy Warden Bill Arends said.

"I have no desire to be a hero," the soft-spoken Cherokee said at a trial press conference. "Maybe I represent the fears and doubts that many people have about a case like this in the system that we have."

Hart crossed the rotunda Monday en route to breakfast

and again on his way to work. Four stories above the red and white checkered floor of the 72-year-old rotunda, armed guards keep a constant vigil along a gunway. More guards watch from a bullet-proof cage centered on the rotunda floor above the control center for all of the prison's doors.

At about 7:30 a.m. each morning, Hart climbed four flights of stairs to work as a law library clerk. He did legal research for other inmates in the state-salaried position.

At 4:30 p.m. Monday, Hart's regular supper hour, he ate meatloaf and vegetables.

The former high school football star kept his 5-foot-9, 190-pound body fit. He exercised each evening after eating.

Wearing blue prison denims, Hart walked through the rotunda for the last time a few minutes after 5 p.m. on his way to the yard.

Unseen guards opened four

remotely-controlled gates and doors allowing Hart to pass. It was in the 80s and the sun was low in the sky as he joined about 150 other inmates in the yard.

After lifting weights for 45 minutes, Hart continued his routine by running the perimeter of the yard.

Corrections Officer Paul Moody called the rotunda from his tower perch at 6:42 p.m. when he saw Hart collapse.

Corrections Lt. S.L. Key dispatched several guards with a stretcher. They found Hart immobile on the ground.

He was taken to the nearby infirmary. Paramedics immediately began cardio-

pulmonary resuscitation.

They continued CPR as Hart was rushed in a green prison station wagon to

McAlester Regional Hospital on the other side of town.

Hart was pronounced dead at 7:25 p.m. — 20 minutes after arriving — by Dr. Blake Berry, the attending physician.

— Hart dies —

(Continued from Page 1)

victims, said she wondered after hearing of Hart's death, "Has justice been done?"

"I still think he was the one who killed Lori, but I feel shaken about his death. I feel... torn," said Mrs. Farmer.

Members of Hart's family in the Locust Grove vicinity were in seclusion. Locust Grove minister Bill Grass was contacting family members, Weaver said.

Weaver, who led the probe into the Girl Scout slayings, said Hart's sudden death was "food for thought."

Jeff McLeMore, editor of the Cherokee Advocate, an official tribal newspaper headquartered in Tahlequah, spoke with Hart at the prison for nearly five hours Friday.

It was the first broad-ranging interview granted by Hart, a full-blooded Cherokee. He spoke with newsmen during his March trial about topics other than the murder charges against him.

Hart requested the still-unpublished interview to speak with his people, McLeMore said. He said Hart "seemed very at ease, very positive" during the interview.

Hart was a fugitive from a September 1973 escape from the Mayes County jail at the time he was charged with the slayings at Camp Scott near Locust Grove.

He pleaded guilty two weeks ago to charges of escape and burglary stemming from that escape and a May 1973 breakout at the same jail.

Hart was also serving state sentences on convictions of burglary, rape and kidnapping stemming from a 1967 incident.

Isaacs had told jurors Hart owed the state more than 300 years on previous convictions. But prison officials said after Hart's acquittal in March his sentences, some of them to be served concurrently, would total about 90 years.

State investigators at first said they would not re-open their investigation into the slayings of the three young girls two years ago this month. But agents have done further work on the case since Hart was found innocent.

The bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10, were found with their sleeping bags 100 yards from their bloody platform tent. All had been sexually molested.

Authorities charged Hart with the slayings that occurred in the rugged hills near his boyhood home after finding photographs belonging to him alongside evidence connected with the slayings.

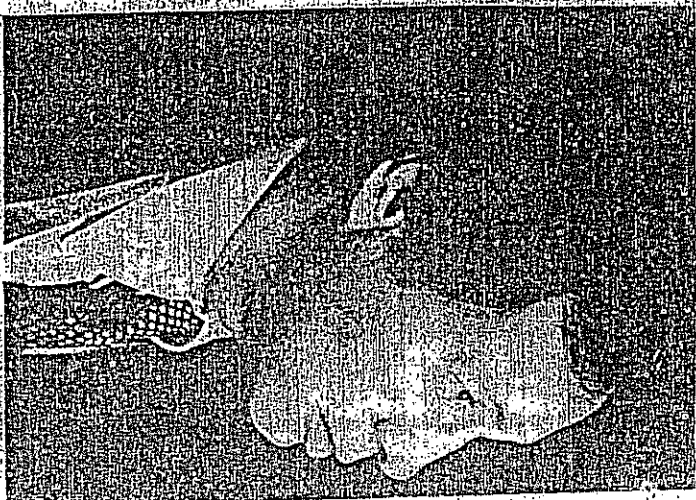
One of the largest manhunts in Oklahoma history failed to turn up a slayer in the snake and tick-infested hills.

Nearly 10 months later, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents, acting on an informant's tip, burst into a shack 50 miles from the Girl Scout camp and arrested Hart.

He was taken directly to the state prison's death row, where he stayed except during court appearances until his acquittal.

Hart burst into sobs when the Mayes County District Court jury pronounced him innocent of the slayings. He asked to be allowed to address jurors, but was refused and was whisked back to the state prison to begin serving previous sentences.

Hart was moved back into the prison's general population a few days after he was sent back to the institution.



Gene Hart death 'not surprising'

MCALISTER, Okla. (AP) — Medical experts were to submit an autopsy today to determine the cause of the sudden death Monday of Gene Leroy Hart, 36, two months after he was acquitted in the 1977 slayings of three Girl Scouts.

Officials at the Oklahoma State Prison said Hart died of an apparent heart attack after about an hour of sitting weights and jogging in a prison exercise yard.

Law officers had said privately they thought Hart's life would be in danger in the maximum security prison's general population even though he was found innocent of the 1977 crime.

"I was not surprised," said Mayes County Sheriff Pete Wheeler after learning of Hart's death. "Even convicts have their back at home."

Hart was serving sentences from Mayes County at the prison. Attorney Gary Pritchyn, who assisted in defeating Hart's original three charges of first-degree murder, indicated he would be at the state medical examiner's office in Oklahoma City today.

"It's easy to suspect a heart attack, but we won't be satisfied until we get the results of the autopsy," Pritchyn said.

Pritchyn said Hart had no history of heart problems. Hart, 36, collapsed at 7:42 p.m. Monday after exercising with temporary burns in the mid ribs since about 6 p.m., officials said. Mayes County Corrections Department spokesman said doctors attempted to revive Hart for 20 minutes before pronouncing him dead of an apparent heart attack at 7:55 p.m. at a McAlester hospital.

Dr. Burke Barry, emergency room physician at the hospital, said Hart appeared to be tired on arrival after emergency transfer from the prison infirmary.

Sid Wise, former Mayes County district attorney who

A routine day for Big Mac prisoner

MCALISTER, Okla. — Gene McAlister, following his acquittal March 20, had been charged with murdering three Girl Scouts in 1977. He had been in the prison for a day much like he would have faced for the next 50 years — routine.

Gene Leroy Hart, 36, followed the schedule of an average inmate at "Big Mac" for more than two months except for a trip to Mayes County May 22 to plead guilty to 1973 escape and burglary charges. He was housed in the second story of the west

cellblock, following his acquittal March 20. He had been charged with murdering three Girl Scouts in 1977. He had been in the prison for a day much like he would have faced for the next 50 years — routine.

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The Daily Times 15

Gene Leroy Hart's Life of Jail Cells Ends Peaceably

By DAVID MCKENZIE

Of the World Staff

The lifetime of Gene Leroy Hart, who faced more than a lifetime behind bars before he was executed at one of the state's most grisly sex slayings two years ago, ended peacefully behind prison walls Monday night.

Hart started out a winner: a hero of his high school football team. Then he became a convicted criminal, a fugitive, finally charged with capital crimes when he was acquitted, his supporters made him out as a martyr, a victim himself of a miscarriage of justice.

Hart's death was in somber contrast to his life, which prompted national attention when he stood trial earlier this year for the murder of three Girl Scouts on a summer day in June 1977.

He had been at large for four years. He had been back in prison — at the state penitentiary at McAlester — since March 30 to serve out the remainder of his sentences for burglary, kidnapping, rape and jail escape.

When Hart was cleared of those deaths last March in one of the lengthiest criminal proceedings in state history, his supporters greeted the verdict with thunderous applause. Other supporters had held bake sales and collections for his defense.

Such cheers came seldom for Hart, a Cherokee Indian, 41, of Mustang Grove. Most of his adult life was spent in the forlorn quiet of jail cells or the nervous hush of Oklahoma's Cookson Hills.

Hart was a hunted man most of his life, and he was hunted with special fervor after he was linked to the deaths of the three Girl Scouts — Michele Guse, 9, Lori Farmer, 8, and Doris Denise Milner, 10.

The three girls were brutally slain on June 13, 1977 at Camp Scott. They and 188 other girls had just spent

their first night of encampment there.

Hart, already a fugitive convict, was charged 10 days later with those murders.

The 35-year-old had been serving 105 years in prison when he saved his way out of the Mayes County jail early in 1973. He had escaped earlier that year from the same jail, but freedom was short-lived, and he was recaptured, hitting was only he Hart's luck. He was one of the most experienced woodsmen in the state, and added his abilities in the woods to his knowledge of the prison. Hart eluded lawmen for months.

It was not until April 6, 1978, that they closed in on him in a ramshackle hut in the hills he knew so well.

The state's largest manhunt at one time or another required tracking dogs, helicopters, airplanes with infrared sensors, 200 lawmen, 400 volunteers — enough equipment and manpower to start a small war.

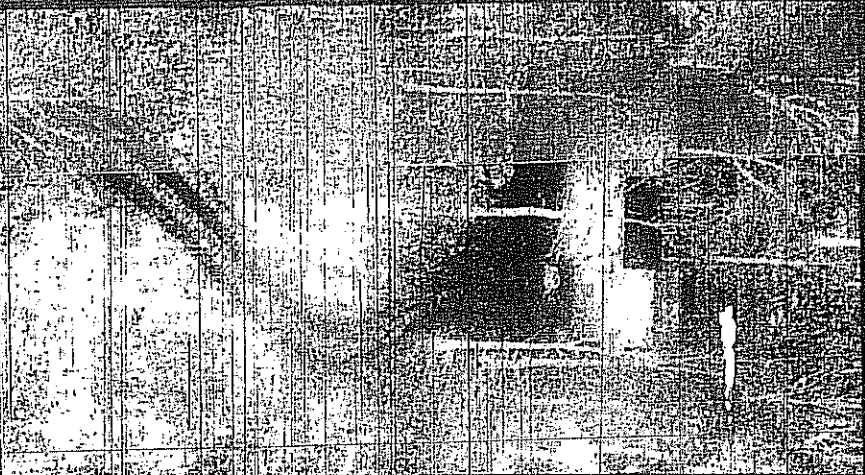
Hart's capture ticked off what became a virtual carnival atmosphere. Bold Hart's defense attorney, a little-known Oklahoma City attorney named Garvin Isaacs, and the politically ambitious prosecutor, Sid Wise, came under public scrutiny.

Hart himself steadfastly said he was innocent of the murders.

He wore a business suit during the trial. When he finally broke his silence to talk to the press, he joked. He said he was religious. He said he felt sorry for the families of the girls.

Like that "media" sentence, many of the proceedings had the character of an event. A defense attorney eventually was charged with contempt. He stepped out and a new district attorney stepped in, aided by Tulsa County District Attorney S. M. "Calle" Calle Jr.

The preliminary hearing lasted a See Footnote on B-29



Hart spent months in a tiny hut in the hills.



Gene Hart was grim while entering the Mayes County Courthouse in June 1

Football Hero Spent Much of His Life Hunted

Continued from B1

He had been at large for four years. He had been back in prison — at the state penitentiary at McAlester — since March 30 to serve out the remainder of his sentences for burglary, kidnapping, rape and jail escape.

When the jury returned and found Hart innocent of all three charges, the usually placid defendant broke down and wept.

That was two months ago. The Girl Scout murders remains a story without an ending. Hart's story — a story of jail cells, escape and flight — ended Monday in a prison exercise yard.

Autopsy Shows Hart Suffered From Severe Heart Disease

Continued From A-1

ers died before they reached 35.

Hart collapsed at 6:42 p.m. Monday after lifting weights and jogging in the prison yard for about an hour. Doctors attempted to revive him for about 20 minutes before pronouncing him dead of a massive heart attack at 7:25 at a McAlester hospital.

Hart's attorneys were not allowed to be present during the autopsy, although one of them had said he would be in attendance.

"An autopsy is a medical procedure and has nothing to do with the law until I walk into a courtroom," Chapman said when asked why the attorneys were not allowed to attend.

HART WAS ACQUITTED March 30 after a month-long murder trial. He was accused of the sex slayings of Lori Lee Farmer, 8; Michele Guse, 9; and Doris Denise Milner, 10.

Their bodies were discovered June

13, 1977, about 100 yards from their tent at Camp Scott near Locust Grove. They had been bludgeoned and strangled, and all three had been sexually molested.

The largest manhunt in state history failed to turn up a suspect as hundreds of lawmen scoured the snake and tick-infested hills. Nearly 10 months later, OSBI agents, acting on an informant's tip, arrested Hart in a Cookson Hills shack about 50 miles from Camp Scott.

Hart was a fugitive from the Mayes County jail at the time he was charged with the murders of the three girls. He had escaped in September 1973.

He pleaded guilty two weeks ago to charges of escape and burglary stemming from that breakout and a May 1973 escape from the same jail.

Hart also was serving sentences for burglary, rape and kidnapping as a result of a 1987 incident.

HART, A CHEROKEE INDIAN and onetime Locust Grove High School football star, burst into sobs when the Mayes County jury pronounced him innocent a little more than two months ago.

Hart was moved back into the prison's general population a few days after he was sent back to the institution.

"Because of the media attention given his case, Hart was well-known in the inmate population but apparently had no close friends here," said Deputy Warden Bill Arends.

Arends said the prison population was "stunned" by Hart's death.

"It was like you had a middle-aged neighbor who worked out daily and appeared to be middle-aged and in real good shape. Then one day you learned he had died," Arends said.

Although there had been speculation, Hart's life would be in danger in the general inmate population, there was no indication of this being true, Arends said.

State investigators at first said they would not reopen their probe into the slayings of the three girls after Hart was acquitted, but they later did additional work on the case.

SERVICES FOR HART tentatively are scheduled at 2 p.m. Friday at the Locust Grove High School gymnasium with burial in Ballou Cemetery south of Locust Grove. The Rev. Bill Glass, of the Free Will Baptist Church at Spavinaw, is to officiate.

The Jones-Wilson-Cunningham Funeral Home, of Locust Grove, is conducting arrangements.

Hart is survived by his mother, Ella Mae Buckskin, of the home; a son, Donald Eugene Hart, of Locust Grove; three brothers, Jimmy Buckskin, Altus, and Millard Johnson and Thurman Johnson, both of Locust Grove; a foster brother, Kirby Vaughan, Locust Grove; three sisters, Millie Littlepage, Locust Grove, Nancy Baker, Salina, and Tammy Buckskin, of the home, and a half sister, Rona Hart, Tahlequah.

Autopsy Shows 'Acute Cardiac Dysfunction' Heart Disease Took Hart

By CHUCK ERVIN

World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY—Gene Leroy Hart, acquitted in March of the sex slayings of three young Girl Scouts, died Monday after an apparent heart attack, according to preliminary autopsy findings released Tuesday.

There was no indication of poison or other substances and no wounds were found on the body, according to state Medical Examiner A. Jay Chapman.

Despite Hart's age, 35, apparent good health and history of regular exercise, Chapman said the preliminary autopsy findings indicated he died of "acute cardiac dysfunction."

Chapman said there was blockage of two major heart arteries.

"There was total occlusion, or blockage of one coronary artery and about 80-85 percent blockage of the other," he said.

Chapman added that tests failed to turn up the presence of any drugs or

toxic substance. He said the only drug found in the body was one that is normally used during efforts to resuscitate heart attack victims.

He also said it is not rare for young, active individuals to have heart disease similar to that found in Hart.

HART EXERCIZED REGULARLY and was jogging in the prison yard at the time he was stricken.

The autopsy indicates that Hart had extremely severe heart disease for someone his age, Chapman said, adding that Hart probably suffered a major heart attack three years ago.

Hart was treated for chest pains three years ago, according to Chap-

See "Tragedy or Divine Justice?" on A-10

man, although there apparently was no diagnosis of heart disease at that time.

A routine physical, even an electrocardiogram, probably would not have revealed the type of heart disease suffered by Hart, according to Chapman, who refused to speculate about whether stress brought on by Hart's murder trial and return to prison might have had a bearing on the apparent heart attack.

CHAPMAN SAID ALTHOUGH the initial autopsy was completed Tuesday afternoon, medical examiners must still do "a complete drug and toxicologic scan" and finish examining tissue before completing the autopsy. He said it probably would be finished later this week.

Hart's family was surprised by the autopsy report and said he had never complained of any heart trouble. But his mother said there was a history of heart disease on his father's side of the family.

She said two of Hart's half-brothers

See Autopsy on A-4

1,000 Attend Hart Funeral

About 1,000 persons attended the funeral of Gene Leroy Hart Friday in the Locust Grove High School gymnasium. Hart, 35, died last week after suffering a heart attack at the McAlester state prison. He was serving a 140-305 year

prison term for burglary, rape and kidnap.

Rev. Bill Grass said Hart "had a terrible time getting a good start, life was a struggle for him."

Hart's mother, Ella Mae Buckskin, and several other family members, sat on the front row, occasionally wiping away tears during the hour-long service.

"Sonny had to do the best he could do, and he had to rely on his mother," Rev. Grass said.

The Cherokee preacher recounted Hart's success as a football player at Locust Grove. "He could run like a deer with a football, and bring his team to victory. But he began running into man's laws."

Rev. Grass voiced the family's approval of those who came to his aid, including Ross Swimmer, principal chief of the Cherokee nation and attorneys Garvin Isaacs and Gary Pitchlynn.

Hart was acquitted of the June 1977 murders of three Tulsa-area Girl Scouts after a month-long trial here this



Funeral March

Led by Rev. Bill Grass, pallbearers carry the body of Gene Leroy Hart to a hearse following Hart's funeral service Friday at the Locust Grove High School Gymnasium. Hart was later buried in the Ballou Cemetery, not far from his boyhood home. (Jeffersonian Photo by Betty Smith)

See FUNERAL Page 4

FUNERAL —

spring.

Rev. Grass said "Sonny was gloriously saved by Jesus Christ three weeks ago."

He said that Hart believed "he has a better place to go."

"But God spoke for his life" Rev. Grass said. "You went through enough, I'll call you home now. You come and live with me."

Following the services, Hart's body was buried in the Ballou Cemetery, south of Locust Grove, near his boyhood home.

1,000 Mourners Pack Locust Grove Gym for Hart's Funeral

By the O.C. Staff
A large crowd of people gathered at the Locust Grove Gym for the funeral of a prominent local businessman and community leader, Mr. J. H. Hart, on Tuesday, June 10, 1936.

Mr. Hart, who was 65 years of age, died on June 8, 1936, after a long illness. He was a member of the Locust Grove Baptist Church and had been a member of the church for many years. He was also a member of the Locust Grove Athletic Club and had been a member of the club for many years.

The funeral service was held at the Locust Grove Baptist Church at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor of the church. A large number of people attended the service, including many of Mr. Hart's friends and acquaintances.

After the service, the body was taken to the Locust Grove Gym for the funeral. The gym was packed with people, and the service was held in a large hall. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Smith, and a large number of people attended the service.

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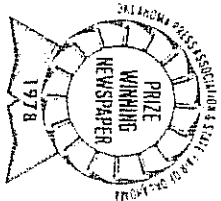
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Mourners Give Hart Emotional Farewell

The funeral of Mr. J. H. Hart, a prominent local businessman and community leader, was held at the Locust Grove Baptist Church on Tuesday, June 10, 1936. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor of the church. A large number of people attended the service, including many of Mr. Hart's friends and acquaintances.

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3 Hart Defense Witnesses Are Charged With Perjury

Three defense witnesses in the Gene Leroy Hart murder trial have been charged with perjury. They are Joyce Ellen Paine of Dewey and her two sons, Larry and Owen Short.

Mrs. Paine was arrested Tuesday night by Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver. During a brief appearance in Mayes County Court, Associate District Judge William Thomas set bond for Mrs. Paine at \$20,000.

She is charged with testify-

ing falsely on March 27 when she said a man named Bill Stevens came to her home on the morning of June 13, 1977. June 13 was the day three Tulsa area Girl Scouts were killed at Camp Scott.

Mrs. Paine also testified that a flashlight found at the death scene was the same flashlight she had given to Stevens in May 1973. Stevens is serving a prison sentence in Kansas for rape. Larry Short and Owen Short, who have not yet been arrested, testified that Stevens came to their home in Okmulgee on June 13, 1977 and that Stevens "had claw marks on his arms and neck, red stains on his boots and was jittery."

District Attorney's office law intern John Mahoney indicated that the state has evidence to show that Stevens did not come to the Paine home on June 13, 1977. Felony perjury is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Perjury Charge

Joyce Ellen Paine, of Dewey, is being held in lieu of \$20,000 bond after she was charged with perjury in connection with her testimony in the first degree murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart. (Jeffersonian Staff Photo)