

PRESS CLIPS



718 WEST 5th ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 PHONE 477-6753

Tribune-Herald
Waco, Texas

MAR 21 1988

Jury selection begins Tuesday in Graf capital murder trial

By TOMMY WITHERSPOON
Tribune-Herald staff writer

Jury selection in the capital murder trial of Edward E. Graf Jr. will begin Tuesday in Waco's 54th State District Court.

Graf, 36, is charged with two counts of capital murder in the August 1986 arson deaths of his two stepsons, Joby, 9, and Jason, 8. The boys were found dead inside a burned shed behind Graf's former residence at 505 Angel Fire Drive in Hewitt.

An autopsy revealed the boys were alive when the fire, which was determined to be arson, was set.

About 350 potential jurors will report to court Tuesday morning to fill out questionnaires. Prospective jurors then will be assigned dates to return to

court to be questioned individually on their beliefs about the death penalty and their knowledge of the case, potential witnesses, attorneys involved in the case and their abilities to follow instructions from the court.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell, who with Karen Amos and Mark Jaynes will prosecute the case, said individual questioning of jurors should begin Wednesday morning. Jury selection in capital murder cases usually takes about three weeks, Feazell said.

Prosecutors have submitted a list of about 45 potential witnesses to the court and expect prosecution testimony to take about two weeks, Feazell said.

Attorneys Charles M. McDonald and

Lynn Malone will represent Graf, who has been free on bond and working at a construction job in the McGregor area since his arrest in May 1987.

McDonald said last week that defense attorneys have no plans to file any last-minute motions in the case, including a change of venue motion in an attempt to move the trial from McLennan County.

He said defense testimony should take about 10 days.

An investigator with the state fire marshal's office, which cooperated with Hewitt police in the investigation, has said evidence indicates the boys were locked inside the shed when the fire was set. Reports showed the boys died of smoke inhalation and severe burns.