

Addict's Girl Friends Differ About Killing

**Dead Man Made No Move
Says 15-Year-Old, but
14-Year-Old Swears He
Started at Ragsdale**

Both Sides Close

**Wife Testifies Deputy
Game Warden Had No
Gun When Left Home**

Miss Floy Prigmore, 15, and her chum Miss Cornelia (Babe) Pate, 14, friends of Jimmie Ragsdale, 37, dope addict and Federal convict on trial for murder, parted ways in the courtroom Wednesday so far as their versions were concerned of the killing of E. W. Isom, Hebron farmer and deputy game warden, by Ragsdale Jan. 29.

The two girls, who were in the D. & D. Drugstore, Akard and Powhattan, more than two hours before the slaying, and were eyewitnesses, offered divergent stories of the events leading up to the killing and the manner in which Isom met his death. Miss Prigmore was a State witness, and Miss Pate was reluctantly presented by the defense.

Testimony was completed late Wednesday afternoon in the Ragsdale trial. Judge Grover Adams recessed Criminal District Court until 9 a. m. Thursday, when the charge will be delivered to the jury, and argument will begin.

Ragsdale Takes Stand.

Ragsdale testified in his own behalf in the morning, saying that Isom attacked him and that he shot him because he was in fear of his life. Ragsdale, a veteran of the World War, said he acquired the dope habit to ease his sufferings from wounds and gas received during the war. He denied he had ever been of unsound mind, although records were introduced showing he was adjudged insane in Probate Court here, and later judged sane. Other witnesses testified of insanity in the family.

Miss Prigmore testified she went to the D. & D. drugstore about 2 p. m. the day of the killing with Babe

Murder Trial

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

Pate. While seated at a table with Buddy Hagan, a Federal convict friend of Ragsdale who testified Tuesday, the girls were approached by Isom, who asked if he could sit down. He bought them a bottle of beer, which they split, Miss Prigmore said, and drank a bottle himself. Buddy Hagan was drinking whisky. Babe Pate "went with" Hagan, the witness said. "We sat there two and one-half hours talking," Miss Prigmore said. "During this time Isom had nothing to say to Ragsdale and Ragsdale did not come near us and said nothing to Isom that I heard. I was gone five minutes and came back just before the trouble started.

Describes Shooting.

Miss Prigmore saw Ragsdale go behind the drugstore and get a gun shortly before the shooting. The witness said Isom remarked to her that Ragsdale looked like a ladies' man, but that Ragsdale didn't hear the remark. Isom said nothing about jumping on Ragsdale, she declared.

"Jimmie Ragsdale was in the telephone booth when I came back after being gone five minutes," Miss Prigmore said. "The others were at the table. Isom asked Buddy what business he was in, and he said he worked for Jimmie, driving a truck. Isom said he might want to hire him, and Jimmie walked up and said:

"What the hell do you care what kind of business we're in?"

"Isom made no reply, and I asked Jimmie what he was going to do. He said, 'Wait and find out.' Ragsdale fired and I ran out of the store at the first shot."

Miss Prigmore admitted she had heard the D&D drug store referred to as meaning "Drunkards and Dope-heads."

Unarmed, Wife Says.

Mrs. E. W. Isom, widow of the slain man, testified her husband had farmed near Hebron five years and that when he left home the morning of the killing he was unarmed.

Miss Pate, whose friends call her Babe, threw away her chewing gum as she went on the witness stand. Maury Hughes, one of the defense attorneys, tendered her to the State, remarking she was an eyewitness.

"This young lady left the scene of the crime with Buddy Hagan," responded Assistant District Attorney Andrew J. Priest. "We don't want her. We tender her back to you."

Hughes instructed the girl to tell the jury what happened, but the State objected to her testifying without being questioned. Judge Adams sustained the objection.

Miss Pate said she went to the D&D drug store frequently with Floy Prigmore and that they were friends of Proprietor Hardin.

"Shortly after we sat down, Isom came over and asked me to play the music box for him," Miss Pate testified. "He sat down with us, and then called me over to his table, where he asked me if my mother and father allowed me to go with boy friends. I told him no and he wanted to know where I lived.

Says Pretty Drunk.

"Isom came over then and sat at

our table, with Floy, myself and Buddy Hagan, and I sat in Floy's lap to make room for him." Miss Pate resumed. "Floy and I split a bottle of beer and then the man with Isom, whom he said was his cousin, came over. He was drunk and Isom acted pretty drunk, too.

"Isom's friend leaned up and blew his breath in my face and I told him not to do it. He said he would slap me when I pushed his hands away and Isom said if I slapped his friend he would slap me.

"Isom looked over at Jimmie Ragsdale, who was at the soda fountain, and asked who he was. We told him and he remarked:

"He must be a ladies' man."

"Isom kept talking and said he'd cleaned out worse joints than this one. He told his cousin there might be trouble in a few minutes and his cousin patted his pocket and said: 'This can take care of it.'

"Jimmy Ragsdale went to the telephone booth and when he came out Buddy Hagan talked to him. When Buddy came back Isom asked him what business he and Ragsdale were in and Buddy told him he drove a truck.

Started Toward Ragsdale.

"Isom got up about this time and went toward Jimmy. Jimmy backed off and shot once in the air. Isom hit at him and Jimmy fired again and they started struggling. Isom had Jimmy over the soda fountain and both fell to the floor."

Miss Pate said she went with Buddy Hagan immediately after the shooting to Ragsdale's apartment, sitting in a taxi in front of the place for five minutes while Hagan went inside. She went on home when Hagan did not reappear.

The witness said that Hardy Sullivan was in the drugstore and saw the affair but the State brought out that Sullivan was in Florida and could not be obtained as a witness.

On cross examination Miss Pate admitted sending a note to Hagan when Hagan was in jail, giving Ragsdale chewing gum in the courtroom and spending much time with Ragsdale's wife. Isom's cousin, she said, staggered out of the drugstore before the shooting. She admitted Isom was unarmed. She declared Ragsdale didn't have on a coat at the time of the shooting. Other witnesses, including Miss Prigmore, testified Ragsdale wore a coat and pulled the gun from under it.

Both sides closed after W. A. McLaughlin, grand jury reporter, identified part of Miss Pate's testimony before that body, which Priest endeavored to use to impeach her.