

Man guilty of murdering Eugene woman



NORTHWEST

MADRAS (AP) — A jury has found John Arthur Ackroyd guilty of murdering a Eugene woman who was attacked while she was out jogging 15 years ago in the Camp Sherman area.

The jury deliberated for four hours Tuesday before finding Ackroyd, 43, guilty of two counts of aggravated murder and three counts of murder.

Each of the five charges against the former mechanic for the state Highway Division was based on a separate theory about the slaying.

Ackroyd has admitted seeing Kaye Turner the morning of Christmas Eve, 1978, when she disappeared while jogging. Eight months later, he led police to the site where some of her remains were found.

A second man, Roger Dale Beck, is also charged in the slaying and is to go on trial beginning Oct. 19.

"It's a great win," said Jefferson County District Attorney Bill Hanlon. "It's a tremendous case of inter-agency cooperation and a

'John is not the brightest guy in the world. He was scared he was going to be blamed for this — and he was.'

— Duane McCabe, defense lawyer

lot of hard grunt work."

Defense lawyer Duane McCabe of Bend had no comment after the verdict.

Prosecutors told the jury Tuesday that Turner's remains were too decomposed to determine exactly how she died, but Ackroyd provided graphic descriptions of stab wounds and what he called a "large-caliber gunshot wound" to her chest.

The cause of her death was not officially determined until last year, when state police re-examined her running shorts and shirt using new X-ray and microscopic techniques that showed she was stabbed and shot.

"We know now for a fact that the defendant accurately described the injuries, but no one could have known that other than the killer of Kaye Jean Turner," Hanlon told jurors.

The four-week murder trial wrapped up Tuesday with nearly three hours of closing arguments by attorneys for both sides.

The eight-woman, four-man jury began deliberations after instructions from Jefferson County Circuit Judge Gary Thompson.

Defense lawyer Duane McCabe told jurors that differing testimony from two prosecution witnesses about where Turner was jogging raised the possibility that another runner was in the area.

McCabe also blamed inconsistencies in Ackroyd's statements to police on his fear that revealing that he saw Turner the morning of her disappearance would make him a suspect.

"I'm sorry, John," McCabe said, turning to Ackroyd and then back to the jury. "but John is not the brightest guy in the world. He was scared he was going to be blamed for this — and he was."

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Fugitive gets prison sentence

BOSTON (AP) — Overcome with emotion, Clare Schroeder described how the pain caused by the loss of her father far surpasses the troubles Katherine Ann Power faced while in hiding for her connection with his killing.

"He never had the chance to say goodbye," Schroeder said, holding back tears while testifying at Power's sentencing hearing.

"We never got a last hug, or a kiss or a pat on the head or squeeze of the hand. One day he was there, and the next day he was gone."

Power was a former student radical who surrendered 23 years after taking part in a bank robbery, during which Officer Walter Schroeder was killed. She was sentenced today to eight to 12 years in prison and 20 years probation.

Claire Schroeder's statement emphasized the impact her father's love — and his commitment to the police force — had on her and her eight brothers and sisters.

"I have been proud of my father every single day of my life," she said. "I became a police officer because of him."

Her brothers Paul and Edward and her sister Erin are also police officers, and her sister Joan is married to a police officer, she said.

"Each of us in our own way has tried to follow in my father's tradition of service and devotion."

Schroeder gave a tearful account of the day her father died.

Seventeen years old at the time, it was her job to tell each of her siblings, ages 15 years through 11 months, about their father's murder.

The funeral, she said, was so large it could not be held at their local parish. Describing the streets as "a sea of blue," Claire Schroeder said police officers came from across the United States and Canada to pay their respects to her father.

"I felt so proud but so hollow," she said. "I remember thinking that my father should be there to enjoy their presence."

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