Garrison v. the People

The only clear-cut aspect of the conspiracy case against retired New Orleans Businessman Clay Shaw was the verdict. After pumping the case for two years in public and six weeks in the courtroom, District Attorney Jim Garrison got less than an hour of the jury's time in deliberation before they unanimously acquitted Shaw of plotting to kill President Kennedy. A less obsessed prosecutor might have reasoned from those circumstances that the jury believed he had no case. Not Big Jim. Said he: "The jury verdict simply indicates that the American people don't want to hear the truth."

With the public machinery for prosecution at his disposal, Garrison still has ample means to force his version of the truth into the limelight. Last week he began Round 2 of his increasingly fanatical fight by charging Shaw, 55, with two counts of perjury. Garrison claimed that Shaw had lied when he testified that he knew neither of the two alleged co-conspirators, Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie. This was the only point in the original case that Garrison could produce credible witnesses to substantiate, though it could prove nothing about a conspiracy. For Shaw, who says that he will have to come out of retirement to pay for his already fierce legal fees (estimated to be $100,000), it meant more lawyers, more fees and the possibility of another prison sentence to face—up to ten years on each count.

All Bull. Garrison also filed charges of perjury against Dean Andrews, the Runyonesque little lawyer who once claimed to have talked to a mysterious "Clay Bertrand" about defending Oswald. The D.A.'s accusation is somewhat stronger in Andrews' case—since he has told three official panels as many different tales, including one version (at Shaw's trial) calling the whole thing "bull." Garrison also charged a member of his own staff, a 32-year-old former school teacher named Tom Bethell, with surreptitiously slipping the defense a copy of the prosecution's trial plan. In fact, the defense team did manage to secure such an outline and used it to full advantage in gathering background on Garrison's witnesses.

There seemed to be no way of preventing Garrison from rehashing the Shaw case in court. Nor is he likely to jettison his whole investigation, which is largely bankrolled by a group of wealthy businessmen that melodramatically calls itself "Truth and Consequences." However, Garrison could get clipped several ways. Shaw has announced that he is considering legal action, which could be either against Garrison or his group of backers. The American Bar Association has hinted that it might want to investigate the D.A.'s "motives." Garrison's real test will take place outside the courtroom. He is up for reelection next November.

AP

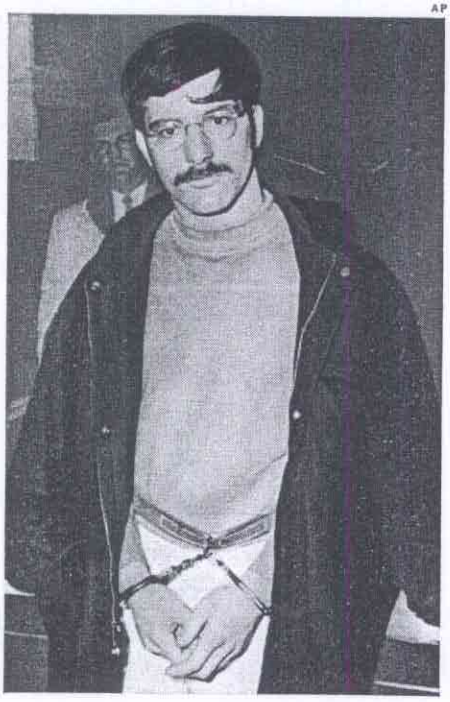
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GARRISON
Trying once more.

CRIME

Graves in the Dunes

The two girls had been to Provincetown, Mass., in the summertime, when its narrow streets were teeming with family vacationers and hippies. In January, they returned to the Cape Cod resort during a winter-quiet weekend. Mary Ann Wysocki, a college student, and Patricia Walsh, a teacher, both 23, checked in at a guesthouse run by Patricia Morton. That night they visited three Provincetown bars. At one called the Fo'cs'l, they met Antone Costa, 24, an unemployed handyman, amateur taxidermist and divorced father of three,

AP



SUSPECT ANTONE COSTA
Missing four hearts.

who was also staying at Mrs. Morton's. The girls checked out the next day and were never again seen alive.

When they failed to return to their homes in Providence, R.I., their parents alerted police and an all-points alarm went out. Soon after, police found the mutilated remains of an unidentified teen-age girl buried in a shallow grave in the tiny town of Truro, a desolate windswept strip of dunes and woods only eight miles from Provincetown. Then last week, about 300 yards away, they uncovered the two Providence girls and another unidentified teen-ager. All were similarly butchered.

Out of Gas. A routine entry in the Truro police blotter led to the first discovery. Checking out a resident's complaint, Police Chief Harold Berrio found an abandoned Volkswagen parked in a lonely wooded area known locally as a lovers' lane. On the windshield was a handwritten note explaining that the driver had run out of gas and would return. A few days later, the Teletype clattered the story of the missing girls and gave the registration number of their car; it matched the number that Berrio had dutifully recorded. The car belonged to Patricia Walsh, but when Truro police went back to look for it, the VW was gone.

They began probing the ground near where the car had been parked. In the first grave, they found a head wrapped in a plastic bag and a torso, with apparent stab wounds, swathed in cloth. Further searching turned up parts of the three other bodies. It appeared that the girls had been killed before dismemberment. An ax or cleaver had been used for the grotesque operations. All, apparently, were nude at death, and there were teeth marks on the bodies. An autopsy showed that one of the two teen-agers' bodies had been buried for eight or nine months, the other as long as a year. One of the Providence girls had apparently tried to flee. Police found her handbag not far from the burial ground.

In Burlington, Vt., police spotted the missing blue Volkswagen in a local garage. The owner said that it had been left by a man named Costa, who told him that he would park it there for a month. When police questioned Antone Costa about the car, he produced a bill of sale, purportedly drawn up by Patricia Walsh. He was kept under surveillance, and last week the wanderer —who sports a neatly trimmed mustache, sideburns and "granny" glasses —was arrested in Boston. He was taken to Provincetown district court, where he pleaded innocent to the charge of murdering the two Rhode Island girls. He was then sent for observation to the state hospital at Bridgewater, Mass.

Police continued their search, fearing that they might find in the Truro woods the bodies of several Cape Cod girls who have been reported missing. In none of the random graves could they find any of the four girls' hearts.