

Convicted murderer testifies in Trudy Darby murder case

A convicted murderer and a juvenile officer testified Thursday that two men charged with the 1991 murder of Trudy Darby had admitted details to them about how they had murdered Darby.

Darby's body was found in the Little Niangua River in eastern Hickory County January 21, 1991, after she had been abducted two days earlier as she was closing a convenience store near Macks Creek. She was 42 years old.

Half-brothers Marvin Chaney, 34, and Jess Rush, 20, have been charged with murder in the case. Both are from Macks Creek and allegedly revealed details of the murder while they were being held in the Camden County Jail on other charges.

Tim McQueen took the stand as a witness for the prosecution against Chaney and Rush as they appeared before Camden County Associate Circuit Court Judge Jack Bennett in preliminary hearings.

McQueen is serving a fifteen-year prison sentence for the death of his wife. He allegedly threw her off a cliff at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.

McQueen testified that he spoke with Rush and Chaney while all three were incarcerated in the Camden County Jail. He said the two admitted kidnapping Darby and taking her to a barn and raping her. He also said the two said three people were involved in the murder.

In his testimony, McQueen said Rush and Chaney had confessed to shooting Darby in the head then transporting her to the river where they shot her a second time. Both suspects told him essentially the same story, McQueen said.

He said the two admitted shooting her in the barn, and then burned the barn several days later to cover any evidence that might have remained there.

Camden County Juvenile Officer Tammy Waldon had been called to the Eldon Police Station last fall because Rush was only 15 at the time of the murder. She testified that Rush told her a similar story, but said he was not involved in the actual abduction or murder.

She said Rush related details of throwing the body into the river and burying a bag of jewelry by using a small military shovel from the trunk of the car.

Investigating officers told The Index that the suspect vehicle was crushed and sent to a smelter where it was melted down.

The abduction occurred about 10 p.m. Saturday, January 19, 1991. Mrs. Darby had phoned her son Waylon and asked him to come to the store because a strange man was outside. When her son arrived a few minutes later, she was gone, but her purse and her jacket were still at the store.

A medical examiner had concluded that the victim was shot above the right ear from behind and then shot later in the back of the head.

After Thursday's hearing, Judge Bennett bound the two suspects over for arraignment in circuit court where they will be tried later.

They are being held without bond. Chaney has been held in the Morgan County Jail and Rush in the Camden County Jail. They were charged with the Darby murder May 1 after a four-year investigation involving several law enforcement agencies including the Hickory County Sheriff's Department.

Hickory County Sheriff Ray Tipton said the two had been suspects in the case since the investigation began. The investigation into a third suspect is continuing.

Fireworks will be held July 1, COC head says

The July 1 fireworks display at the Pomme de Terre Dam will be held, come holiday or high water, according to Tony Foster, president of the area Chamber of Commerce.

Foster said that high lake levels are quite likely to have the usual fireworks shooting place under water, but plans have been made to have the fireworks shot from another nearby location. The fireworks are usually shot from an island at the confluence of the Pomme de Terre and Lindley arms of the lake.

Foster said he has been working with Corps Project Manager Jim Davis to prepare an alternative shooting location that will still be visible from around the dam area as

in past years.

Two years ago the fireworks were cancelled during the fourth of July holiday because of the high water level. The cancellation brought numerous complaints because the holiday weather appeared to be perfect for the fireworks display.

The fireworks were shot during the labor day holiday that year because no alternative shooting location had been selected. The lake level set a record high in 1993 at 864, reached 863 last year, and has been near 863 this week.

"The only thing that's going to stop us this year is a thunderstorm at that time," Foster says.

Fair this weekend

With exhibits, contests, carnival

The Hickory County Fair will feature three days of activities and entertainment starting Thursday, June 15.

After Thursday's check-in of early house exhibits from 6-8 p.m., events will begin with the Hickory County Farm Expo and carnival all

noon, children's games and kids' dog show at 10:30 a.m., greased pig scramble at 11 a.m., beef show at 1 p.m., and antique tractor pull at 6 p.m.

The Hickory County Farm Expo portion of the fair will be sponsored by the Hickory County Soil and