

The Autopsies

Doctor's Story At Angela Trial

By Carolyn Anspacher

A Marin county pathologist charted a map of death yesterday during the Angela Davis murder-kidnap-conspiracy trial in San Jose.

It was Dr. John Manwaring of San Rafael who performed the autopsies on Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, Jonathan Jackson and San Quentin convicts James McClain and William Christmas about five hours after the Marin county Civic Center escape attempt and shooting on Aug. 7, 1970.

Miss Davis is charged with providing Jackson with the guns he used to take over Judge Haley's courtroom for the escape attempt.

AUTOPSIES

Manwaring testified he did the autopsies in Keaton's Mortuary in San Rafael — first Judge Haley, then Jackson, then Christmas and finally McClain. It took him about four hours.

Speaking almost as casually as if he were recapitulating a bridge hand, Manwaring testified that Judge Haley suffered two wounds — one a shotgun blast that entered his head just above the jaw, shredding his face, mouth and tongue, shattering his skull.

This wound, he said, was "lethal — there's no question of that" and caused instantaneous unconsciousness.

The pathologist said he re-

covered some pellets — ("they were all over the place") and a plastic capsule that held the shot.

CHEST

There was a second wound high on the leftside of Judge Haley's chest, Manwaring testified. A single slug passed through the upper right lung and lodged in a vertebra between the two shoulder blades.

"The only organ this slug passed through," Manwaring testified, "was the right lung, but it left two quarts of blood in the chest cavity."

"Was it lethal?" asked Assistant Attorney General Albert Harris Jr.

"It could have been, but not necessarily," Manwaring said.

Under cross examination the pathologist was unable to tell which of the two wounds was inflicted first on the jurist — the head wound or the chest wound.

The bullet that killed convict Christmas, Manwaring said, entered his lower left shoulder blade, ripped through both lungs, tore his heart and exited at the right nipple.

Manwaring acknowledged that initially he had transposed the entrance and exit wounds in his grand jury testimony.

He said he had not seen Christmas' clothing until nearly a year after the autopsy, and only then found the small round penetrating hole with its characteristic lubricant marks.

ERROR

This same error also marked his autopsy conclusions with young Jackson, he said. After his grand jury testimony, and after examining Jackson's clothing, he determined that the fatal bullet had entered just back of his left arm and passed through the left lung, the aorta and the right lung before exiting at the right shoulder, instead of vice versa.

On Jackson's body, he said, he also found two additional superficial wounds, small fragments in the right upper abdomen and the left thigh.

Manwaring said that both Christmas and Jackson, after having been shot, could have functioned "almost as normal" for about 20 seconds before lapsing into unconsciousness.

BULLETS

Convict McClain, the pathologist said, had several different kinds of wounds made by different types of bullets. The fatal bullet coursed almost in a straight line from low on the left side of his back upward to his right shoulder, fragmenting ribs that tore through the lungs, and then shattered when it hit the thoracic vertebra.

In cross examining Manwaring, defense attorney Howard Moore Jr. sought to persuade him to say that Jackson and McClain had been shot and killed by San Quentin Correctional Officer John Matthews, who had fired at the van containing the escapers and their hostages from a distance of 6½ or seven yards.

The doctor said it was "possible," but it was also "possible" Jackson and McClain had been shot by a tall man in the rear of the van. Marin Assistant District Attorney Gary Thomas, a hostage wounded and permanently crippled in the gunfire, was six feet two inches tall has testified that he grabbed a revolver from Jackson's hand and fired, hitting Jackson in the back and McClain in the back.