

(the victim) was at risk of losing her children if he did not.

It took Judge Lynn only a few seconds to decide that Riley should serve his 105 month prison sentence which with good time and time already served at the workhouse turns out to be less than five years.

The woman left comatose by Riley currently resides in a nursing home. While she has been making continuous progress, there is no hope for a full recovery. Her sentence and that of the family who supports her is for a lifetime.

As for Riley, we have little doubt we will see him ----- the "next time".

Court Update

by Cindy Kraemer

Sentencings

Stonewall Jackson Drain was found guilty of 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) by a jury in front of Judge Orey. He sexually assaulted a woman he and several other people had been playing cards with earlier in the evening. She called 911 right after the assault and Jackson was picked up a short distance from the scene. Judge Orey sentenced him to 48 months at St. Cloud.

Michael Ray Love was charged with 1st degree burglary, 1st degree CSC, and 1st degree assault. These charges were the result of an alleged assault on his former girlfriend. The trial took place in front of Judge Sommerville and the jury found Love not guilty on all three counts. He had a pending case involving the same victim in which he was charged with auto theft and terroristic threats. That case was dismissed.

Trials

Charles Robert Noble was charged with 2 counts of 1st degree CSC, and 4 counts of 1st degree burglary. This offense took place in June of 1995. The jury found him guilty on all six counts in front of Judge Lancaster. He is scheduled to be sentenced on this conviction on August 19, 1996. Noble has another charge of 1 count of 1st degree CSC, and 2 counts of 1st degree burglary from July of 1995. He is awaiting trial on this offense. He was also convicted of rape in Rochester, Minnesota in October 1978. In December 1984 he pled guilty in Hennepin County to 2nd degree CSC and 1st degree burglary. He was sentenced to 36 months on one count, and 30 months on the other to be served concurrently. Then again in 1987, in Hennepin County, he was convicted of 1st degree CSC and was sentenced to serve 81 months.

Brian Henley Gentry has been charged with 2nd degree murder and is currently in trial in front of Judge Scherer. The victim in this murder charge was Gentry's girlfriend's 15 month old son. Gentry was taking care of the boy while his mother was out. He called the mother at her parents' house and said the child was having difficulty breathing. She instructed him to call 911 and she left for home immediately. When the police arrived the child was lying on the couch. His lips and eyelids were blue and he was in full respiratory and cardiac arrest. Officers immediately initiated CPR. Paramedics arrived and moved the child to the ambulance and within minutes transported him to Fairview-Southdale Hospital. Efforts to revive the child were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead by medical staff. An autopsy revealed the victim had marks on his head consistent with a stun gun, and injuries consistent with having been shaken. Gentry is being prosecuted by Lee Barry and defended by Howard Bass.

Timothy Scott Romans has 3 domestic charges with the same victim dating back to 1994. Romans continued to give the KAM (known adult male) unwanted contact after a brief romantic relationship. Because of this unwanted contact, KAM obtained a restraining order prohibiting him from contacting KAM. In February of 1994 he was charged with violation of an order for protection and pled guilty to this offense. In March of 1994 he was charged with harassment as a gross misdemeanor and pled guilty to that offense. He continued to contact the KAM while on conditional release from the Workhouse and when he was out of custody. On one occasion he rammed the KAM's car in a parking lot while he was in it. In July of 1995 he was charged with 2 felony counts of stalking, 4 counts of gross misdemeanor stalking, and 1 count of violation of a harassment restraining order. He was found guilty by a jury on all counts but one, a gross misdemeanor stalking count. The trial took place before Judge Swanson. Lori Schwartz prosecuted the case and Romans represented himself. He is scheduled to be sentenced in August.

Kris Alyn Walker was charged with 3rd degree CSC. He sexually assaulted a woman he had dated a few months earlier. He was found guilty by a jury in front of Judge Albrecht. Elizabeth Cutter prosecuted the case and Sandra Davis defended him. He was taken into custody when the jury returned its verdict of guilty (he was out on a \$7,500 bond) and is scheduled to be sentenced in August.

Domestic Abuse Chronology

Jimmie Ray Ramey is currently in custody on his most recent charge and will have to post a \$100,000 bond in

order to be released. Before his first appearance on this charge he was evaluated by the pretrial release unit of the Department of Corrections and given a numerical score. This score is a tool used by Judges and court personnel to determine to what degree a defendant is a threat to the community, and if they are likely to return to court for their scheduled appearances. When Mr. Ramey appeared in court on July 9th, 1996 he was given a score of 73. This is the highest score I have seen on one of our cases. In order to receive a score this high Mr. Ramey has been charged with crimes 18 times in the last 15 years in Hennepin County. Three are violent felonies and 1 was a 2nd degree murder conviction. In addition he has a number of domestic assault convictions and his most recent charge was for 2 counts of 1st degree CSC.

1978 - Court records indicate Mr. Ramey has four unverified prior misdemeanor charges in Arkansas: rape, possessing a knife, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. He said they were dismissed. The probation department was unable to verify this information.

April 1981

- Ct. 1 - 3rd degree assault, Felony
- Ct. 2 - 2nd degree assault, Felony
- Ct. 3 - Aggravated Robbery, Felony

Mr. Ramey and two co-defendants assault two men in his home after his wife told him one of the men was giving her "trouble". Both victims are beaten and hit with a broken pool cue and one was stabbed in the stomach with the pool cue. He pled guilty in front of Judge Stone to 3rd degree assault (counts 2 and 3 were dismissed) and was sentenced to 15 months at Stillwater. The sentence was stayed with conditions of serving 90 days at the Adult Correctional Facility (ACF), no criminal activity, and probation for 15 months.

November 1982

- Ct. 1 - Simple Robbery, Felony

It was alleged that Ramey and another man picked a third man up at a bar and offered to give him a ride to another location and instead robbed him. At one point it is alleged he hit the victim with a crowbar. He was found not guilty by Judge Bowen.

September 1985

- Ct. 1 - Theft from a person, Felony

Ramey stole a wallet from an undercover police officer. He pled guilty in front of Judge McCarr and was sentenced to serve 18 months. The sentence was stayed for 2 years with conditions of no criminal charges, serve 60 days at ACF with work release, complete an

evaluation for chemical dependency and enter and complete any treatment and after care programs prescribed by probation.

August 1986

- Ct. 1 - 2nd degree murder, Felony
- Ct. 2 - Unlawful possession of short barreled shotgun, Felony
- Ct. 3 - Felon in Possession of a Pistol, Felony

Ramey home was burglarized on August 3rd, 1986. His neighbor saw a man leaving his home around the time it was burglarized. Ramey and two other men went to the neighbor's place of employment the next morning with a fourth man, John Wiley. Ramey asked his neighbor if Wiley was the man she saw leaving his home the previous day. She said she was not sure. He was of a similar height and build but she could not identify his face. She said shortly after that she observed Wiley backing away from the other three men; Ramey and another man then both raised guns and pointed them at Wiley. She stated that shortly after that she heard a shot. When the police arrived they found Wiley in a large pool of blood in the street. He later died in the hospital as a result of bleeding to death from one shotgun blast to the right side of his chest. Ramey was found guilty by a jury, in front of Judge Hedlund, of 2nd degree murder and possession of a short barrel shotgun. Count 3 was dismissed. The Judge sentenced him to prison for 88 months for the murder and 19 months for the gun violation and revoked his stayed sentence of 18 months on the theft from a person conviction. All three sentences were run concurrently.

May 1993

- Ct. 1 - 5th degree assault, misdemeanor

This charge was a domestic assault and left the known adult female (KAF) with visible injuries. Ramey pled guilty in front of Judge Steven Lange who sentenced him to 90 days at ACF with 45 days stayed for 2 years with conditions of no contact with the victim, restitution, and no same or similar charges. This was to run concurrent with any parole hold.

1993 / 1994 Five misdemeanor violations, none appear to be domestics.

September 1994

- Ct. -1 5th degree assault, Gross Misdemeanor
- Ct. -2 Disorderly conduct, Misdemeanor

Ramey and a KAF (not the same woman as in the previous charge, but a domestic) argued and he grabbed her and threw her over the bed and left the apartment. Several hours later he returned and demanded money.

She refused and the defendant again grabbed her, shook her, and pushed her against a wall. She informed the officers he had been drinking heavily and she believed he wanted money to buy cocaine. He pled guilty to the disorderly conduct and the 5th degree assault was dismissed. This took place before Judge Lajune Lange. Judge Lange sentenced him to 90 days at the ACF with 45 days stayed for 1 year with conditions of domestic abuse counseling, complete treatment, commit no same or similar offenses, and be on probation for 1 year.

May 1994 -Driving after revocation charge

May 23, 1996

Ct. 1 - 5th degree assault, Misdemeanor

The police report indicates there was a large knife involved in this assault. Ramey was taken to jail after the assault and given as a condition of his release that he post a \$1,200 bond. This is a standard bail amount for a 5th degree assault. However we are quite concerned about a a standard bail amount being applied to any defendant with a **pretrial release evaluation score of 64**. He posted the bond quickly and was released.

May 28, 1996 Judge Scherer lifts the no contact with the victim order per her request.

June 21, 1996 City attorney Laura Yonts dismissed the case based on insufficient evidence and the victim's request.

July 5, 1996

Ct. 1 - 1st degree CSC, Felony

Ct. 2 - 1st degree CSC, Felony

Officers responded to a call at Fairview Riverside Hospital on a report of a domestic assault. They talked with the victim and she told them the defendant became violent with her in their bedroom and began calling her a number of derogatory names. He pulled her out of bed by her ankles, with such force that her head struck the floor. She stated he threw an iron at her and broke a picture frame. She was then on the floor bleeding from a cut caused during this incident. He kicked her while she was on the ground and continued to call her derogatory names and poured beer over her head. He sexually assaulted her vaginally, orally, and with a cucumber. The KAF states he threatened to kill her repeatedly throughout this assault and at one point she believed he had obtained a weapon and was going to kill her. The KAF has a 14 year old son that lives with her.

Felony Cases Charged in Hennepin County

In May 1996 there were 42 domestic violence cases

charged and 22 CSC cases.

In June 1996 there were 37 domestic violence cases charged and 18 CSC cases.

Volunteer Notes

To the Watchmakers

Maureen Kelly Neerland

Hope your summer is going well. You have been very generous in your gift of time, and we do appreciate the sacrifice you are making in coming to court when you could be outdoors enjoying the season.

On July 17 we held a training session for another wonderful group, and we were privileged to enjoy the participation of one of our active volunteers. Our first such speaker was **Kathy Hemingway**, who spoke to our spring training group, and we were all interested in her perspective as a relative newcomer to the Twin Cities. **Sue Peterson** impressed our July gathering with her sincere words concerning the value she places on our mission and on her role in helping to implement it through her court monitoring. Sue read about WATCH in the newspaper and followed through by sending for information and volunteer application forms; she then moved through the training process and has been carrying her red clipboard for over a year. Sue stressed the importance of educating herself through careful reading of the "Post"; the newsletter also serves as a positive reinforcement for continued involvement because she learns about some of the specific ways WATCH is helping the criminal justice system. Sue works full time and takes care of her home and family obligations. How does she find time to go to court? She takes *one day of vacation time every month* to do it. See why we're so proud of our volunteers?

Watch for our 1996-97 Program information in the September "Post."

July Volunteer Hours: 335 Hours

Thank You!

Volunteer Opportunity

Engage in interesting reading and perform a greatly needed task in our downtown office: defendant history documents need to be filed. This would be an educational opportunity for you and/or your student family member and a big help to us. A few hours here and there would do it. Call us at 341-2747. Thank you!

Watch is committed to ending racial, cultural and gender bias in the courts and to reflecting that commitment at all levels of the organization.