

2 Join Carter-Artis Murder Trial Jury

Paterson Woman, Wanaque Man Seated; Panel Is Still Lacking Nine Members

PATERSON — Two more jurors, a man and a woman, were seated on the first degree murder trial of former ranking middleweight boxer Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, and John Artis, a former Paterson high school track star.

With the seating of Mrs. Jean E. Eelman of 166 Kearney St., a skein winder in a Paterson textile plant, and George F. Cupolo, 34, an engineer for Gruman Aircraft, of 14 Alexander Ave., Wanaque, the total number of jurors selected thus far is five. Nine more are needed to complete the 14-member trial jury.

Carter, 30, of 498 20th Ave., and Artis, 22, of 5 Tyler St., both of Paterson, are charged with shooting up the Lafayette Grill, 428 E. 18th St., Paterson, last June 17. Two men died instantly, a woman was seriously wounded and died three weeks later, and another man recovered from his injuries.

The state, represented by Assistant Prosecutor Vincent Hull Jr., is seeking the death penalty.

Defense Contention

The defense, Carter represented by Raymond A. Brown of Jersey City and Artis by Arnold M. Stein of Denville, will contend the pair was not involved in the shooting, was not near the tavern and is innocent.

At the end of yesterday's session, Superior Court Judge Samuel A. Larner, who is hearing the case, inquired as to how long the lawyers anticipate the trial will take. Jury selection enters its eighth day today with possibility of Saturday sessions being held.

Hull indicated the state's case might take two weeks and

Brown hinted at a week-long defense. Judge Larner said jury selection added to it would bring the trial to an end about June 1.

Of the 14 persons interviewed as prospective jurors yesterday, 10 were excused by the court and one each by Brown and Stein.

One of those excused was Stephen H. Hall Sr., a Paterson contractor, whose son, Stephen, is Paterson police commissioner. Hall noted he is friendly with Carter and on occasions has driven Carter to the airport to get a plane to a fight.

Neighbor of Clerk

Mrs. Eelman, mother of two sons, said she is a neighbor of and friendly with Mrs. Regina Sportelli, Judge Larner's court clerk. Mr. Eelman, she said, is a letter carrier with the Paterson Post Office.

Cupolo, married and father of three, said he is a Navy veteran. He said he spoke briefly to Hall about the case at which time he learned of Hall's friendship with the defendants.

Yesterday afternoon, Judge Larner signed an order granting the defendants permission to see and obtain copies of all medical, hospital and autopsy reports, records, charts or other documents regarding the victims.

Killed were James Oliver, 52, bartender and part owner of the bar, who lived above the tavern; Fred Nauyokos, 60, of 89 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove, a patron; and Mrs. Hazel Tanis, 51, of 176 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne, also a patron.

Another patron, William Marins, 42, of 225 Keen St., Paterson, recovered.