

Year in Saskatoon court was mixed menu of cases

Charges ranging from murder, to kidnapping, racial discrimination, and possession of obscene material were dealt with by the police and court in Saskatoon during 1973.

Cases included:

- The non-capital murder trial of Frank Charles Gunnuscio, 26, of Woods Lake, Utah, who was eventually acquitted of the charge.

Gunnuscio was charged with the death of Shirley Elizabeth Johnston, 21, whose body was found July 26, 1972 in her 906 Saskatchewan Cres. East apartment, strangled by her own clothing.

Gunnuscio, a truck driver for a United States firm, was arrested in late July, 1972, in Utah on warrants alleging unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for the murder. He was judged extraditable in September, 1972, but did not arrive in Saskatoon until April 17 because of appeal developments.

His trial came up Sept. 17, 1973 before Justice A. L. Sirois in Court of Queen's Bench. It lasted seven days and went through a long trial.

In the end, police were criticized by Justice Sirois for their investigation of the case.

the incident and for failing to establish the exact time of Miss Johnston's death. A jury of nine men and three women brought in a not guilty verdict after three days of deliberation.

- In contrast, it took an all-male jury only five and a half hours to reach a guilty verdict for Jake Quiring and Douglas Kuipers, both charged with the March 10 shotgun death of Hazel Theilma Cahill, 60.

By Hank Goertzen
of the Star-Phoenix

Quiring, 38, and Kuipers, 19, were originally charged with capital murder because the ban on such charges expired in December, 1972. After consultation within the attorney-general's department, the indictment was changed to non-capital murder.

This trial began immediately following Gunnuscio's and lasted to Oct. 4. They both received life terms.

Three further murder cases were investigated this year. One involved the Aug. 8 death of Albert Elmer Osze, 30, of 3-1505 20th St. West. A second in-

volved the Dec. 8 death of Leonard Kinal, of 119 Ave. U South. Another probed the Aug. 5 death of 11-year-old Loretta Rose Doering of Rosthern.

Suspects have been charged in all cases, which are still before the courts.

- The Baldwin Hotel Co. was found guilty and fined \$50 Feb. 6 in magistrate's court on charges of racial discrimination under the Fair Accommodations Act.

Charges arose in August, 1972, when about 40 natives claimed they were refused service in the Hotel's beverage room.

- Clifford Wellington, 25, was sentenced to five years imprisonment Feb. 6 on charges of kidnapping and theft. Charges arose Jan. 16 after police received a tip that he had stolen \$2.50 from a Saskatoon resident, Judy Green. They followed him to his home where they discovered Wayne Mantle, of 2418 Ewart Ave. tied and gagged in the back seat of his car.

- RCMP laid several charges in connection with unlawfully transporting automobiles from the United States.

Their investigations began when serial numbers of Corvettes which appeared in increased numbers on the streets did not match Canadian serial numbers.

- James Edward Mills, 25, pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 July 12 on a charge of possession of an obscene painting.

Mills was charged following a police seizure of the painting March 29 from the Earth Island Store on 20th St. Defence counsel Ken Stevenson said he pleaded guilty because he did not have the funds to fight what might have been a precedent-setting case for Saskatchewan.

- The film — The Stewardesses was judged obscene by Judge E. N. Hughes in District Court Sept. 25. The Daylight Theatre Company was subsequently fined \$250 for presenting the film.

The film was seized by city police December, 1971 and the company was convicted in March, 1972, by Judge H. K. Judge Hughes overturned conviction on a point of law, but his decision was appealed, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled it should go back to Judge Hughes for a decision. His second decision has been appealed.

- A 45-year-old Toronto man fined \$500 Sept. 14 in magistrate's court on charges of intimidation.

Joseph Singfield was charged in after threatening to break John E. son's legs and kill him and his unless an alleged debt to a firm was paid immediately. He pleaded guilty Sept. 14.

- And suspects have been charged in several other cases.

Legal aid main concern

A legal aid plan for Saskatchewan occupied the thoughts and time of many lawyers this year.

While the Saskatchewan legal aid review committee, headed by Dean Roger Carter of the college of law in Saskatchewan University, travelled the province to determine the legal needs of the people, individual legal aid clinics were already springing up in rural areas.

By Dene Creswell
of the Star-Phoenix

In April, after nearly a year of study and travel, the committee announced its recommendations in a 200-page report.

The community clinic approach as a delivery system for legal aid was among the recommendations.

Dean Carter said total cost of establishing 10 clinics in the province would be \$1,100,000 a year or \$1.10 per capita.

Early in December, Attorney-General James Robertson introduced legislation for a comprehensive, decentralized legal aid program. The program is expected to be in operation by July.

The plan also includes a provision for legal aid in family law cases.

But compared to medicare, which operates for all citizens, the legal aid plan was created primarily to provide legal services for the poor.

While legal aid was a big subject on the Saskatchewan legal scene, the Bail Reform Act, which came into use last March, was accepted with some caution at the outset.

Police Chief J. G. Kettles thought the only thing good about the act was it provided for the release of all people and did not discriminate against the poor.

Under the Bail Reform Act, police are allowed to issue a summons to a person charged with a relatively minor offence rather than arrest them. This did away with the need to raise bail, which discriminated against the poor.

The Bail Reform Act has been widely accepted and generally considered good legislation.

Ben Wolff, senior city prosecutor, said Saskatoon prosecutors have seen a tremendous amount of time saving the act, "and it appears to be working very well here."

The establishment of a new regional committee in Saskatoon was announced last month.

Child and family services

Size of the program