

COLEMAN 'S COMPANION CONVICTED

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CINCINNATI -- (AP) -- A jury Tuesday convicted Debra Brown in a beating death while another jury deliberated a murder charge against her companion, **Alton Coleman**, in their murder trials stemming from a seven-week crime spree across six Midwestern states last summer.

The Hamilton County Common Pleas Court jury deliberated 16 hours before finding Brown, 22, guilty in the slaying of a suburban Norwood woman and the beating of her husband.

ANOTHER JURY was deliberating identical charges in the same crimes against **Alton Coleman**, 29, who was put on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List as crimes were committed in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin in June and July.

In Michigan, they are suspected of kidnapping a Detroit woman June 24, beating and robbing a Dearborn Heights couple June 28, robbing two Detroit men June 30, and robbing and beating a Detroit couple July 2.

The couple, captured in Evanston, Ill., on July 20, faces another murder trial this summer in the death of a 15-year-old Cincinnati girl. They also are charged with burglary and murder in two deaths in Toledo, and they each face a murder charge in Lake County, Ind.

The pair have been sentenced to 20 years each in federal prison for the abduction of a Kentucky college professor in July.

BROWN and **Coleman**, both of Waukegan, Ill., were tried separately in Cincinnati for the July 13 beating death of Marlene Walters and the attack on her husband, Harry.

The jury convicted Brown of aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery. It decided against the death penalty.

Judge Fred Cartalano is to sentence Brown in two weeks.

Brown's attorney said in closing arguments Monday that **Coleman**, not Brown, was primarily responsible for the bludgeoning of Mrs. Walters, 44.

Coleman's jury went into deliberations Tuesday after defense attorney Peter Rosenwald said Brown, not **Coleman**, beat Mrs. Walters to death in the basement of the couples' home. Brown and **Coleman**, who consider themselves married under common law, had inquired at the home about a camper for sale.

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