

Associated Press Wirephoto

Newsmen surround William D. Archerd after murder conviction in insulin deaths of three relatives.

Court Convicts Male Nurse In Three Insulin Deaths

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A male nurse accused of killing six people with insulin injections was convicted of first-degree murder Wednesday.

Superior Judge Adolph Alexander said "this defendant knew more about insulin than most doctors."

Small, mild-appearing William Dale Archerd, 55, was found guilty of murdering two of his seven wives — one of them a best-selling author — and a 15-year-old nephew.

Money the Motive

He also was accused of killing another wife and two male friends but was not formally charged in these deaths because they occurred outside Los Angeles County.

Money was the motive alleged in most of the deaths. Archerd received about $10,000 from insurance policies and estates.

Archerd was the first person convicted in the United States of murder by injection of insulin — a bizarre method in which an execess of the naturally occurring hormone burns up blood sugar and sends the victim into fatal shock.

Archerd took the verdict calmly and told newsmen "this is just the first round."

Sentencing Delayed

Alexander delayed sentencing pending testimony on Archerd's physical condition. He continued the case until Thursday.

The defendant had suffered an apparent heart attack in January and the trial was recessed six weeks.

Archerd was convicted of killing Zella Winders Archerd, 48, his fourth wife, who died July 25, 1956; Mary Brinker Post Arden, 60, his seventh wife and author of the million-copy "Annie Jordan," who died Nov. 3, 1966; and Burney Kirk Archerd, 15, a nephew, who died Sept. 2, 1961.

Judge Alexander, who heard the case without a jury, said he had no doubt that Archerd was guilty although the evidence was "all circumstantial."

More Than 100 Witnesses

The state called more than 100 witnesses, many of them physicians, in an effort to prove the victims died of hypoglycemia, too little sugar in the blood, which can be caused by an excess of insulin.

Insulin normally is administered to remedy diabetes, a disease in which the blood-sugar level is too high. Too much insulin, however, reduces the amount of sugar available as food and coma and perhaps death results.

Pilot Hears A.F. Rest Court Case

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP) — The prosecution rested its case Wednesday at the court martial of an Air Force officer who says he will do nothing to aid America's efforts in the Vietnam war.

The prosecution rested after calling only three witnesses against Capt. Dale Noyd, 34, who is stationed at nearby Cannon Air Force Base. They were his wing commander, Col. Homer Hansen, his squadron commanter, Lt. Col. James Glessner, and a young pilot, Lt. Mathew Husson.

Disobeys Order

Noyd was brought to court martial on a charge of willfully disobeying a lawful order to make a training flight last Dec. 5, with Lt. Husson, who was being trained as a pilot for Vietnam.

Noyd, a 12-year Air Force veteran, says he would fight in defense of the United States but believes the Vietnam war is aggression.

The prosecution largely confined their testimony to incidents concerning the flight order in December. Glessner said he hadn't changed his mind about an earlier evaluation when he described Noyd's character as excellent.

To Challenge Order

The court's law officer ruled earlier that religious beliefs would not be admitted on the question of whether the flight order was lawful but would be accepted on the matter of Noyd's character.

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