

THE WACO CITIZEN, TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1984

Spence Takes Stand

By CAMELIA FOSTER

David Wayne Spence, charged under three indictments for capital murder, took the stand in his own behalf Monday on a change of venue motion sought under Judge George Allen in 54th District Court.

Spence is accused of murder in the brutal stabbing deaths of three teenagers at Speegleville Park on July 13, 1982.

Also charged with the same murders are Gilbert Melendez, Antonio Melendez and Muneer Deeb.

"My name is 'ruin' in this county," Spence said from the stand, "because of a 1980 burglary charge, the conviction in 1983 for aggravated sexual abuse which is on appeal and the publicity surrounding this case."

"I am asking the judge to move the case," Spence said following questions from his court appointed attorneys Russ Hunt and Hayes Fuller.

"I have never been a member of the Church of Satan, but I have heard there is one of them on N. 19th St. but I have never attended," Spence said. "I don't know any members of the church either."

Spence testified he was a member of the South Manor Church of the Nazarene and had never discussed the Church of Satan with his Sunday School teacher Bob Powers until after he was convicted of the sexual abuse charge.

"I have never been a real strong Christian, but I believe in the Bible and the devil is mentioned in it," Spence said.

"I have never believed in or participated in Devil worship," Spence testified.

He also testified that fellow inmates told him 'there was no way he would get a fair trial in McLennan County.'

Ned Butler, state attorney, asked Spence "are you aware of the publicity efforts of your attorneys to get the Church of Satan

mentioned by the media?"

"This all came out before the attorneys were appointed," Spence replied.

District Attorney Vic Feazell was called to the stand first in the change of venue hearing.

Questioned by Fuller, Feazell was asked if he had ever mentioned the Church of Satan or the 90 year sentence received by Spence to anyone representing the media or before the general public. He was also asked about comments concerning recent jury verdicts he had made. Judge Allen overruled the questions and Feazell did not have to answer.

The district attorney was also questioned about future political plans but Judge Allen overruled the questions.

Judge Allen continued the hearing on the change of venue until next Monday.

John Ben Sutter, Administrative Aide for the DA's office, is expected to take the stand at that time.

Spence's attorneys indicated they were planning to call another witness at that time but did not reveal who it was.

Spence is scheduled to go on trial, Tuesday, May 22 on the capital murder charges of killing Jim Montgomery and Raylene Rice of Waxahachie and Kenneth Franks of Waco.