

Tape Recorded Confession Entered In Geisler Trial

The tape-recorded "confession" of Laval Lloyd Geisler, 33, charged with first-degree murder, was admitted at a state's exhibit late Wednesday at the end of the Geisler trial's third day.

Geisler is charged in a grand jury indictment with killing his 31-year-old wife, Barbara Mae Geisler, by shooting her with an 8 mm. rifle, Jan. 29.

Circuit Judge Charles S. Woodrich's decision to overrule a defense attorneys' motion to not admit the recording came after Geisler himself took the stand to testify that he had not been made aware of his rights to counsel before making the statement on the recorder the night of his wife's death.

Geisler told the court that he was not aware of the fact that he didn't have to answer the questions posed to him by Deputy Dist. Atty. Don M. Sanders, Sheriff Ira C. Byrd and Deputy Sheriff Larry M. Wright, Dist. Atty. Robert M. Stullis asked Geisler if he had voluntarily signed a typewritten copy of the "confession" made on tape recording and he said that he had. Judge Woodrich stated that he based his order on previous rulings of the state supreme court in similar cases.

Caley Speaks
Defense attorney Eldon Caley presented the defense's opening statement Wednesday morning after Deputy Dist. Atty. Don M. Sanders had outlined the proposed testimony to be offered by the state.

Caley told the court that the real issue in the case narrowed down to Geisler's state of mind at the time of the shooting. Caley indicated that the defense would try to show that the defendant on the part of Mrs. Geisler was the reason for Geisler's being mentally "upset" at the time.

Caley reviewed the expected testimony dealing with the Geislers' marriage and its recent development in such a way that confusion and despair "snowballed" in Geisler's mind so that the defendant felt "that she had him where she wanted him." Caley touched on events of the two days preceding Mrs. Geisler's death, saying that testimony would show Geisler's utmost concern for his children and their welfare.

Geisler Moves
At various times while Caley projected the forthcoming defense case and touched on the subject of Geisler's family, the defendant placed his hand over his face and at one point took out a handkerchief and wiped tears from his eyes.

During the afternoon session, when the state's witnesses began to testify, he appeared more composed and observed the witnesses while they testified.

Neighbors Testify
Mrs. Max (Cozette) Gano, a neighbor of the Geislers, was the first witness to be called, taking the stand following the noon recess.

Mrs. Gano told the court that she had seen Mrs. Geisler only "three or four times" during the year. She said that she went over to visit Mrs. Geisler the night of the shooting because she had learned that Gregory, the youngest son, had received injuries in an accident. She testified that Mrs. Geisler seemed "terribly nervous and upset" and that Geisler had said in the living room with the two of them and the child during her hour long call from a "little after 7 to a little after 8 p.m. 'He was awfully quiet,' she said.

When she left to go home, Mrs. Gano said, Mrs. Geisler accompanied her to the front door, said goodnight, and then turned to go back in. As she walked down the driveway to the street, Mrs. Gano explained, a newspaper boy came riding up on his bicycle. She added that Mrs. Geisler told him to come back later for his money.

As she reached the street, she said, she heard a shot ring out and then Geisler appeared in the door with the gun and told her to "call the sheriff."

Mrs. Gano testified that she ran next door to the Patrick Martin residence where Mrs. Martin's son, Paul Fitzgerald, called the sheriff's office. In answer to defense attorney Donald S. Kelley's question, Mrs. Gano testified that Geisler had left the living room more than once during her visit with Mrs. Geisler, going once to the bathroom and the second time to the kitchen.

"Max, I Shot Barbara"

Max Gano was the second witness called by the state. He testified that Geisler had come to his house shortly after 8 p.m. and asked him "to dress and come over to the house." Gano said that he found Geisler on the telephone when he walked in the back door of the house and that Geisler told him, "Max, I shot Barbara."

Gano added that he saw Mrs. Geisler on the floor and the rifle lying on a table. He testified that he picked the rifle up, laid it on a davenport and covered it with a blanket. Gano further testified that after Undersheriff Carl Smith arrived that Geisler "went to pieces" and cried.

The third witness was Larry Lillard, who stated he was the Oregonian paper boy Mrs. Geisler had told to come back for his money. He testified that after Mrs. Geisler had gone into the house that he heard the shot, saw sparks and heard Mrs. Geisler scream. He stated that he ran to the door just as Geisler appeared with the rifle and told Mrs. Gano to summon the sheriff.

Lillard testified that he saw Geisler pick up the rifle and then he left.

Fitzgerald Calls
The fourth witness, Paul Fitzgerald, testified that he had telephoned the sheriff's office and met Undersheriff Carl Smith outside the Geisler residence. He told the court that Geisler said that three counts of murder were more than



GEISLER AND HIS LAWYERS confer during the trial Wednesday. The defendant was visibly moved during parts of the opening statements by both sides Wednesday morning. During testimony Wednesday afternoon he appeared more composed. Geisler was called to the stand briefly late Wednesday to testify on the admissibility of a tape recording of the state of a tape-recorded statement made by Geisler following his wife's death the night of Jan. 29.



THE DEFENSE talks over its case at a recess in the trial Wednesday afternoon. The two attorneys, Eldon Caley (right) and Donald S. Kelley (left), are defending Laval Lloyd Geisler, accused in a grand jury indictment of committing first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Jan. 29. (Pictures by Paul Jenkins).

being married to his wife for five years. He also stated that Geisler was crying during questioning by Undersheriff Carl Smith.

The next witness was Fitzgerald's step-father, Patrick Martin, next door neighbor to the Geislers. Martin stated to the court that he went to the Geisler house after the shooting and heard Geisler say that "it was just more than I could take," and "I should have done this five years ago."

Martin testified that Geisler was seated in a chair with his head bent over and crying while Undersheriff Carl Smith questioned him.

Undersheriff Carl Smith was the sixth witness for the state. He testified that he arrived at the Geisler home about 8:20 p.m. and was met by Paul Fitzgerald. Smith said that he saw Geisler talking on the telephone and that Geisler told him, "Carl, I've just shot Barbara."

Smith explained that Geisler gave him two unexpended shells similar to the one that killed his wife.

Smith went on to say that he learned over Mrs. Geisler who recognized him and said, "Gus (Geisler) has shot me. He's accused me of running around and stepping out on him, but I haven't." Smith added that he followed the ambulance that took Mrs. Geisler to the hospital where she died.

Exhibits Offered
Smith offered several exhibits. They were the Mauser rifle, identified as the weapon that killed Mrs. Geisler, two 8 mm. Remington cartridges that had not been fired by Geisler (who told Smith he had fired only one shot); a grey flannel dress identified as that worn by Mrs. Geisler the night she died; and a series of photographs of the Geisler residence and the crime scene.

The last witness to be called was Sheriff Ira C. Byrd who told the

Chalk Adventure Slated By PTA

Tickets went on sale today for the "Dramatic Adventures in Chalk" to be presented by the Rose School Parent - Teachers Assn. next Monday.

The chalk will be wielded by Bob Williams to the musical accompaniment of his wife. They are sponsored by the National School Assemblies Agency and have been making appearances at schools in the county recently.

The show will start at the Central Junior High auditorium at 8 p.m. Proceeds will be used to finish paying for the new piano at the school.

Rose school pupils will sell the advance tickets until Monday morning. A \$10 prize will go to the person selling the most tickets. Elementary school pupils will be admitted free when accompanied by their parents.

Vienna Choir Boys To Sing Here On Tuesday

The world-famous Vienna Choir Boys will appear in a concert at Central Junior High School Auditorium Tuesday, March 5, under sponsorship of the Roseburg Community Concert Assn.

This is the 13th time Vienna's historic Konvikt School, founded by Imperial decree 458 years ago, has sent one of its finely-trained groups to tour North America under the management of Impresario S. Hurok. Now on the last lap of a world wide tour, the choir of 22 youngsters, aged 8 to 14, will appear in 70 cities in the U.S. and Canada this season. Featured in "Cinerama" and recorded extensively on several labels, the boys appeared during their last tour on the Perry Como Show and on "Omnibus" on Television.

The school has three choirs on tour each year. A rotation system allows every lad in the school an opportunity to visit each country on the choir's far-flung itinerary at least once before his voice changes. One unit is always in Vienna to perform services at St. Stephen's.

Fewer than 100 boys or ten percent of the number of applicants, are admitted to one of the choirs, students receive two years of training.

ON STAGE CREW
Mary Jane O'Brien, daughter of Mrs. Rose O'Brien, 1649 NE Fremont Ave., Roseburg, will be on the stage crew of the Oregon State College presentation of "The Desperate Hours," Wednesday through Saturday this week.

Miss O'Brien is a freshman enrolled in pre-dentistry at the college. The play is the story of a family held hostage by three escaped convicts.

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