

Thursday, May 31, 1984

7th juror chosen for Spence trial

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A 27-year-old credit manager at Nash-Robinson & Co. Wholesalers on Wednesday became the seventh juror selected in the capital murder trial of David Wayne Spence.

Proceedings in 54th State District Court have slowed considerably this week from the pace established during the first week of jury selection, but court officials seem pleased so far with the number of jurors selected.

While three jurors have been chosen since jury selection resumed on Tuesday after the Memorial Day break, only six prospective jurors have been questioned during the last two days by court-appointed defense attorneys Russ Hunt and Hayes Fuller and prosecutors Vic Feazell and Ned Butler.

Other jurors selected include a 63-year-old Baylor University psychology professor; a 21-year-old substitute teacher; a 35-year-old staff recruiter at Texas State Technical Institute; a 58-year-old registered nurse at the Waco Veterans Administration Medical Center; a 47-year-old Hewitt city secretary; and a 58-year-old retired U.S. Air Force major.

Three people were questioned on Wednesday, including a 25-year-old secretary at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, who was dismissed by the state, and a 55-year-old principal at Provident Heights Elementary School, who was struck by the defense.

Spence, 25, who is charged with three counts of capital murder in the July 1982 Lake Waco triple homicide, will be tried first for the death of Jill Montgomery, 17, of Waxahachie.

Raylene Rice, 17, of Waxahachie and Kenneth Franks, 18, of Waco, also were killed in the brutal slaying.

Feazell and Butler have used three of their 15 peremptory strikes to dismiss jurors. Hunt and Fuller have not used any of their allotted juror challenges.