

Carter Denies Part In Triple Murder

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PATERSON — "I had nothing to do with the killings. I had nothing to do with it" Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, charged with killing three persons last June, said yesterday in court.

In a surprise move by the defense, he took the witness stand in the 7th day of his first degree murder trial.

Carter, 30, of 498 20th Ave., and John Artis, 22, of 5 Tyler St., are accused of fatally shooting two men and a woman last June 17 at the Lafayette Grill, 428 E. 18th St., Paterson.

Yesterday, before calling Carter to the stand, Raymond A. Brown of Jersey City, Carter's lawyer, and Arnold M. Stein of Denville, attorney for Artis, moved to have the indictments against the pair dismissed, contending the state had failed to produce evidence linking the pair to the shooting.

Assistant Prosecutor Vincent E. Hull Jr. cited prosecution testimony in which Carter and Artis were identified. Superior Court Judge Samuel A. Lerner denied the motion.

Carter, taking the stand at 10:27 a.m., said he was dressed the same way he was last June 17. He wore a striped tan sport jacket, white shirt, black tie, vest, trousers and socks and shoes.

The short, stocky boxer said

the only difference between then and now was his hair was short. He said he had it shaved off. In a steady, calm voice, Carter also said he wore a black derby hat that night and was not wearing his black rimmed glasses.

Recounts Actions

During the more than two and a half hours he was on the stand, Carter said he left his home shortly before 10 p.m. last June 16, and went to the Nite Spot, a tavern at E. 18th and Governor Streets.

There, he continued, he met John (Bucks) Royster, 71 Hamilton Ave., Paterson, spoke for a while, had a few drinks, then, with three other men, went to another tavern to buy a bottle of liquor. Carter said they then returned to the tavern where they sat in his car drinking, then visited the home of a sick friend.

Carter said they left the friend's home, then returned to the Nite Spot where he dropped off his three friends, then went to a Bridge Street tavern with Royster. En route to the tavern, Carter said, someone called to him and walked over. He said it was Artis. Carter said it was at 2:25 a.m. on June 17.

Carter said he left the Bridge Street tavern about 12:45 a.m., went to the Nite Spot briefly, then went to a West Broadway tavern, where he stayed until shortly before 2 a.m. when he again returned to the Nite Spot.

Carter testified Royster was with him, but Artis was not; that as far as he knew, Artis was still at the Nite Spot. Returning to the Nite Spot, Carter said two women, Mrs. Kathleen McGuire and her mother, Mrs. Anna Mapes, asked him for a ride home. He said he took the women home about 2:20 a.m., then returned to the bar.

Went for Money

Realizing he was running low on cash, Carter said, he asked Royster and Artis to accompany him home while he got some money. Carter testified Artis drove "because he liked to drive" and that he, Carter, wanted to have someone along as an excuse to go back out.

He said he was stopped at E. 28th Street, near 14th Avenue by police who checked the license and registration, then let them go. Carter continued: after getting more money he went to the

bar again had one more drink, then with Artis driving and Royster as a passenger, went to Bridge Street, dropped Royster at his home then was en route to a home on Broadway when police took them into custody.

Carter said he had never been in the Lafayette Grill; didn't know it existed; had only been in the area to play ball at the Putnam Oval, a block away.

He contended County Detective Lieutenant Vincent De Simone never spoke to him about contacting a lawyer and claimed when Paterson Detective Emil Di Robbo attempted to hand him the .32-caliber pistol bullet admitted into evidence he wouldn't accept it, saying he didn't know how it got into his car.

Carter contended when he was released he found his car "all torn up" and taken apart. He said "I've never seen them before in my life," referring to state witnesses Alfred Bello and Arthur Dexter Bradley, who said they saw Carter and Artis come around the corner at the front of the tavern.

Others Testifying

Also testifying were Tuck of 105 Presidential, who in addition to being Nite Spot manager he was Carter's "personal advisor." Tuck said Carter was "in and out" of the tavern the last time he saw him was at 3:30 a.m., which was really 2:45 a.m. because the bar closed 12 minutes fast.

Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Mapes also testified. They corroborated Carter's testimony about bringing them home from the tavern. But confronted the pair with statements they gave police in which they said that Carter took them home on Saturday, June 18, not Friday, June 17.

Mrs. McGuire claimed she was nervous because De Simone was "yelling" at her. Mrs. Mapes said she was tired and her feet hurt. On further questioning by Brown, the women said Friday, June 17, was correct.