

Tuesday, June 5, 1984

9th juror picked for triple murder trial

A 23-year-old executive secretary at Cablevision on Monday became the ninth juror selected in the capital murder trial of David Wayne Spence.

Six potential jurors were questioned Monday — the most interviewed in one day since jury selection began May 23 — but five were excused for a variety of reasons.

Spence, 25, is charged with three counts of capital murder in the July 1982 stabbing deaths of three teen-agers near Lake Waco.

Also questioned Monday by prosecutors Vic Feazell and Ned Butler and court-appointed defense attorneys Russ Hunt and Hayes Fuller were a 42-year-old city of

Waco employee, a 59-year-old instructor at McLennan Community College, a 57-year-old housewife, a 55-year-old housewife and a 46-year-old Owens-Illinois employee.

Jurors selected thus far include a 63-year-old Baylor University psychology professor, a 21-year-old substitute teacher, a 35-year-old recruiter at Texas State Technical Institute and a 58-year-old registered nurse at the Waco Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Other jurors include a 47-year-old Hewitt secretary, a 58-year-old retired Air Force major, a 27-year-old credit manager at Nash-Robinson & Co. Wholesalers and a 37-year-old legal secretary.

Feazell and Butler have used four of their 15 peremptory strikes to dismiss jurors. Hayes and Fuller have used three.

Court officials have predicted testimony in the case will take about two or three weeks.

Spence will be tried first for the death of Jill Montgomery, 17. Raylene Rice, 17, and Kenneth Franks, 18, also were killed in the incident.

The teen's bodies were found July 14, 1982, at Lake Waco's Speegleville Park.

Also charged with three counts of capital murder in the slayings are Muneer Mohammad Deeb, Gilbert Melendez and Anthony Melendez, Gilbert Melendez's brother