



Courier photo by Elizabeth Otts

Three friends of Don George Henry and Larry Kevin Ives were interviewed for the NBC television show "Unsolved Mysteries" recently at Bryant High School. They are, from left, John Holland, David Russell and Phillip Pike.

Teacher talks about tragedy

By ELIZABETH OTTS
Courier Staff Writer

BRYANT — Dottie Polsgrove, a physical science teacher at Bryant High School, was interviewed recently for the NBC television show "Unsolved Mysteries."

The interview focused on the tragic fate of two of Polsgrove's former students, Kevin Ives, 17, and Don Henry, 16, who were struck by a Union-Pacific train while lying motionless on railroad tracks about 4:25 a.m. Aug. 23, 1987.

The circumstances surrounding their deaths has been a mystery.

A crew from the show was recently in Saline County to interview residents and tape

footage of people and places involved in the case. The show is scheduled for airing this fall.

Polsgrove has been a teacher for 19 years and has taught in Bryant for 14 years. She was interviewed July 25 in a Bryant High School classroom.

Polsgrove agreed to the interview for a reason. "I would hope this TV presentation will help solve this case ... it could (help). I hope so. Around here everyone is familiar with what happened, but it may take nationwide coverage to get some help."

She talked about what might have happened to the teen-agers. "I think someone did something to them. Always have, always will. Those two

boys enjoyed life too much ... somebody had to do it to them. I feel like they were in the wrong place at the wrong time."

She continued, "When I first heard that they had committed suicide, that thought went right out of my mind. I knew that wasn't a possibility."

Polsgrove said some of the boys' classmates who had been involved in drugs quit after the deaths of Ives and Henry. Others, she said, "have gone futher into drugs to escape the reality of it."

"I have never been a proponent of drugs and it (the incident) makes me more deter-

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mined than ever to get them away from our high school kids ... it has changed Bryant. This is a large school in a small community and it has made people more aware of drugs in the community.

"I at least think about it (what happened) every other day, at certain places in town and more when I was in school."

Polsgrove said the closest friends of the two youths were the most affected by what happened.

Henry and Ives were in separate classes taught by Polsgrove. She spoke of the boys as she remembered them. "I taught both of them (the last year they were in school). They were average students, a little above average and not any problem.

"The boys were so well liked. It's the reason they are still on everyone's mind. As students, they were good students, not straight-A, but typical teenagers.

"Don was very considerate," she said, "but more of a cut-up and a tease. I had him the last period of the day and on Wednesday he'd say, 'I'll see you at

church,' but he never came ... he would always have you laughing."

She remembers Ives as calm, classy, neat and clean-cut. "Kevin was in one of my classes for a semester. He was a lot quieter than Don."

Polsgrove believes the boys got into trouble "unintentionally maybe" since they would "not maliciously do anything."

The deaths of Ives and Henry are the subject of a Saline County grand jury investigation. The boys' parents have disagreed with the ruling of Dr. Fahmy Malak, state medical examiner, who said the boys were in a deep, marijuana-induced sleep when struck by the train. He ruled the deaths accidental.

In a preliminary report issued June 20, the grand jury said the deaths should be investigated as a probable homicide. Earlier, a gag order had been imposed on all grand jury witnesses and everyone connected with the investigation.

In addition to Polsgrove, also interviewed at the school were three of the boys' friends, Phillip Pike, a senior at Little Rock Christian, and David Russell and John Holland, both juniors at Bryant.

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Community is still feeling shock waves

By LYNDA HOLLENBECK
Courier Staff Writer

A year ago today an event occurred that was to forever change the lives of two Saline County families.

At 4:25 a.m. that day, a Union Pacific train struck two motionless figures as they lay on railroad tracks near the Shobe Road crossing. The victims were Kevin Ives, 17-year-old son of Larry and Linda Ives, and Don Henry, 16, son of Curtis and Marvella Henry.

Initial reports from the Saline County Sheriff's Office indicated the two youths had simply gone to sleep on the railroad tracks and failed to hear the sounds or feel the vibrations of the approaching freight train. Investigators contended there was no reason to suspect anything but a tragic accident.

State Medical Examiner Fah-

my Malak supported that theory. He said the boys had been in a marijuana-induced sleep caused by smoking a large number of marijuana cigarettes and classified the deaths as accidental.

However, the parents of the victims could not accept those findings. Their beliefs were based on more than emotion and denial of the tragic circumstances that took their sons' lives. Many factors that came into play eventually led to the calling of a grand jury that continues to investigate the mysterious circumstances related to the teen-agers' deaths.

What were some of those factors?

— There were the persistent rumors that indicated the two boys had met with foul play. Most were tied in some way to illegal drug trafficking.

— The parents began contacting medical experts to learn more about the effects of marijuana-smoking and were repeatedly told that marijuana, used alone, could not produce a state of unconsciousness. They learned such a condition could possibly occur if marijuana were combined with alcohol, but no alcohol had been found in either boy.

— Members of the train crew insisted the two boys had been partially covered with what appeared to be a green tarpaulin, their eyes had been closed and they had been in identical positions on the tracks. Sheriff's deputies denied the existence of the tarpaulin, though. They called it an "optical illusion" on the part of the train crew.

Almost six months after the event, the parents held a news conference to voice their frustra-

tion over the medical examiner's report and the investigation to that point, or what they perceived as the lack of one.

The event did not go unnoticed. Deputy Prosecutor Richard Garrett became interested in the case and called a prosecutor's hearing to question law enforcement personnel, rescue workers who went to the scene and the victims' friends who had been with them the night before they died or had information that might have some bearing on the case.

In late April, the grand jury began its deliberations. No indictments have been returned to date, but five witnesses have been arrested in connection with other events. Two were charged with drug violations, two with robbery and one with failure to

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1 year later

Don Henry



Kevin Ives



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pay past fines on previous offenses.

And how do the parents feel about the investigation today?

Linda Ives, who agreed to share her feelings, said, "I think we're closer to the truth than we were from the very beginning, simply because at least there is an effort being made at this point." She described the current investigation as "a sincere effort," something she does not believe took place for nearly six months after her son died.

"I think that maybe now that we're getting the kind of investigation that Kevin and Don deserved from the very beginning," Ives said. "Even so, it could be more intense."

Recalling the press conference the two families held in early February, Ives said she does not believe anything would ever have happened if that event had not taken place.

"I think law enforcement officers connected with the case, were very content to leave things alone and let them stay as they were," Ives said. "I think that still would be the case if we had not done something. As long as we had put up and shut up they would, too."

"It may have been easy for them to forget it, but it wasn't their child. Maybe they could forget, but we certainly couldn't."

"Everything that is being done now I can attribute to the efforts of Dan (Danny Harmon, special deputy prosecutor assigned to the case) and Richard (Garrett)," Ives said. "We had begged at every level — state, federal and county — everyone we knew to beg from. No one would help until they got involved."

Ives is aware that many people did not accept the official version of the boys' deaths, but she knows there were a lot of people who did.

"I think many people thought it was a case of parents not being able to accept what had happened, which occurs in a lot of cases," Ives said. "People don't want to believe their kids are involved in drugs, but other people didn't have all the facts that we did. If they had, they would have understood our position."

Ives recalled the events of Sunday, Aug. 23, 1987. She was at home alone that morning and her husband, an engineer for Union Pacific, was in Poplar Bluff, Mo. Her daughter, Alicia, was in Fayetteville, where she was a student at the University of Arkansas.

Her son had been spending the previous night with his friend, Don Henry, and had not returned home.

"After Kevin said he wanted to spend the night with Don, I called Curtis to make sure he was going to be there," she said. "Kevin had a curfew and I wanted to know what time Don had to be in."

On Sunday morning, she recalls receiving a phone call from Curtis Henry. In that conversation, Henry told her "Kevin and Don may have pulled a fast one. They were home on time, but they asked permission to go hunting down behind the house and they're not home now. I

think they used that as an excuse, maybe to go to a party."

Henry told Ives the boys had taken a gun with them. She recalls suggesting calling the police then, but he said he wanted to first check with Don's sister, Gayla, to see if he could locate them.

About 10 a.m. Henry called Ives again and told her he had been unable to find the boys. A short time later, he made a third call to her. That time, there was news — the worst kind of news a parent could receive. Henry told Ives to come to his home quickly. He said he had been told the boys had been "shot, tied to the tracks and run over by a train."

Ives said she was unable to grasp the words. "I couldn't even think straight. I didn't know where the Henrys lived and couldn't understand the directions to their house. I called a neighbor who came over, got the directions from Curtis and took me over there. When we got there, Chuck Tallent (Saline County investigator) was there. He met me in the yard."

"I didn't believe it," Ives said. "I was upset and shaking real hard, but I didn't believe it. I thought, 'Surely to God this is not something that happened.' I thought when I got there, it would all be straightened out."

"Chuck told me who he was. We went inside and asked for a description of Kevin's clothing. He said he couldn't make a positive identification — he said that would have to come from the Crime Lab," Ives recalled.

She asked where her son's body was and he replied, "At the Crime Lab."

"The Crime Lab never called to confirm the identification as we had been told, but Tallent called the next day around noon to tell us no foul play had occurred. There didn't seem to be any doubt the victims were Kevin and Don."

Upon returning to her home, Ives found many people there who had heard the news. "I knew I had to reach Larry and intended for the two of us to go to Fayetteville and get Alicia when he got in. I called the dispatcher in North Little Rock, told him we had a family emergency and that I had to get through to my husband. He patched through and told him to call home."

She told her husband he had to come home immediately. "I hadn't wanted to tell him why, but he insisted on knowing the reason, so I told him Kevin had been killed. The only thing he asked was 'How?'. I said, 'I don't know, by a train, I think.'"

Larry Ives returned to Little Rock on a non-stop train because it was faster than the truck the company had planned to send for him.

"When he got home, the house was an absolute uproar. Kids were everywhere and I knew I had to contact Alicia."

"I called her and asked for her roommates, but neither one was there. She recognized my voice, of course, so I told her I just wanted to know who was there. She knew something was wrong and I had to tell her. We made arrangements to put her on a plane and a friend met her

plane.

"You just function on shock for a long time," Ives said. "I thought if I could just get through the funeral I could make it. As soon as that was over, I thought I could handle it, but it takes longer for everything to sink in."

"Of course, at that time I was unaware of all the complicated repercussions related to their deaths."

Some days are harder than others.

"His birthday, April 28, was one of the hardest times," Ives said. "Other really hard times were the prom and graduation — all the senior things. I was glad when the school year was over, when there were no more special occasions that he wouldn't be a part of."

She noted that Don's birthday was Sept. 30, only a few weeks after the boys died. "At least I had a little while to adjust," she said.

"Time maybe helps some, but in some ways it really doesn't," Ives said.

One of the most difficult results of the tragedy has been its effect on her daughter, who lives at home now and is a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Changing schools was hard, but it was her decision, Ives said. "She had just rented an apartment and was excited about being on her own when it happened ... I told her she could do what she wanted to do. I really felt like she might be better off in school, maybe things could get back to normal for her, but she would come home every weekend and would cry every time she had to leave."

Her grade point that had been 3.8 is much lower now, Ives said. "We're all in counseling. I feel it's very important for all of us. The therapist has encouraged us to be open with our hurt, because the pain is there regardless of what you do."

She believes the healing process can begin "if we just know what happened. No matter how painful, I don't think we can ever rest until we do everything that can possibly be done."

"I'm prepared to wait as long as it takes — even if it takes forever," Ives said. "As long as there's anything to do, anything to investigate, we'll do it. I don't care what it costs as long as we can find a way to pay something — as long as we have to go on, we'll do whatever it takes."

The tragedy has brought the couple closer to each other, she said. "There have been a lot of times we haven't agreed on things. Larry and I are very different in our ways of dealing with things. He gives everyone the benefit of the doubt, long after I've made up my mind. I'm more outspoken and have a quicker temper."

"I try to compensate for all of the hurt this has caused her," Ives said. "I really resent what this has done to her life. These times that should be the best of her life are just ruined."

"I can look back on things that Kevin wanted and wish he could have had everything he ever wanted," Ives said. "If we had just known ..."

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THE BENTON COURIER, Tuesday Evening, August 23, 1988

In Loving Memory of KEVIN IVES

Tangled in a web you did not weave
Lies and questions
Answers only a fool would believe
Don't they know we will never quit
When will they learn
Do they think that we could ever forget
Their laugh, their smile -- their funny ways
God, only 17 years and a few short days
Don't worry Kevin, I'll see that he pays.
Promises made through oceans of tears
Falling on closed eyes and deaf ears
Precious memories that tug at my heart
Lord please help me, show me where to start
He whispers, death is but an open door
A stairway to heaven
And life forever more
A doorway we must all pass through
But God, I wasn't ready
To give him back to you
A Mother's love is special, no one can explain
Nothing can destroy it
Or take away the pain
And make no mistake
A Mother's fire and fury,
is something to beware
But her determination to deliver justice
can never compare



April 28, 1970 - August 23, 1987

To the flame of God's wrath, God's
fury
He's the final judge, the final jury
A reckoning to be feared.
So rest easy Kevin and Don, and
worry no more
Secure in the knowledge
That God is watching and waiting,
God is keeping score.

Linda Ives

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Kevin Ives,
brutally murdered 8/23/87. Kevin,
you will live in our hearts forever.
Love, Mom, Dad and Alicia. Adv.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE Tuesday, August 23, 1988

2 men to testify in death probe

Former Bryant residents Johnny Evans and Steve Gray are scheduled to testify Tuesday when a Saline County grand jury resumes a probe into the 1987 deaths of two Bryant teenagers.

That session will get under way at 9 a.m. at the Saline County Courthouse.

Evans, 33, who now lives in Morrilton, recently served a jail term on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

He was charged with that offense several months ago and was sentenced to eight days in the county jail. He was incarcerated from Aug. 18-25.

Evans and Gray previously operated a pool hall and video game business in Bryant.

Gray now resides in North Little Rock.

Deputy Prosecutor Richard Garrett said other witnesses Tuesday will include State Police investigators, who will give an update of the investigation.

The 16-member jury is inves-

tigating the Aug. 23, 1987, deaths of Kevin Ives, 17, and Don Henry, 16.

The boys were struck by a Union Pacific train while lying in identical positions on a railroad track near the Shobe Road crossing. Saline County sheriff's deputies contended the deaths were accidental, a theory supported by the state medical examiner. Dr. Fahmy Malak ruled that the boys had lost consciousness due to smoking a large number of marijuana cigarettes and were unable to hear the sounds or feel the vibrations of the approaching freight train.

After hearing testimony from a forensic pathologist from Atlanta, Ga., the jury issued a preliminary report stating the deaths should be considered a possible homicide.

Numerous witnesses have testified since the jury was seated April 27 and five witnesses have been arrested. Two were charged with drug violations, two with robbery and one with failure to pay past fines.

Grand jury resumes questioning

By LEE BROCKWAY
Courier Staff Writer

Five witnesses, three of whom are facing criminal charges, appeared before a Saline County Grand Jury earlier today as the panel resumed its probe into the 1987 deaths of two Bryant teenagers.

Also, prosecutors are expecting to receive a supplemental report from an Atlanta, Ga., pathologist while he is in Conway next week. Dr. Joe Burton, who performed autopsies on the teenagers' bodies, informed prosecutors Tuesday he will give them the results of additional tests on July 22.

Testifying today were Eugene Coney, 24, of Route 1, Alexander; Richard G. Sampley, 25, of Willow Street, Alexander; Tommy Lee Madison, 41, of Alexander; Larry Mitchell of Benton; and State Police Investigator Don Birdsong.

Prosecutors have said Burton discovered injuries on the bodies of 16-year-old Don Henry and Kevin Ives, 17, that were not caused by the Union Pacific train that struck them on Aug. 23. The train crew testified that the boys were lying motionless and in identical positions on the railroad track near Alexander when the train hit them.

The deaths were ruled an accident by the state medical examiner, who concluded the youths were in a drug-induced sleep. Burton has disputed that ruling and the grand jury has said the deaths should be considered a "probable homicide."

THE BENTON COURIER, Wednesday Evening, July 13, 1988

Burton will be in Conway next week to testify in a civil suit involving the death of Marvin Williams, a Faulkner County man who died more than 20 years ago while in police custody. Burton had performed an autopsy on Williams' exhumed body as part of a special investigation a few years ago.

As for the testimony presented today, "We're just running down rumors," Special Deputy Prosecutor Dan Harmon said, adding, that the grand jury had "just found more rumors."

Coney was arrested Tuesday night for past due fines, according to the Saline County Sheriff's Office. Currently incarcerated at the local county jail, he was arrested on July 3 for disorderly conduct and on March 30 for burglary and theft of property, Lt. Albert Wyllia said. Coney's testimony lasted approximately 10 minutes.

Sampley, an inmate of the Little Rock Jail, is charged with one count of aggravated robbery. He was arrested Feb. 14, 1987,

for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and on July 7, 1987, for criminal mischief and theft by receiving, according to Wyllia. Sampley, who appeared previously before the 16 jurors, testified for less than five minutes today.

Madison pleaded guilty last week to one count of possession of a controlled substance — cocaine. He agreed to enter the plea in exchange for a 30-year sentence and his cooperation with the grand jury. Madison, originally charged with eight counts of possession, could have received life in prison on each count.

The grand jury was expected to reconvene later today to hear testimony from Joseph Donnelly of Route 8, Benton; Deborah L. Brown of Sherwood; Ricky D. Allen of Jacksonville; and Marilyn Peters of Alexander, who testified last month.

'Probable homicide,' jury says

By LYNDA HOLLENBECK
and LEE BROCKWAY
Courier Staff Writers

"Probable homicide" was the word Wednesday from the Saline County Grand Jury empaneled April 27 to investigate the deaths of two Bryant teen-agers.

The grand jury, which is probing the deaths of Kevin Ives, 17, and Don Henry, 16, released a preliminary report Wednesday night, calling for a State Police and FBI investigation into the deaths.

At 6:40 p.m., Saline Circuit Judge John Cole convened a public session to accept the jury's report, which was based on the testimony of 29 witnesses. Among those witnesses were Dr. Fahmy Malak, state medical examiner, and Dr. Joseph Burton, the Atlanta, Ga., forensic pathologist who performed autopsies on the exhumed bodies of the two boys who were struck by a train during the early morning hours of Aug. 23, 1987.

The grand jury also called for an FBI investigation into similar deaths that occurred in 1984 and 1985 in Oklahoma and Missouri. In both of these cases, two individuals were struck by trains and reportedly never made any movement prior to impact.

The jury did not release preliminary findings from Burton, saying it would be "detrimental to the investigation at this time if the report of Dr. Joseph Burton and the specifics of any injuries were discussed or made available to the public."

Burton testified before the panel for more than five hours Tuesday.

Deputy Prosecutor Dan Harmon said the report from Burton will remain sealed for now because the particulars of the

jurors stated they "feel strongly that the deaths should be aggressively and promptly investigated." The jury plans to remain in session and will meet the third Monday of each month to receive reports, hear witnesses and issue additional reports as necessary.

One section of the report said Burton testified that Malak's examinations of the victims were "consistent in their form and content with what might be expected from a medical examiner who is asked to examine the remains of two individuals who allegedly have died by accidental means in a pedestrian-train accident."

Malak ruled that the two boys had smoked a large quantity of marijuana, which he contended produced a state of unconsciousness. He ruled the deaths accidental.

The boys' families were not satisfied with the ruling, which was also disputed by other medical experts. On Feb. 8, the parents held a news conference to voice their complaints, and later that month Deputy Prosecutor Richard Garrett conducted public investigative hearings into the deaths. Witnesses included law enforcement officers, Malak, other employees of the state Crime Laboratory, members of the train crew and friends of the victims.

The train crew testified the boys did not move and showed no sign of awareness of the approaching train. Friends of the boys said they smoked marijuana with Ives and Henry the night before they died and reported seeing a whiskey bottle and a gun in the Henry car. The two had said they were spending the night together and planned to "spotlight deer" near the railroad tracks, their friends



Courier photos by Lee Brockway

Special Deputy Prosecutor Dan Harmon, at right in above photo, presents a preliminary report from a Saline County Grand Jury to Circuit Judge John Cole. Court reporter June Stewart is seated to the left of the judge. In photo at right, Linda Ives, mother of Kevin Ives, hugs a member of the grand jury, which classified the deaths of Kevin Ives and Don Henry as "probable homicides." In its report, the jury requested the FBI and the State Police to investigate the deaths and other similar ones in Oklahoma and Missouri. The jury will remain in session and will meet the third Monday of each month.



Pool hall owners testify today

By LYNDA HOLLENBECK
Courier Staff Writer

The former proprietors of a Bryant pool hall and video business presented testimony today before a Saline County grand jury probing the deaths of two Bryant teen-agers.

Testifying at the morning session were Johnny Evans and Steve Gray, whose business was closed Aug. 23, 1987, the day the boys died.

The victims were Kevin Ives, 17, and Don Henry, 16, who were struck by a Union Pacific train while lying in identical positions on a railroad track near the Shobe Road crossing. Both were reported to have visited the business operated by Evans and Gray on Aug. 22, 1987.

Prosecutors have said Evans now operates a similar venture in Morrilton and that Gray resides in North Little Rock.

Evans, 33, recently served a jail term on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was sentenced to eight days in the county jail after being convicted of that offense, which occurred in early August 1987. The sentence ran from Aug. 18-25.

Evans was openly hostile today to reporters and a television cameraman. He told the cameraman, "I don't want on that. I'm a private citizen."

A television reporter responded by saying, "We're just doing our job. Sir, you've been called as a witness before the grand jury ... you became a public figure."

When Evans was called into the courtroom, he turned to the photographer and muttered an obscenity.

As Evans came out of the courtroom when his testimony ended, he was admonished by Deputy Prosecutor Richard Garrett not to say anything to Gray, the subsequent witness.

At the conclusion of Gray's testimony, the two left the courthouse together. They were the final witnesses before the jury took a lunch break.

THE BENTON COURIER, Tuesday Evening, August 30, 1988.



Courier photo by Phillip Felton

Witnesses today at a Saline County Grand Jury included Alexander residents Wayne Smith, standing, and Kim Smith. Among the six witnesses at the morning session were Morrilton resident Johnny Evans and North Little Rock resident Steve Gray, who previously operated a pool hall and video business in Bryant. The business was closed the weekend of Aug. 23, 1987.

Other witnesses at the morning session were James Dean Murray, 51, a former Chicago resident who says he moved to Saline County approximately a month after the boys died; Wayne Smith and Kim Smith, both of Alexander; and Allen Smith of Alexander.

Smith was one of two or three men seen in a pickup truck near the railroad tracks after the boys' bodies were found.

Saline Memorial Hospital paramedic Shirley Raper, who responded to the report that two people had been struck by

a train, had been attempting to locate an alternate route to the impact site when she was startled by the truck. The vehicle reportedly was occupied by two or three men, but accounts differ.

Also in the truck was Gary Pulliam, who was scheduled as a witness for the grand jury's afternoon session.

Another witness slated for testimony today was Loyd Ray White, 27, of Route 1, Benton, who was recently charged with the rape and kidnapping of a 14-year-old Saline County youth.

White, presently jailed at

the Saline County Detention Facility, had been awaiting trial on another rape charge when he was arrested for the latest assault that occurred in an abandoned building approximately one-half mile from the Alexander Youth Services Center.

The youngster was apprehended while fishing in a lake near the center. The victim said he was attacked by an armed man wearing a ski mask, who had hidden in some bushes.

The victim of the earlier assault was an 18-year-old Bryant man, who was attacked Oct. 11, 1987, in a wooded area near Lindsey Drive in Alexander.

White is scheduled for arraignment Sept. 12 in Saline County Circuit Court.

William "Bill" Rummel, 43, of Bryant, who pleaded guilty to a charge of promoting prostitution, was also scheduled to testify today.

Rummel pleaded guilty to one charge July 7, shortly before his trial was to begin. He had been charged with hiring four young men to act as prostitutes for female clients.

He remains incarcerated at the county detention facility.

Before today's proceedings began, the grand jury had expected to view a videotape prepared by Dr. Joe Burton, the Atlanta, Ga., forensic pathologist who performed autopsies of the exhumed bodies of the victims. However, that tape was not ready for the session. An illness in Burton's family was an apparent cause of the delay.

After Burton's appearance before the grand jury, the panel issued a preliminary report stating the deaths should be considered a probable homicide.

Saline County sheriff's deputies contended the deaths were accidental, a theory supported by the state medical examiner. Dr. Fahmy Malak

Testify

Continued from page 1

ruled that the boys had lost consciousness due to smoking a large number of marijuana cigarettes and were unable to hear the sounds or feel the vibrations of the approaching freight train.

Burton disagreed with Malak's opinion about the number of marijuana cigarettes, saying they smoked "three or four." He and other medical experts contend that marijuana will cause a person to lose consciousness.

During public investigation hearings in February, members of the train crew testified the boys were covered by what appeared to be a green tarpaulin and say they showed no awareness of the train. However, Saline County investigators claimed the tarpaulin was an "optical illusion."

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Families offer \$10,000 in railroad deaths case

GAZETTE STAFF AND AP

The families of two teen-agers killed on train tracks in Saline County last year have offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone found to be responsible.

Kevin Ives, 17, and Don Henry, 16, were struck by a Union Pacific train August 22, 1987 while they were lying on railroad tracks near Alexander.

Dr. Fahmy Malak, the state med-

ical examiner, ruled that the deaths were accidental. He said the boys lost consciousness because they had smoked a large number of marijuana cigarettes and were unaware of the approaching train. However, other authorities doubted that theory and the grand jury has been investigating the deaths for several months.

Mrs. Larry Ives of Bryant said

(See REWARD on Page 4B.)

Reward

Continued from Page 1B.

Tuesday that she and her husband and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Henry had discussed a reward for a long time, "but we decided to wait and see where some of the leads went. We're convinced there are people who know what happened. Hopefully, they'll be willing to tell what they know if there's money in it for them."

She said anyone with information can contact authorities or the families.

Also Tuesday the former proprietors of a Bryant pool hall and video business testified Tuesday before the grand jury investigating the case.

Johnny Evans and Steve Gray, whose business was closed Aug. 23, 1987 — the day the boys died — testified. Both boys reportedly visited the business operated by Evans and Gray on Aug. 22, 1987.

Prosecutors have said Evans now operates a similar venture in Morrilton and that Gray resides in North Little Rock.

Evans, 33, recently served eight days in the county jail on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The offense occurred in early August 1987.

After Evans' testimony ended, he was admonished by Deputy Prosecutor Richard Garrett not to say anything to Gray, the subsequent witness. At the conclusion of Gray's testimony, the two left the courthouse together.

Numerous witnesses have testified since the jury was seated April 27 and five witnesses have been arrested on charges apparently unrelated to the deaths. Two were charged with drug violations, two with robbery and one with failure to pay past fines.

\$10,000 reward offered in deaths



Courier photo by Lynda Hollenbeck

Loyd Ray White, 27, of Route 1, Benton, who is accused of raping two teen-agers, was a witness Tuesday before the Saline County Grand Jury Investigating the 1987 deaths of two Bryant teen-agers.

By LYNDA HOLLENBECK
Courier Staff Writer

A \$10,000 reward will be offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for the deaths of two Bryant teen-agers.

"At least one of the families will be providing most of the money for the fund," said Dan Harmon, special deputy prosecutor for a grand jury investigation probing the 1987 deaths of Kevin Ives, 16, and Don Henry, 16.

The boys were struck by a Union Pacific train at 4:25 a.m. Aug. 23 as they lay motionless on a railroad track near the Shobe Road crossing. They were partially covered with a green tarpaulin and neither showed any awareness of the approaching freight train, according to members of the train crew.

"All of the details for the reward fund haven't been worked out," Harmon said. "We'll be making additional announcements."

All information will be kept confidential and should be relayed to Harmon or Deputy Prosecutor Richard Garrett.

Harmon announced the establishment of the reward fund at the close of a grand jury session Tuesday. The 16-member panel will meet

again Sept. 8.

Testifying before the jury Tuesday afternoon was Sam Hubbard, an overnight photographer for Channel 4. Hubbard went to the impact site and reportedly saw the tarpaulin that had been covering the victims. Saline County investigators say they never saw the tarpaulin and contended it was an "optical illusion."

Other witnesses Tuesday were Alexander residents Allen Smith and Gary Puliam. Both men were riding in a pickup truck spotted near the scene when Saline Memorial Hospital paramedic Shirley Raper was attempting to locate an alternate route to the impact site.

Raper reportedly was startled by the truck, which seemed to appear out of nowhere, authorities said. At that time, she had not been aware of a way into the site from the direction the vehicle drove.

Testifying during the afternoon was a man accused of kidnapping and raping a 14-year-old Saline County boy and an 18-year-old Bryant man.

Loyd Ray White, 27, of Route 1, Benton, was recently

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charged with the rape and kidnapping of a 14-year-old Saline County youth who had been fishing in a lake near the Alexander Youth Services Center.

White is presently an inmate of the Saline County Detention Facility. He had been awaiting trial on the earlier rape charge when he was arrested for the assault of the 14-year-old. The 14-year-old told authorities he was attacked by an armed man wearing a ski mask and hiding in bushes near the lake.

The 18-year-old victim was assaulted Oct. 11, 1987, in a wooded area near Lindsey Drive in Alexander, authorities said.

White, whose bond is set at \$1 million, is scheduled for arraignment Sept. 12 in Saline County Circuit Court.

William "Bill" Rummel, 43, of Bryant, who has been sentenced to a three-year prison term for a charge of promoting prostitution, was recalled for testimony Tuesday afternoon.

Rummel, who testified in an earlier session, had faced charges of hiring four young men to act as prostitutes for female clients, but pleaded guilty to one charge July 7, shortly before his trial was to begin.

He remains incarcerated at the county detention facility, pending transfer to the state Department of Correction.

Witnesses in the morning session were Johnny Evans and Steve Gray, operators of a Bryant pool hall and video arcade that was closed the day Ives and Henry died.

The victims were reported to have visited the arcade operated by Evans and Gray a few hours before they died.

Prosecutors have said Evans now operates a similar venture in Morrilton and that Gray resides in North Little Rock.

Evans, 33, recently served a jail term on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He had been accused of giving alcohol to an 11-year-old Bryant boy and received an eight-day sentence in the county jail. The incident occurred Aug. 7, 1987, and Evans served his sentence Aug. 18-25.

Other witnesses Tuesday were: James Dean Murray, 51, a former Chicago resident who reportedly moved to Saline County approximately a month after the boys died; Wayne Smith and Kim Smith, both of Alexander; and Ron Young, an employee of Union Pacific Railroad Co.

Saline County investigators contended the boys' deaths were accidental, an opinion shared by Dr. Fahmy Malak, state medical examiner. During investigative hearings in February, Malak would not waver from his position that smoking marijuana cigarettes had caused the boys to lapse into a deep sleep that prevented them from responding to the sounds and vibrations of the train.

Earlier, the grand jury issued a preliminary report stating the deaths should be considered "probable homicide."

Numerous witnesses have testified since the jury was seated April 27.

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Convict testifies again in train case

Attorneys won't comment on Bryant man's 2nd appearance

BY DOUG THOMPSON
Democrat Benton Bureau

BENTON — William Rummel, 43, of Bryant, who has been convicted of promoting prostitution, Tuesday appeared as a witness before a Saline County grand jury investigating the deaths of two teen-agers.

Rummel, who has testified before the grand jury once before, pleaded guilty July 7 to promoting the prostitution of at least two young men. He allegedly supplied these men — one a high school student — to women for sex.

Rummel was sentenced to three years in prison. He remains in the Saline County Jail pending transfer to the state Department of Correction.

Neither Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Richard Garrett nor Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Dan Harmon would comment on why Rummel appeared again. The only comment either made was that the grand jury would meet again Sept. 8.

However, Harmon said neither of the boys is suspected of being involved in Rummel's case.

The grand jury is investigating the Aug. 23, 1987, deaths of Larry Kevin Ives, 17, and Don George Henry, 16, who were struck by a train about 4:25 a.m. that day near Alexander. Both boys lay motionless on the tracks as the train approached.

The deaths originally were ruled accidental by the state medical examiner. The grand jury has ruled the deaths probable homicides. No indictments have been issued.

Also appearing before the

grand jury Tuesday were:

- Johnny Evans and Steve Gray, former owners of an arcade in Bryant where the boys sometimes were seen. Evans and Gray closed the business the day the boys died.

- James Dean Murray, Wayne Smith, Allen Smith and Kim Smith, all of Alexander. Allen Smith allegedly was riding in a pickup truck seen by ambulance driver Shirley Raper near the spot where the boys' bodies were found. Gary Pulliam of Alexander, who also testified, also rode in that truck.

- Lloyd Ray White, 27, of Benton, who faces charges of kidnapping and rape of a 14-

year-old Alexander boy. White allegedly committed the crime while free on bond from an alleged Oct. 11, 1987, homosexual rape of an 18-year-old. After the second alleged offense, his bond was placed at \$1 million.

- Sam Hubbard, a camera operator for Little Rock station KARK-TV, Channel 4, who was at the scene soon after the boys were found.

In a related matter, Steve

Lee, spokesman for the state attorney general's office, said Harmon legally can serve as special deputy prosecuting attorney and as head of the Benton Civil Service Commission. The issue had been raised by anonymous callers to the *Arkansas Democrat*.

Arkansas law states that a member of a civil service commission cannot hold political office.

- The 1986 shooting death of Dorothy House of Washington County. Malak ruled the death a suicide, but the family suspects foul play.

- The 1987 shooting death of Brenda Sue Stewart of Washington County. Malak ruled the death a suicide. The family suspects foul play.

- The 1986 shooting death of Ted Frier of White County. Malak ruled the death a suicide. The family believes he was murdered.

- The 1990 shooting death of William Webb of Pulaski County. Malak ruled the death a homicide. The family of Webb's wife, who allegedly shot her husband, questioned why the death was considered a homicide.

- The 1982 shooting death of Bill White of Hot Springs. Malak ruled the death a suicide. The family suspects foul play.

- The 1990 shooting death of Jerry McCool of East End (Saline County). Malak ruled the death a suicide, but the family

thinks it was an accident or murder.

In other business, the board approved a motion aimed to reduce the workload at the medical examiner's office. State pathologists would rely more heavily on external examination or partial autopsies to save time.

"In a certain percentage of cases, we can determine cause of death by external examination and a review of patient records," said Assistant Medical Examiner Frank Peretti.

The new policy was not hailed by some of the people interested in the 14 autopsies.

"I'm incensed," said Linda Ives of Bryant, founder of Victims of Malak's Incredible Testimony. Ives' son, Kevin, and another Bryant youth, Don Henry, were hit by a train in 1987. Malak concluded that the boys were hit after they smoked marijuana and fell asleep on the tracks. A grand jury later ruled the deaths homicides.