

Jury selection begins in trial of officers

United Press International
DALLAS — Jury selection was scheduled to begin Tuesday in the trial of three Limestone County officers charged with negligence in the drowning deaths of three black teenagers following their arrest last summer at a Juneteenth celebration.

Participants in the trial, delayed by nine months of hearings and four changes of venue, have been silenced by a series of gag orders, the latest from Dallas County Criminal Judge Tom Price, who will preside over the trial that has meandered across east and central Texas.

The deaths on Lake Mexia occurred during a Juneteenth celebration, focusing on the emancipation for blacks in Texas. The June 19, 1981, incident excited racial tension in the community of Mexia, and fears of tensions in two other cities have brought the trial 80 miles north to Dallas.

Two white officers were among the three lawmen who arrested the youths on drug possession charges, then loaded them into a 14-foot aluminum fishing boat to take them across the small lake.

The boat was swamped 50 yards offshore. The prisoners — Steve Booker, Anthony

Freeman and Carl Baker — all drowned. The lawmen — Kenny Elliot, David Drummond and Kenneth Archie, a black, all survived.

The negligence charge hangs on the fact that with a 600-pound capacity the boat was overloaded, and that none of the six people aboard wore a life preserver.

When officials recovered two of the three bodies the next day, bystanders said they saw handcuffs removed from the bodies before they were taken from the lake.

That would explain why Steve Booker — who, his mother said, had swum the breadth of the lake on several occasions — had been un-

able to swim the 50 yards to the shore.

But autopsies revealed no signs the youths were handcuffed when they drowned. Drummond testified at a three-day inquiry in July that two of the youths — Booker and Baker — were handcuffed together until they got to the boat, where the manacles were removed.

After the inquiry, the officers were charged with negligent homicide, a misdemeanor offense punishable by one year in county jail and a \$2,000 fine.

The case was opened at Groesbeck in Limestone County, then moved to Marlin when the judge disqualified himself.

At Marlin, residents feared racial problems, so the trial was forwarded to San Marcos, south of Austin.

The most recent move to Dallas — less than two hours drive from Mexia — was meant to accommodate both sides.

This month Price heard challenges to the Dallas setting, citing pretrial publicity and Price's lack of jurisdiction to hear cases involving official misconduct.

Price ruled against a change of venue motion, and an appeals court in Austin rejected arguments against Price's standing to hear the matter.

Texas Briefs

Blaze kills officer

HOUSTON — Flames ignited by an exploding gasoline tank truck struck from the rear by a dump truck killed a motorcycle policeman and warped a steel overpass.

Firefighters worked 90 minutes to bring the blaze under control Monday, but were unable to get close enough to rescue Officer Winston J. Rawlins, 23, who an eyewitness said struggled to free himself from wreckage.

Rawlins, a two-year veteran of the force, was trapped in the collision of the tank truck, two dump trucks and the car which Rawlins had stopped for a traffic violation on the shoulder of the South Loop East in southeast Houston.

Home bombed

TEXARKANA — Investigators said they have three suspects in the weekend bombing of a rural home damaged by at least 2 1/2 pounds of exploding dynamite.

However, Bowie County Chief Deputy DeWayne Cannon said no arrests appear imminent. He said Monday that damage to the house could total \$15,000.

The Steve Davis family was in Denver visiting relatives when the bomb exploded about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, shattering windows, bowing walls and knocking a hole in the foundation of their house. Cannon said damage could run as high as \$15,000. The family returned Monday and was able to give investigators information about possible suspects, Cannon said.

Million dollar suit

HOUSTON — Lester Melvin Main has filed a \$1 million suit against Harris County Commissioner Jim Fonteno alleging he was fired from his county job last month because he is running against the commissioner in the May 1 primary.

Main, 26, said Monday he cannot find a job now because of his alleged politically motivated firing from a job at the Lynchburg car ferry.

Main also claims he has been denied a hearing which could afford him an opportunity to find out why he was fired. Commissioner Fonteno said a hearing is now in the process of being scheduled by the Harris County attorney's office.

Money orders

HOUSTON — A 37-year-old man arrested for allegedly trying to sell \$6,000 in money orders stolen from the Lincoln National Bank in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention riots of 1968 has been arraigned on federal charges.

Billy S. Hastings, of Pasadena, Texas, faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if he is convicted on the charges.

Houston FBI agents alleged Monday that Hastings was trying to sell the money orders this past weekend for 30 percent of the value. They said they were unsure if Hastings participated in the original theft of the money orders.

Eleven-story fall

FORT WORTH — A steelworker fell 11 stories to his death, authorities said.

Johnny Von Pennington, 23, of nearby Arlington was working on a building under construction when he fell Monday afternoon.

Pennington was employed by VSL Construction Co. of Grand Prairie, Texas.



PRICES EFFECTIVE AT KROGER
2104 TEXAS AVE. BRYAN
2412 TEXAS AVE. COLLEGE STATION

LET'S GO

<p>Family Center</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF BONELESS CHUCK ROASTS \$1.58 LB.</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF ROUND BONE SHOULDER ROASTS \$1.68 LB.</p>	<p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF BONELESS TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS \$2.38 LB.</p> <p>WILSON 93% FAT FREE BONELESS WHOLE HAMS \$2.28 LB.</p>	<p>FRESH NEVER FROZEN FARM RAISED WHOLE CATFISH \$1.79 LB. FILLETS LB. \$2.99</p>	<p>LAMB SPECIALS</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE WHOLE LEG-0 LAMB \$2.59 LB.</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE LAMB LOIN CHOPS \$3.49 LB.</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE LAMB PRE-CARVED Shoulder Roasts . . . LB. \$1.99</p>
<p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF T-BONE STEAKS \$2.88 LB.</p> <p>ASSORTED VARIETIES SERVE 'N SAVE LUNCH-MEATS 1/4 OZ. PKG. \$1.19</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF BNLS. WAFER STEAKS \$3.29 LB.</p>	<p>FROZEN FLOUNDER FILLETS LB. 99¢</p> <p>FRESH-SHORE OCEAN PERCH FILLETS LB. \$1.49</p> <p>FRESH-SHORE CRISPY CRUNCHY FISH FILLETS 16 OZ. PKG. 99¢</p> <p>FRESH-SHORE CRISPY CRUNCHY FISH STICKS 9 OZ. PKG. 99¢</p> <p><small>Free Shrimp Fish Fillets . . . 1/4 Oz. \$1.55 Free Shrimp Fish Sticks . . . 1/4 Oz. \$1.49</small></p>	<p>DELI-BAKERY</p> <p>LEAN BOILED HAM \$3.49 LB. SAVE 50%</p> <p>KITCHEN FRESH MACARONI SALAD LB. 79¢ SAVE 20%</p> <p>GOURMET Turkey Breast SAVE 50% \$3.49 LB.</p> <p>KAHNS CHEDDAR WURST Sausage SAVE 10% \$2.89 LB.</p> <p>CHOCOLATE, LEMON OR COCONUT Meringue Pie SAVE 50% \$1.99 EA.</p> <p>FRESH MADE STRAWBERRY Shortcake EA. \$1.99</p>	<p>Whole Hams LB. \$2.28</p> <p>SERVE 'N SAVE Wieners 12 OZ. \$1.19 PKG.</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF BONELESS Rib Eye Steaks \$4.99 LB.</p> <p>U.S. CHOICE BEEF BONELESS (2.4 LB. AVG.) Tenderloins \$4.59 LB.</p> <p>ECKRICH REGULAR (BEEF 2.45 LB.) Smoked Saus. \$2.25 LB.</p> <p>OLD VILLAGE REGULAR SMOKED (BEEF 2.25 LB.) Sausage \$2.19 LB.</p> <p>JIMMY DEAN FRESH, HOT OR MILD (2 LB. '4.15) Pork Sausage \$2.09 LB.</p> <p>JIMMY DEAN SAUSAGE & BISCUITS 9.5 OZ. \$1.99 PKG.</p> <p>HILLSHIRE FARM Smoked Saus. 3 LB. \$6.49</p> <p>HORNEL Little Sizzlers 12 OZ. \$1.49 PKG.</p> <p>OLD VILLAGE "WHOLE HOG" FRESH Pork Sausage 16 OZ. \$1.59 PKG.</p> <p>SWIFT BUTTERBALL OR ARMOUR STAR GR. A Turkeys 10-14 LB. \$1.79</p>

COST CUTTER HEALTH & BEAUTY AIDS

<p>GILLETTE TRAC II RAZOR BLADES \$2.49 PKG.</p>	<p>COLGATE TOOTHPASTE \$1.39 9 OZ. TUBE</p>	<p>SPEED STICKS DEODORANT \$1.29 3.5 OZ. STICK</p>	<p>JOHNSONS BABY WASHCLOTH \$0.99 BOX OF 30</p>
<p>SHAMPOOS, CONDITIONERS OR RINSES YOUR CHOICE 88¢</p>	<p>JOHNSONS CORN STARCH BABY POWDER 14 OZ. PKG. \$1.88</p>	<p>NOXZEMA ANTISEPTIC SKIN CLEANSER 8 OZ. SIZE \$2.49</p>	<p>STRESSTABS 600 VITAMINS</p> <p>BTL. OF 60 REG. \$4.19</p> <p>BTL. OF 60 W/IRON \$4.69</p> <p>BTL. OF 60 W/ZINC \$4.99</p>

COST CUTTER COUPON

Slide PROCESSING

\$1.19 Only

20 Exp. 36 Exp. only \$2.19

Coupon Good Thru Wednesday, July 22, 1982. SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE STATE & LOCAL TAXES.



COUPON MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

Kroger Pharmacy

PHONE YOUR PRESCRIPTION TO KROGER BEFORE YOU COME IN
It'll be waiting for you!

Cosmetics & Fragrances

MAYBELLINE "COLORS THAT CLING"
\$1.39 FROST SINGLES

HALSTON COLGONE SPRAY
3.3 OZ. SIZE \$16.95

ROYAL COPENHAGEN
4 OZ. SIZE \$8.95