

Panther Rites for

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SP EXA

By Don Martinez

George Jackson, attired in the dress uniform of the Black Panther Party, was to be buried early this morning in a small cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Ill., while reverberations from last week's bloody, aborted escape attempt from San Quentin Prison still shook the nation.

The body of the 30 year old Jackson, who died with five others in the desperate escape try he is accused of having led on Aug. 21, was flown from San Francisco International Airport at 1 a.m. to a final resting place alongside his younger brother, Jonathan, 17.

The younger Jackson died last August in the Marin Civic Center shootout.

Oakland Rites

Yesterday a crowd of more than 2000 gathered around St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Oakland to pay tribute to their fallen "brother."

A similar ceremony had been held at the same small West Oakland church on Aug. 16, 1970, for Jonathan.

Hushed and orderly, the crowd of black and white, young and old supporters surged forward on first seeing the hearse bearing Jackson's coffin draped with a Black Panther flag.

An honor guard of bereted Black Panthers snapped to

attention in military precision and carried the oak casket into the church.

Strains from the Negro spiritual, "I Wish I Knew What It Feels To Be Free," were piped to the crowd through two loudspeakers above the church's entrance as the casket was carried inside.

Some 200 close friends and members of the Jackson family were seated shortly before the hearse arrived.

Attorneys

Included in the crowd were veteran Panther attorneys Charles R. Garry, Fay Stender and John Thorne. Thorne defended Jackson as one of the "Soledad Brothers" on charges of killing a guard in Soledad Prison in 1970.

Radical Berkeley City Councilman D'Army Bailey also attended.

Words of support for "the revolutionary fight against all oppressors" were offered by Black Panthers Huey P. Newton, minister of defense; Bobby Seale, party chairman; Masai Hewitt, education minister; and the Rev. Earl Neil, official Black Panther spiritual leader and rector of the church at 2624 West Street.

Honorary pallbearers listed on a program included Jonathan Jackson and four of George Jackson's fellow inmates: Ruchell Magee, the

two remaining Soledad Brothers, Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette, and Hugo Pinell, "plus all revolutionary brothers in the prison camps across America."

Just before eulogies were offered, the crowd outside rushed to the entrance in a futile attempt to get in.

Mrs. Georgia Jackson, mother of the slain convict, appeared at a window and shouted to the disappointed supporters: "The people won't give us a revolutionary church big enough — we are pleased you are here, but please step back." The crowd obeyed.

Newton referred to Jackson as "a hero." "We should raise our children to fight for freedom the way George did," Newton said, adding, "They cannot kill all of us like they did George — we'll advance wave upon wave to slit every throat that threatens our lives and freedom."

Breakout Victims

Jackson was shot to death in the breakout attempt. Also killed, most by throat slashing, were guards Sgt. Jere Graham, 39, Frank P. DeLeon, 44, Paul Krasner, 52, and inmates John Lynn, 39, and Ronald L. Kane, 28.

Seale read letters of tribute from Congressman Ronald V.

Delums, Angela Davis and imprisoned Black Panther chief of staff David Hilliard.

Jackson was dressed in the official uniform of a militant group: a black beret, black polished calf leather jacket, a sky blue turtle neck sweater and black trousers.

Jackson

A police spokesman said before the services, "We are aware of the ceremony and we are going to stay out of the area, being careful not to create any incident — but we'll be ready in case of trouble."

There was no trouble.



Under Black Panther banner, casket bearing George Jackson is carried from St. Augustine's Church