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# Death sentence ends 2 years of hate

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For two years now, Nancy Shaw has been placing flowers on the grave of her slain daughter, Jill Montgomery.

She says she has heard Jill's voice admonishing her to find the killers who stabbed her and two friends near Lake Waco on July 13, 1982.

And with David Wayne Spence sentenced to death for the slaying and Anthony Melendez sentenced to life in prison, Mrs. Shaw says her trip to the small cemetery on the second anniversary of the triple homicide has been made easier.

"I feel like the weight of the world has been lifted off my shoulders," she said. "On one hand, I feel like it is all over, but I know it really isn't. I am still relishing the victory that we have just won and it is hard for me to think past that point."

Spence, 25, was convicted last week by a Waco jury and sentenced to death by injection in Miss Montgomery's slaying. He faces two more capital murder charges.

Anthony Melendez pleaded guilty on June 14 in the deaths of Miss Montgomery and her boyfriend, Kenneth Franks. Melendez, 25, was sentenced to two concurrent life prison terms, but faces a capital murder charge in the death of Miss Montgomery's friend, Raylene Rice of Waxahachie.

Muneer Mohammad Deeb, 25, who prosecutors contend initiated the murder-for-hire plot, and Gilbert Melendez, 29, also face three capital murder charges in the slayings. Both are scheduled to stand trial in September, but court officials predict that the trials will be moved to another county because of publicity generated by Spence's three-week trial.

"I am just real thankful," Mrs.

Shaw said about the verdict in Spence's case. "It is the second year anniversary, and we have this behind us. Instead of having to look forward to someone being arrested (like last year at this time), two of (the defendants) are handled, with two more to go."

Mrs. Shaw of Waxahachie said the preparation for the trial and expectations of the death penalty were major factors that saw her through grief-filled times after her daughter was killed.

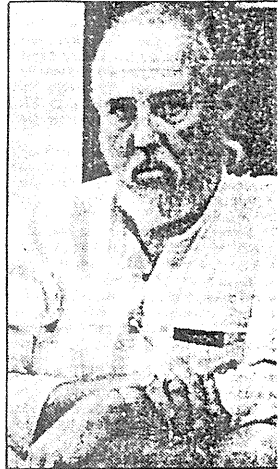
"It was my only hope to carry on with my life, because Jill was the kind of girl, had she not died, that would have been in there fighting to find out who did this terrible thing to her friends. I have felt her pushing me all the way to help in any way that I could to find who did this to her and get it taken care of," Mrs. Shaw said.

"I feel it especially when I go to Please see VICTIM'S, Page 3A



Staff Photos — Rod Aydelotte

Sandra Sadler (left), the mother of Kenneth Franks, and Nancy Shaw, the mother of Jill Montgomery, discuss court proceedings during a recess at the trial



Rod Montgomery hasn't been able to make a stone for his daughter's grave after 2 years

# Victim's mother tells of anger, hate before Spence sentence

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the cemetery. I can't even feel that she is under the dirt. I go out there and see the flowers and see the grave, but I can't feel Jill being there. I feel her presence saying to me, 'Mother, get who did this to me.' And I have always felt that Jill will find no rest until they have all been taken care of," she said.

As the days before Spence's trial neared, Mrs. Shaw said she picked up newspaper accounts of the deaths that she had not read before and tried to prepare herself for the grisly details that would be recounted during the testimony.

She also met with prosecutors, who showed her photographs of the victims that were introduced during the trial to get her emotionally ready to sit through the ordeal.

But ironically, Mrs. Shaw, who testified during the trial's opening day, was not allowed to hear the testimony because of a rule that excludes witnesses from being in the courtroom.

She sat outside the court every day and read *The Only Living Witness*, the biography of convicted mass murderer Theodore Bundy, who went on an eight-year killing spree in several states. Bundy was captured in Florida after bite marks on one of the victims were traced to him.

Damaging evidence in Spence's trial included the testimony of a forensic dental specialist from New Mexico who matched bite marks found on the bodies of Miss Montgomery and Miss Rice to Spence. The dentist, Dr. Homer Campbell, also assisted investigators in Bundy's case.

Mrs. Shaw was allowed into the courtroom during final arguments

before Spence was convicted and during punishment phase testimony. She and Spence "locked eyes" on several occasions during the tense final moments of the trial.

"I would look at him and think, 'I hate you David for what you did, and then I would try to let those thoughts filter through my eye contact,'" she said.

Mrs. Shaw, who was divorced from Jill's father, Rod Montgomery, in 1978 and remarried in 1980, said much of her emotional recovery began in November 1983 when the four defendants were indicted.

"I didn't have anyone to direct my anger to," she said. "I had a lot of anger and a lot of hatred in my

heart, but I didn't have an object to release it on. It made me a very bitter person and I have had counseling with my preacher and a psychologist because I didn't know why this feeling was so strong inside of me.

"They told me that I was going to have to vent my anger and hatred, but I wasn't able to actually

vent it until the time of the indictments. Until I was given names and faces to look at, I didn't have a vent for it all."

Jill's father faced a similar emotional battle, he said. As owner of Waxahachie Marble & Granite Co., a business that was founded by his grandfather 88 years ago, Montgomery has been faced with the

task of preparing the tombstone for his daughter's grave.

It is a task that, even after two years, he has not been able to bring himself to complete.

"The verdict has not made it any easier (to make the gravestone)," he said. "It is just the finality of having to put my daughter's name on that stone."