

Trial resumes today

Hill murder trial enters second week

United Press International
DALLAS — The \$7.6 million wrongful death suit of Texas oil millionaire Ash Robinson resumes in district court today with much of the evidence in the murder of Dr. John Hill yet to be admitted to the jury.

The Hill family are charging Robinson with allegedly slaying Hill's murder to avenge the death of his only son, Hill's first wife.

The original murder case is still an ongoing investigation by the district attorney's office, some testimony must be given outside the presence of the jury, five-woman civil court jury. And Judge Aronson has withheld rulings on several critical pieces of evidence needed to link Robinson to Hill's death.

The criminal case has ever been made against the 60-year-old grandfather.

His widow, Connie, the doctor's mother, Myra, his son, Robert, 17, also must convince the jury

that they did not know Robinson had something to do with the murder until the spring of 1973 and that the statute of limitations did not run out until 1975.

The entire case is based on proving conspiracy, wrongful death, and pain and suffering by the family.

Joan Robinson Hill, Hill's first wife, died mysteriously in 1969. Hill was later indicted for murder, but the trial ended in a mistrial. While awaiting a second trial, he was shot to death on Sept. 24, 1972.

The alleged triggerman, Bobby Wayne Vandiver, confessed to his role in the slaying and was released on bond. He was killed by a Longview police on May 14, 1974, while sitting in a local cafe.

Lilla Paulus, the woman who allegedly was paid \$25,000 to find a hit man for Robinson, is presently serving 35 years for murder. She has refused to testify in the case.

Marcia McKittrick, Vandiver's girlfriend and getaway car driver, is serving 10 years for murder.

Murder weapon' center of Davis case

United Press International
DALLAS — The T. Cullen Davis murder trial resumes today, but what will be occurring outside the courtroom this week might be more important than the trial itself.

The interest hinges on a gun, a .38-caliber pistol which defense attorneys say could be the weapon used to slay Davis' love rival, Stan Farr, 30, and Davis' newborn daughter, Andrea Wilborn, 12.

On Friday in Amarillo, Davis' attorneys ignored court orders to refrain from making statements on the matter and declared the new evidence had been found in Amarillo and that it would prove that his 43-year-old client was innocent.

But the activities of Richard "Racehorse" Haynes of Dallas and Phil Burleson of Dallas were similar to those of a city-seeking measures they took in Fort Worth and resulted in contempt of court citations against them and contributed to transfer of the trial to the Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry said.

George E. Dowlen, presiding judge in the Davis trial, had instructed attorneys on Thursday not to discuss the latest development. It was obvious from his instructions that, even if a weapon had been found to police and represented as linked to Farr's

slaying, the judge was determined that its connection, if any, be developed by ballistics experts, not attorneys.

The Fort Worth attorney who delivered the pistol to police said it was about a "50-50 chance" the weapon was the one used in the Aug. 3, 1976, shootings at Davis' posh mansion.

"I've never said it was the murder weapon," attorney Charles Baldwin said.

The attorney said the gun was brought to him by a client, Polly Ware, a barmaid. Baldwin said Miss Ware said the gun belonged to Horace Copeland, an acquaintance of Stan Farr who was murdered in Davis' home.

The gun has been turned over to the Tarrant County crime lab. A ballistics test will be carried out early this week, police said.

Haynes previously has mentioned Copeland as the possible assailant who killed Andrea and, Farr, the lover of Davis' estranged wife, Priscilla.

Mrs. Davis has testified her husband was the assailant.

Copeland, 42, was shot to death Aug. 8 at a Fort Worth apartment. No charges have been filed in the case.

Bell deliberation may start this week

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — After more than a month of testimony and two days of charges and countercharges, the \$29 million libel and slander suit against Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. could go to the jury this week.

Final arguments in the month-long case were expected to begin Friday.

Defense attorneys called the final witness in the suit filed by Bell executive James Ashley and the family of the late T.O. Gravit, a Bell executive who committed suicide in October, 1974.

Zane Barnes testified Ashley was fired for sexual improprieties that constituted "gross misconduct."

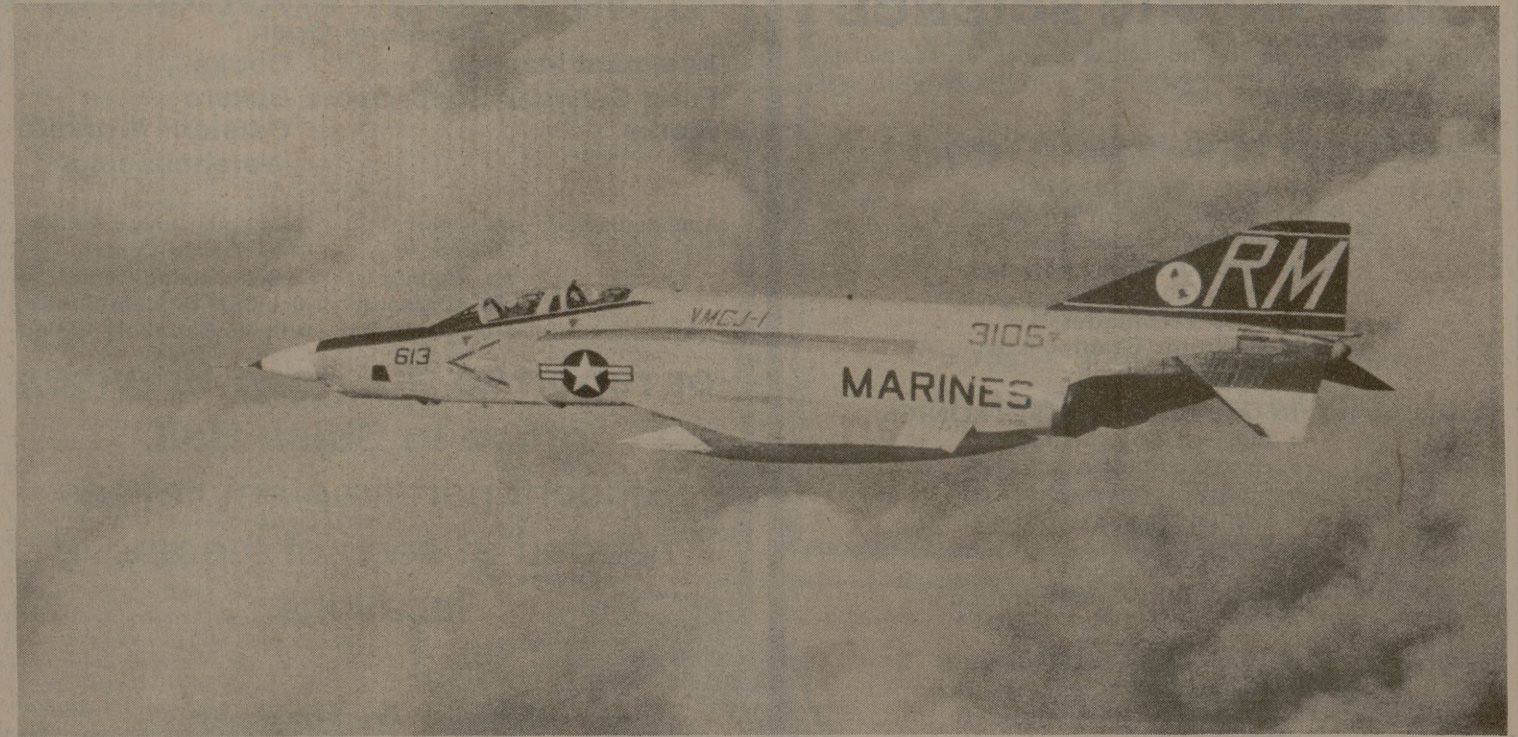
"While I certainly don't applaud the behavior of other employees, there wasn't anyone who misbehaved the way James Ashley did," he said. "Mr. Ashley was the one who set the climate that led to these events."

The suit against Bell alleges that Ashley was wrongfully fired from his job with the telephone company and that Gravit's suicide was spurred by an internal investigation.

Southwestern Bell contends Gravit bilked the company of

thousands of dollars and that Ashley and Gravit were "leechers" and "ladies men" who stole money from the company on false expense vouchers while handing out promotions in exchange for sexual favors.

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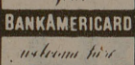
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