

S.F. Trial for Magee Next

SF Examiner

By Dexter Waugh

With the acquittal of Angela Davis on all counts in the Marin County Civic Center shootout, the focus shifts to her former co-defendant, Ruchell Magee.

Magee, accused of being the man who pulled the trigger on the late Judge Harold Haley, recently won a change of venue to San Francisco. His trial will probably begin later this year.

But Magee is only the latest in a long line of people who have been entangled in the chain of tragic events which occurred after three brawling black convicts were fatally shot by a white guard in the yard at Soledad Prison on Jan. 13, 1970.

Since then, 11 more have died, bringing the total to 14.

The long list of events and casualties related to the Angela Davis case would include:

- Soledad Prison Guard John V. Mills, killed Jan. 16, 1970, presumably in retribution for the shooting, three days earlier, of the three inmates: W. D. Nolen, Cleveland Edwards, and Alvin Miller. (Deaths one, two, three and four.)

- A few days later, George Jackson, John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, Soledad inmates, are charged with Mills' murder.

- Marin Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, Jonathan Jackson, and convicts William Christmas and James D. McClain, killed during the Aug. 7, 1970 Marin shootout for which Miss Davis was charged with

murder, kidnap and conspiracy. (Deaths five, six, seven and eight.)

During her trial, it was alleged unsuccessfully by the prosecution that Miss Davis, who was active in the Soledad Brothers' defense committee, helped mastermind the Marin escape attempt as a plot to free Jackson, Clutchette and Drumgo.

- George Jackson is killed Aug. 21, 1970, during an alleged escape attempt at San Quentin. Three prison guards — Jere Graham, Frank P. DeLeon, and Paul Krasenes — and two other inmates — John Lynn and Ronald L. Kane — are also killed. (Deaths nine, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.)

- The two surviving Soledad inmates charged with Jackson are acquitted March 27, 1972.

- June 4, 1972: Angela Davis acquitted. Enter Ruchell Magee.

Magee, the San Quentin

convict who was in the Marin courtroom when young Jonathan Jackson arrived loaded with guns, is accused of firing the shotgun that killed Judge Haley, as well as conspiracy to free the Soledad Brothers, kidnaping for extortion, and assault by a life term.

Magee's trial, which was separated from Miss Davis' a year ago, is on Thursday's court calendar for setting of a date to begin hearings on pretrial motions. Unless there is another change of venue, the trial will be held in San Francisco Superior Court.

Magee is regarded by judges as a holy terror in the courtroom, but Tulare County jurist Leonard Ginsberg, sitting in Marin County, last March 21 approved Magee's motion to act as his own attorney, "as long as he does not disrupt the proceedings."

Robert Carrow was appointed co-counsel at Magee's request.

Carrow, a Novato attorney and former mayor of that city, said yesterday Miss Davis' acquittal would have, perhaps, an "educational" effect on Magee's pending trial, "to the extent that it should be some evidence to the general public of the inclination of the state to overstate, overcharge and overpress."