

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Murder trial jury selection begins

# Potential jurors fill hotel

SAN ANTONIO — A pool of 200 potential jurors packed a hotel ban-quet room Tuesday for the start of ary selection in a murder trial for a irsing home and five of its current

Autumn Hills Convalescent Cener Inc. and five employees are on rial in the Nov. 20, 1978, death of Elnora Breed.

Breed had lived at an Autumn ills nursing home in Texas City for days before her death.

The case was moved to San Anto-io, 245 miles away, because of eavy publicity about the case. Despite the change of venue, law-

ers say they expect jury selection to Because the jury pool is so large and because there was no available

ourtroom at the Bexar County urthouse, jury selection was

moved to the TraveLodge Hotel las, 31, former director of nursing across the street. across the street.

The county commissioners court designated the banquet room in the hotel as a district courtroom for the

State District Judge Don Morgan of Galveston, in briefing the potential jurors, told the group the trial could take two and a half months or

The corporation and the five indi-vidual employees on trial formally pleaded innocent to the charges in an arraignment Monday.

Pleading innocent were Autumn Hills president Robert Gay, 58; Ron Pohlmeyer, 41; Mattie Locke, 42, a nursing consultant; Virginia Wilson, 62, former administrator of the nursing home; and Cassandra Can-

The defendants also are charged in the indictments in the 1978 death of Edna Mae Witt, 78, but prosecutors have elected not to attempt to prove her case.

Defense attorneys have steadfastly claimed their clients are innocent and that the charges are absurd.

A special grand jury indictment charges the defendants with failing to provide adequate care, nutrition, medications, bathing facilities and other needs for the patients.

The indictments also allege they falsified records and failed to adequately evaluate and supervise registered nurses and to take appropriate action when they knew patients were not getting needed care.

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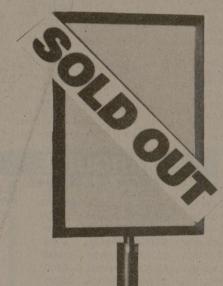
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