

Half-brothers confessed, inmate says

The Associated Press

CAMDENTON — Two men charged with abducting and killing a Macks Creek convenience store clerk in 1991 admitted their guilt, a fellow Camden County Jail prisoner says.

Tim McQueen testified at a hearing for Marvin Chaney, 34, and Jess Rush, 20, that the half-brothers from Macks Creek told him about their involvement in the slaying of Trudy Darby.

Darby, 42, was kidnapped on Jan. 19, 1991, after phoning her son to ask him to come to the store because a strange man was outside. She was gone when he arrived, and her nude body was found in the Little Niangua River in Hickory County two days later.

McQueen told Associate Circuit Judge Jack Bennett on Thursday that he spoke with Rush and Chaney while all three were held in the county jail. McQueen is serving a 15-year sentence for throwing his wife off a cliff at Ha Ha Tonka State Park.

Chaney "told me they had kidnapped Trudy and had taken her to a barn and raped her," McQueen testified. "(Chaney) said there were three people."

Only Rush and Chaney, who were arrested last month, have been charged in the murder.

Chaney said he shot Darby in the head, put her body in a car and drove to the river, where he shot her a second time, McQueen testified.

Rush told him essentially the same story on a separate occasion, McQueen said.

After the hearing, the two suspects were bound over for arraignment Monday in circuit court.