

Addict Given 99 Years for Death of Isom

Notice of Appeal Filed
After Verdict Read
Following Three Hours
Deliberation of Jury

Self-Defense Plea

Will Serve State Term
After Finishing Five-
Year Federal Sentence

Jimmie Ragsdale, 37, dope addict and Federal convict, was given ninety-nine years in the penitentiary for the murder of E. W. Isom, Hebron, Denton County farmer and deputy game warden, by a jury in Judge Grover Adams' Criminal District Court Thursday.

The jury reached its verdict within three hours after receiving the case late in the afternoon. None of the defendants' relatives was present and only a few spectators were in the courtroom.

Notice of appeal was given to be filed Friday. Dean Gauldin, former Assistant District Attorney, and one of the defense attorneys, announced.

Isom was shot and killed by Ragsdale at the D. & D. Drugstore, Powhatan and Akard, the afternoon of Jan. 29. The defendant claimed he acted in self-defense. State witnesses testified that Ragsdale was the aggressor and that Isom made no move toward Ragsdale and was unarmed.

Issue of Insanity.

That Ragsdale is of unsound mind also was argued by defense attorneys but the defendant denied on the witness stand that he is insane or ever has been. He was adjudged insane in Probate Court some time ago but later declared sane. Ragsdale, a World War veteran, said he acquired the narcotic habit to relieve suffering from wounds received in the war.

Witnesses of the killing and events leading up to it gave conflicting testimony. J. L. Hardin, proprietor, D&D Drugstore, said the defendant attacked the deputy game warden. Buddy Hagan, in the county jail waiting to be taken to Leavenworth penitentiary on a narcotic conviction, testified that

See ADDICT on Page 14.

Addict

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

Ragsdale shot Isom in a brawl started by Isom. Two young girl friends of the defendant gave conflicting stories of the affair.

Serves United States Term First.

Ragsdale is under a five-year Federal sentence and will be taken to Leavenworth in a few days, Assistant District Attorney Priest said. He will serve his Federal sentence first because he was tried first in the Federal court, Mr. Priest explained. The Federal authorities will not hold him in jail here pending the outcome of an appeal from the ninety-nine-year sentence, Mr. Priest stated. As soon as Ragsdale is released from the Federal penitentiary, he will be turned over to the State authorities to begin serving his ninety-nine-year sentence.

The ninety-nine-year sentence assessed against Ragsdale was the seventh case in which District Attorney Andrew Patton and his staff have obtained verdicts of this term of years or of death. The record includes a death penalty assessed against Albert Lee Hemphill, Negro, for murder of F. P. Gandolfo, Italian grocer; Otis Sims, Negro, life, for the same offense; Luther Moroney, Negro, ninety-nine years for burglary with attempt to rape; J. D. Brewer, Negro, ninety-nine years for murder of a negro woman; Spike Lake, ninety-nine years for robbery with firearms; Earnest James Clark, murder of Pauline Smith.

Mr. Priest participated in the prosecution of all of these cases except that of Moroney. District Attorney Patton headed the prosecution staff in several of the cases in which heavy sentences were imposed.