

# Indictments Near - Teenagers Deaths

By CAMELIA FOSTER

The November-December term of the McLennan County grand jury convened at 9 a.m. Thursday. They are expected to hear evidence from the District Attorney's office concerning the three teenagers stabbed to death on July 13, 1982.

Dennis Green, first assistant district attorney, said Thursday morning he thought the district attorney would start presenting the case to the grand jury Friday morning.

Rumors, circulating since last spring, have indicated the district attorney's office was near to having indictments in the murders but last week it was learned they would be going before the grand jury this week.

Deeb, 24, former co-owner of the Rainbow Grocery, 1423 Herring across the street from the Methodist Home where two of the teenagers had lived, was arrested in Dallas Monday and returned to McLennan County Jail. Deeb is a Jordanian national.

Deeb was arrested in September, 1982 and charged with the death of Kenneth Franks, 19, one of the teenagers. His bond was set at \$100,000 in 1982 and Justice of the Peace John Cabaniss set his bond at \$250,000 on Monday for the murder of Franks, following his second arrest.

Deeb was given a polygraph test in September, 1982 which indicated he did not know Franks nor anything about the crime.

Administrative Assistant to DA Vic Feazell, John Ben Sutter, said this week, "we always kept a watchful eye on Deeb after the moved to Dallas and the Dallas Police Department and District Attorney kept us informed."

Raylene Rice and Jim Montgomery both 17 and from Waxahachie, were also killed around midnight on the same night. All three victims were tied and gagged and had been stabbed repeatedly. Their bodies were found July 14, by two young men looking for a place to fish.

Three other suspects in the case will also be brought before the grand jury for indictments. One of them is in McLennan County Jail having been sentenced to seven years after pleading guilty to aggravated sexual abuse. He has filed a writ to be returned to the Texas Department of Corrections, but sources say he maybe questioned by the grand jury.

One of the suspects is now at TDC serving a 90-year sentence following conviction on March 21 in 54th District Court on a charge of aggravated sexual abuse. The same incident the first suspect plead guilty to in December, 1982.

The third suspect is a brother of the first suspect who is in McLennan County Jail. He is currently in Nueces County Jail in Corpus Christi under a \$25,000 bond charged with robbery.

Sutter said Wednesday, when Feazell came into office in January there was 'virtually no case.'

"We still have no assurance the grand jury will return any indictments, but we think we have a case," Sutter said.

"The district attorney has invested a lot of time, effort, manpower and money into the investigation. We have been out of state a couple of times following leads and we feel our evidence is strong," Sutter stated.

"There has been a new aura of cooperation among all the law enforcement agencies to solve this case," Sutter said.

"We started with nothing and we have found pieces literally in the dark and fit them together."

Special Crimes Prosecutor, Ned Butler, with the DA's office, has worked on the case continually since the Hilton murder trial was held.

McLennan County Sheriff Jack Harwell, Waco Police Sgt. Dennis Baier and Truman Simons, sheriff's deputy, took Deeb into custody in Dallas Monday afternoon and transferred him to Waco after he was arraigned in Dallas County Jail.

The Waco Police Department handled the investigation until Feazell took office in January and then two Waco Police detectives, Dennis Baier and Ramon Salinas, were assigned to work with the DA's office, after they took over the case.

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## Lower Deeb Bond Request

Wm. L. Garrett, Dallas attorney, filed a writ Thursday morning asking for Deeb's bond to be lowered to \$2,500.

In his petition for the lower bond, Garrett said, "Deeb has minimal financial resources and he can't raise the bail for the \$250,000 bond but could raise the bail needed for a bond of \$2,500."

A hearing on decreasing the bond will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in 54th District Court.