ed.

Witness Puts Klansman at Death Scene

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) —Testimony continues for the second day today in the trial of William T. Smith, 32, of Laurel, charged with murder in the 1966 firebomb death of Negro leader Vernon Dahmer.

Smith is one of 13 Jones County men, identified as Ku Klux Klan members, accused by the state in Dahmer's slaying.

DAHMER WAS fatally injured Jan. 10, 1966, when his home and store were destroyed by flames in a predawn firebombing attack.

Billy Roy Pitts of Laurel testified yesterday that Smith was one of an eight-man Klan detail assigned to firebomb Dahmer's place.

Pitts said Smith's job was to shoot out the picture window in the front of the home so that another Klansman could toss in gasoline-filled jugs to be ignited.

HE SAID the two cars used in the raid were supposed to keep their lights off until they were away from the area, but Smith became confused when lights went on in one and he started firing at it with a shotgun. No one was injured in the car.

Pitts, who was the key state witness in three previous trials in the Dahmer case, has already been sentenced to life on a murder charge in the case.

T. Webber Rogers of Seminary testified that he was a former member of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and that he saw Smith at a KKK meeting where plans for the Dahmer raid were discussed.

ROGERS SAID the meeting was held on the farm of Lawrence Byrd near Laurel in December 1965.

Dahmer's widow also testified for the fourth time in the series of trials. She said she did not see who attacked the house.

Mrs. Dahmer testified that she was awakened by the blowing of a horn in the carport. She said that within a matter of minutes the front portion of the house was engulfed in flame and smoke.