

CYCLE CLUB PRESIDENT GUILTY IN TWO MURDERS

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, September 3, 1983

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Paul (Rocky) Dye, president of the **Forbidden Wheels motorcycle club**, was convicted Friday - a year and a day after his arrest -- for the execution-style murders of two women at the club's headquarters in Detroit.

A Recorder's Court jury of seven men and five women deliberated almost 11 hours over three days before finding Dye, 29, guilty of two counts of first-degree murder for the Aug. 29, 1982, murders of Donna Bartels, 22, and Glenda Collins, 27. Dye also was convicted of two counts of firearms violations.

The eight-day trial was the second time Dye faced the double murder charge. In March, a mistrial was declared when another Recorder's Court jury was unable to reach a verdict. The first jury reportedly deadlocked at 11-1 to convict Dye of the lesser charge of being an accessory to the murders after the fact.

"I had lost faith in the judicial system," said Frances Collins, mother of the one of the victims, as she thanked assistant prosecutor Walter Piszczatowski, who tried the case. "This makes me believe it again."

A woman juror, as she left the court room, clasped Mrs. Collins' hand, saying: "I hope we did you justice. There's nothing more we could do."

DYE, A Center Line carpenter, faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. Judge Michael Sapala set a Sept. 16 sentencing date.

The second trial was held without the three key prosecution witnesses. The three, former club members, disappeared, Judge Sapala said, after Dye was freed earlier this summer on a \$100,000 bond. Investigators claim the three feared retribution for their testimony.

Over the strenuous objections of defense attorney Bruce Morrow, three assistant prosecutors assumed the roles of the missing witnesses and read testimony from the first trial to the second jury.

Morrow said he would appeal, claiming that Sapala should have forced the prosecution to make a greater effort to find the missing witnesses.

In August 1982, the victims, who had been shot in the head at point-blank range, were found wrapped in sleeping bags and comforters next to a weed-filled vacant lot at Lahser and Dolson.

The killings were linked to the motorcycle group when arson investigators searched the clubhouse on Fenkell for clues in the firebombing of the home of the club's former president, William (Mr. Boo) Scherra.

Investigators found blood and pieces of skull splattered on the floor and ceiling and inside trash cans.

After being promised immunity, the three club members -- Bruce (Tumbleweed) Seidell, former president James (Skeeter) Dawson and Steven (Smooch) Stever -- testified in the first trial that Dye killed the women because "they were messing with him" by refusing sexual advances.

Dye testified that Seidell killed the women because they overheard Dawson and Stever confess to the firebombing.

Edition: STATE EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Record Number: 8302260507

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