

Trial ends first week

Forrest trial jury taken to gravesite

By BILL DIETRICH
Columbian Staff Writer

A visit to a forest gravesite by a Clark County jury and an afternoon of see-saw testimony Friday favoring both defense and prosecution capped a week of testimony in the first-degree murder trial of Warren Leslie Forrest.

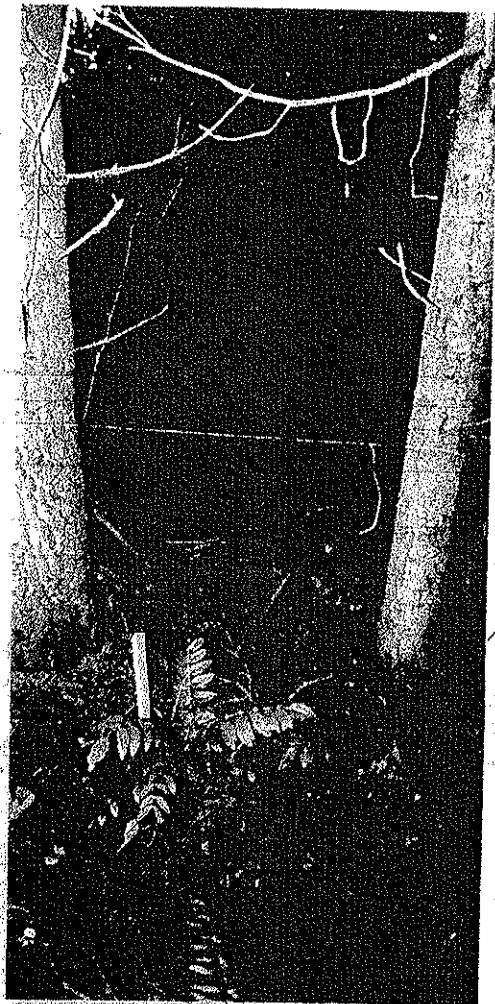
Some 33 witnesses testified for the prosecution in the trial's second week. One of them, ██████████, told jurors that Forrest was the man who abducted her.

Forrest, 29, formerly of Battle Ground, is charged in the death of Krista Kay Blake, who was 20 when she disappeared from Vancouver in July, 1974.

The 12-person jury and Forrest traveled to Tukes Mountain, a mile east of Battle Ground, to view the still-open grave of Miss Blake, which was discovered July 11, 1976.

The shallow pit was within a hundred yards of the parking lot for the county parks maintenance sheds on Tukes Mountain.

Deeper in the woods a short distance from a trail, jurors were shown the two trees between which Mrs. ██████████ told police she was tied. That site and the burial site appeared less than 200 yards from each other.



Two trees mark site of alleged abduction.

Court officials made no comment on the sites, other than to identify them. Forrest did not approach them closely and smoked a cigarette.

Reassembling in the courtroom Friday afternoon, jurors were told by a state crime lab expert that the dart gun owned by Forrest could not, "in its present condition," have made the holes found in Miss Blake's T-shirt, which she was wearing when unearthed.

Chesterene Cwiklik of Seattle, who had testified earlier in the Forrest trial, said she experimentally fired the air-powered gun Friday morning at similar T-shirts stretched taut, backed by styrofoam and padding.

"In its present condition," she said (the gun did not appear damaged), "the gun could not cause those holes." Ms. Cwiklik said it lacked sufficient power.

The prosecution has said it will offer evidence later in the trial that Forrest fired feathered darts into the breast of rape and stabbing victim ██████████. But the defense maintains that the gun discovered at Forrest's home did not have the power to drive the darts deeply enough to make the size holes found in Miss Blake's T-shirt.

Ms. Cwiklik also testified that the twine that bound Miss Blake in her grave and the twine that tied Mrs. ██████████ six days after Blake disappeared were "basically the same kind of twine."

The prosecution contends Forrest could have obtained the twine from park storage rooms. He was a park employee with keys to Tukes Mountain's maintenance facilities, supervisors have testified.

But Cwiklik also said the twine is available commonly in hardware stores.

Park employee Dewey Oltmann of Battle Ground also took the witness stand for the second time Friday, and this time described what happened the morning after Mrs. ██████████ was found after escaping from her abductor the night before.

Oltmann said Forrest was sitting with him in the lunchroom at Lewisville Park when a call came from Tukes Mountain informing Oltmann of Mrs. ██████████'s escape and her description of her assailant.

Oltmann told the jury that he turned to Forrest, told him what happened, and said in a joking manner that the description fit Forrest.

"He turned just a little bit red, sat back in his chair, and said something about cutting his hair if he's starting to look like someone else," Oltmann recalled of Forrest's reaction.

Some of the major developments in the case to date: Krista Kay Blake: The prosecution has sought to show she was probably murdered. Her remains, witnesses have testified, were too decayed when found to provide conclusive evidence of how she died.

The blue van: Miss Blake was last seen getting into a blue van in Vancouver on July 11, 1974. Mrs. ██████████ testified that her abductor used a blue van. The third alleged victim, ██████████ is also expected to testify her assailant drove a blue van. Forrest drove such a van, but his attorney has sought to show that witnesses cannot conclusively identify the van they saw as Forrest's.

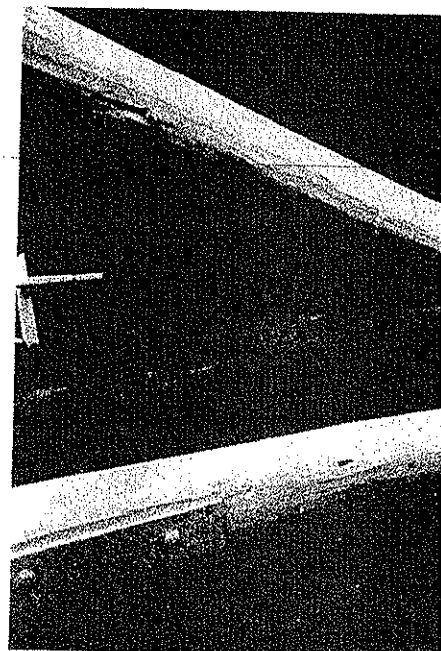
Lewisville Park: Cindy Birrer of Vancouver testified she saw Forrest meet Miss Blake a few months before Blake disappeared. The alleged meeting took place in Lewisville Park, where Forrest sometimes worked.

Forrest's employment: The prosecution has sought to show that Forrest was a county parks employee with access to the Tukes Mountain facility and the kind of twine used to tie two alleged victims.

The abduction: Mrs. ██████████ has testified Forrest was the man who abducted her and tied her between two trees.

And a Portland psychiatrist, Guy Parvaresh, submitted notes of a conversation he had with Forrest in November 1974, in which Forrest appeared to refer to the ██████████ abduction while talking in what the psychiatrist called a "simple schizophrenic" state.

The trial will continue Monday. When the defense begins its case, it will try to show the dissimilarities between the various incidents. There were no predictions of how long the trial will last.



Van carrying jurors leaves Tukes Mountain (Coughlan)

Union officials latest Crow

By LARRY LANGE
Columbian Staff Writer

Paper mill worker union officials voted, at a weekend, not to submit the latest Crown Zellerbach Co. wage offer to a vote of local union members.

That touched off an additional call from a dissident union leader for a vote on the latest company offer, which was rejected by union officials Friday.

In response, the president of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, Farris Bryson, called for union members.

He said efforts to obtain the membership vote, following Friday's rejection of the offer by the union's "Crow council," would be counterproductive.

"I wish they'd quit screwing around with those petition and those rump meetings," Bryson said in an interview Saturday, of union dissidents.

"All it does is encourage the company to hang there," he said.

Paul Naffin, a leader of dissident Local 5 members who work in Crown's Camas mill, said a 6 p.m. Monday meeting of members will be held in the home of Gene Anderson, another dissident leader, to discuss another attempt to get a membership vote on the company proposal.

He said Local 5 members voted against submitting their offer to a ballot Thursday. Naffin insisted, however, that many Local 5 members who attended that vote on didn't understand that talks had broken off between the company and the union.

"We have to do something," Naffin said. "On Feb. 6 we will have been out six months. Everyone I talk to tells me they want to go back to work."

Workers on strike against the Scott Paper Co., Everett, Wash., mill voted Friday night to reject Scott's latest wage offer. Details of Scott's proposal were not released.

There was no word Saturday of further negotiation between Crown or Scott and the union.

Crown Zellerbach, in what it called an "amended final offer," Thursday again proposed wage hikes of 10, 9, and 1 percent for each of the three years in the pact.

It added, however, a new sliding pension scale of retirement benefits ranging from \$16 to \$27 per month per year of service. Carol Eckert, a company spokesman, said the new scale was an improvement over an earlier offer and is geared to graduations in wages within the Camas mill and six others owned by Crown.

But a spokesman for the union, James Thompson, said

Court quiet as rape, stabbing described

By BILL DIETRICH
Columbian Staff Writer

In a dramatic end to 1½ weeks of prosecution testimony, [redacted] described before a crowded but hushed courtroom Tuesday her rape and stabbing by Warren Leslie Forrest.

Obviously tense and frequently rubbing her face with her hands as she recalled the Oct. 1, 1974, assault which Forrest has admitted, Miss [redacted] 25, barely managed to say, "It's that guy in the green suit," when identifying Forrest.

The defendant kept his eyes focused on a writing pad during Miss [redacted] testimony. His only change of expression was to blink rapidly.

The 12-person jury was instructed by Superior Court Judge Robert McMullen that Forrest is not being tried for a crime, for which he has been confined in a mental treatment program at Western State Hospital.

McMullen said the jury should use the [redacted] incident only as it helps to prove or disprove the prosecution's charge of first-degree murder against Forrest in the death of Krista Kay Blake.

Forrest has pleaded innocent to that charge, Miss Blake disappeared in July 1974. Forrest was arrested for the [redacted] assault on Oct. 2, 1974.

The seven women and five men who will have to decide if Forrest — quiet, soft-spoken, slim, 5-foot-9, a husband and father, a former honor student and track captain, a Vietnam veteran — committed the murder the prosecution alleges.

Miss [redacted] was expected to be the last major prosecution witness, with the defense scheduled to begin presenting its witnesses today. McMullen predicted Tuesday that testimony will conclude Friday to be followed by closing arguments and a jury decision next week.

The trial may last about half as long as the judge and prosecutor expected. An agreement to summarize some testimony and Forrest's decision to drop a plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity" cut the number of potential prosecution witnesses from 149 to about 37.

Miss [redacted] testimony was preceded Tuesday by a jury tour of Lacamas Park, where the incident took place. There was no physical evidence to be seen.

Then [redacted] took the stand. Now a graduate student in engineering, she was 20 when abducted. She testified she had returned to the United States on Sept. 2, 1974, from studies and travel in Europe. Her parents at that time lived in Camas, and she was employed as a volunteer for two government agencies in Portland.

Miss [redacted] a slim woman with long dark hair, said that on Oct. 2 she was approached on a Portland sidewalk by Forrest, who told her he was a student in Seattle and wanted her to be a photography model for a term paper he was doing. He promised her \$10 an hour.

According to her testimony, Miss [redacted] agreed, got in Forrest's blue van and was eventually driven through Washington Park in Portland to the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Burnside Street, where Forrest drove off onto a small dirt road that dead-ended in dense woods.

She said Forrest paid her \$10 in advance, went into the back of the van and asked Miss [redacted] to help him with his photography equipment. She said that when she climbed through the side doors to do so, Forrest jumped on her, forced her face down onto the van and wielded a knife.

Miss [redacted] said she grabbed Forrest's arm which held the knife and struggled.

"He couldn't get anywhere so he put the knife down," she testified. "Then he strangled me."

She said she blacked out and woke to find herself with her hands tied behind her back, her pants gone and the van moving north through Portland.

"He said he was going to take me to some men, and I was supposed to dance for them," she said.

Miss [redacted] said Forrest stopped twice on the freeway to change her knots, at one time suspending her legs by rope from bracing at the top of the van. She said he hit her when she complained.

"He struck me once, and I went flying," she said. "He told me to shut up." Later, she testified, Forrest said, "that I was too much trouble and he was going to let me go." Forrest drove toward Camas where she told him her parents lived, indicating he might drop her off.

Instead, Miss [redacted] said, he drove to Lacamas Park, unlocked the gate and drove down a narrow park road, finally parking.

Then, she testified, Forrest ripped off her shirt, fondled her breasts and then took a gun out of a foot locker and fired darts at her.

"Lots of things went through my head when he shot it."

she said. "I didn't die. I thought maybe they were poison darts. He shot some more." Several were fired into her chest and stomach, she said.

"He came over and pulled them out like I was a dart board," she said. "He said something about hurting."

She said Forrest then forced her to have oral sex and subsequently raped her.

"Before he raped me he said if I was good, he'd let me go," she recalled. She said Forrest also used a prophylactic, assuring her she would not get pregnant.

Miss [redacted] said Forrest then put a noose around her neck. "So I wouldn't run away." Her clothes and jewelry had been taken from her, and he took her out of the van. Throwing a baby blanket around her shoulders, she said he led her, otherwise naked, down the road and then off into the brush.

She said he ordered her to sit on a log, improved the noose which had come loose and then pulled hard enough to somersault her backward off the log. Then he used the noose to strangle her a second time, again making her pass out.

Miss [redacted] said she awoke under a pile of small logs and discovered she had been shallowly stabbed with a knife about six times in the chest and neck.

It took her an hour in the growing dusk to walk out of the park. Miss [redacted] said she had difficulty breathing and could take only three steps at a time.

"I had to put my head between my legs so I wouldn't faint," she said.

A passing motorist finally stopped to help her on Crown Road near the park entrance after a couple of other cars had already passed by. She was taken to the Camas police station and eventually to St. Joseph's Hospital in Vancouver, where she described her assault to sheriff's deputies.

Forrest was arrested the next day.

"Did the Forests display an attitude toward you?" prosecutor Dennis Hunter finally asked.

"Yes," she said. "Indifference."

Defense attorney Don Greig declined to cross examine

RIVER ROUNDRY

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Vancouver rail links to be cut

By THOMAS RYLL
Columbian Staff Writer

Vancouver will lose two of its three daily Amtrak trains to and from Seattle under a major cutback the federal Department of Transportation announced today.

In addition, the Northwest would lose Portland-to-Salt Lake City service, and one of routes from Seattle to Spokane.



By BILL DIETRICH
Columbian Staff Writer

Was Warren Leslie Forrest — a husband and father, a track star and honor student, a Vietnam veteran and successful employee of the county parks system — capable of murder in 1974?

On Thursday, the prosecution presented the witness in Forrest's murder case who it hopes will convince a 12-person jury that Forrest was capable of the first-degree murder he is charged with.

25, took the stand again for Forrest's second trial to describe her abduction, torture, rape, stabbing and semi-burial under brush by the defendant on Oct. 1, 1974.

Forrest already has admitted to the assault and was confined to Western State mental hospital in 1975 because of it. Superior Court Judge Robert McMullen reminded the jury her tale is only to be considered in proving or refuting Forrest's murder charge.

But Miss [redacted] tense, low-voiced testimony had an obvious emotional impact. Her family watched from the front of the courtroom; jurors seemed transfixed, and a stream of spectators filed in to hear her story.

Forrest, 29, formerly of Battle Ground, has pleaded innocent to charges of first-degree murder in connection with the death of Krista Kay Blake. The prosecution is seeking to show the circumstances of the crime and the alleged Blake murder are similar.

Miss [redacted] appeared slightly calmer as she testified for the second trial. But the defendant, who appeared normal during the first trial when Miss [redacted] spoke, looked distressed and ill this time. He kept his eyes on the table.

The victim responded with bitter irony when asked by prosecutor Dennis Hunter why she first spoke to Forrest when he said hello to her on a Portland street.

"I had a pretty sour outlook on life then," she recalled, "and I thought it (answering Forrest) might brighten somebody's day. It didn't."

After a terrifying journey to Lacamas Lake Park near Camas and a subsequent assault, Miss [redacted] bleeding from six stab wounds and barely able to breathe, made her way out of the park.

She said despite the fact she was nude and covered with blood, two cars ignored her wave for help before a third vehicle finally stopped.

"They couldn't help but see me," she said of the motorists who ignored her.

Today, she told the jury, her torso and neck remain scarred. She has had to seek help from psychologists.

"I'm afraid to walk around by myself," she said. "I'm afraid to do anything by myself."

Prosecution testimony is expected to conclude Monday. Thursday's session also introduced again the notes of Portland psychiatrists Guy Parvaresh, who interviewed Forrest in November 1974 after his arrest for the assault.

The prosecution maintains the portion admitted is another tie between Forrest and the abduction of [redacted] to Tukes Mountain. Parvaresh's summary of what Forrest told him reads:

"Ridgefield after work to fix fence — girl was found hogtied to tree, it looks like a dream, becomes very vague, disorganized, looks as if I was there the night before, I'm not sure."

Parvaresh described Forrest as schizophrenic when interviewed.

"I thought his thinking was quite disorganized," the psychiatrist said.

Miss [redacted] said Forrest appeared normal when he approached her on a Portland street and said he would pay her to be a photographic model for a college project. Employed only as a volunteer at the time, Miss [redacted] agreed.

She said Forrest drove her in his blue van to a dirt road near Washington Park in Portland and asked her to climb into the back of his van to help him with photography equipment. When she did so, he jumped on her with a knife.

Forrest victim tells of abduction, rape

She struggled to keep the knife point away.

"I said over and over, 'I don't want to be stabbed,'" she testified.

Forrest finally gave up on the knife and strangled her instead. When she woke, she said, she found her pants gone and her arms tied, with the van heading on Interstate 5 toward Vancouver.

Miss [redacted] said Forrest stopped several times to

adjust her bonds and struck her once, telling her to "shut up." At one point he told her she was being taken to dance for a group of men, a story similar to one Forrest is alleged to have told Mrs. [redacted].

"Emotionally, I was in shock," she said. "I started to cry once. Then I figured crying wouldn't help at all."

Miss [redacted] said Forrest drove to an undeveloped part of Lacamas Lake Park, unlocked a gate and parked

down a dirt road. She said he ripped off the rest of her clothing and took out an air-powered dart gun, which she at first assumed was a firearm.

"He shot at me — I didn't die. I looked down, and they were darts. He just kept shooting at me," she testified.

She said when Forrest pulled them out he asked in "a sadistic tone of voice" if they hurt.

Miss [redacted] said she then was raped, some of her jewelry taken, and she was taken outside the van and deeper into the woods with a noose around her neck. The noose was used to strangle her again.

When she woke, she said, she was buried under a pile of small logs and bleeding from six shallow stab wounds.

"I could hardly breathe," she said. Attempts to staunch her bleeding with leaves failed. She could only take three steps before resting.

Her description to police led to a swift identification of Forrest, a park employee with gate keys. At about 5 a.m. on Oct. 2, 1974, police arrived at his home in Battle Ground.

Police testified they found some of Miss [redacted] clothes, jewelry and the dart gun, but nothing belonging to Miss Blake, who had disappeared three months before. Some of the evidence was found in Forrest's garbage can.

The defendant pleaded innocent by reason of insanity and was confined in early 1975.

The defense did not cross examine Miss [redacted].

Toilet paper figures in Forrest case

Toilet paper usually plays an important but un-discussed role in human affairs. On Thursday, however, two rolls of the stuff figured in a murder trial.

Clark County sheriff's deputy Russ Smith testified that two rolls of toilet paper pictured in the footlocker of Warren Leslie Forrest was the kind purchased for use in county parks and the courthouse.

When asked by skeptical defense attorney Don Greig how he could know that, Smith replied, "I have been around this county a good many years."

Greig also inquired, have you paid particular attention to the kind of paper used in Clark County government restrooms?

"I sure have," said Smith. Smith said he could identify the rolls found in Forrest's footlocker because of the plastic attachments at each end of the cardboard core.

So what?

The prosecution alleges Forrest, a former county parks employee, had access to county storage facilities where twine of the kind possibly used to bind the murder victim was kept.

Toilet paper for parks restrooms also was stored there. The photographed rolls have been offered as a bit of evidence that the defendant may have visited those storerooms.

Forrest takes the stand in his defense

By BILL DIETRICH
Columbian Staff Writer

Murder defendant Warren Leslie Forrest today denied knowing anything about the death of Krista Blake or of the abduction of [REDACTED].

Today's testimony, positive in nature, came after his testimony Monday was somewhat vague about the killing.

"I know I have the capability (for murder) because of the assault on Miss [REDACTED] a vulnerable-looking Forrest told defense attorney Don Greig Monday. He was referring to a rape-stabbing of Miss [REDACTED].

"I am fairly certain I didn't (kill Blake), but at the same time I know I had the capability," Forrest concluded in testimony Monday. But on the stand today, his denial was there, similar to comments made during his first trial, which ended in a mistrial.

Monday, the defendant also admitted to his attorney that he fears being capable of committing another assault similar to the one on [REDACTED] in 1974.

Because of treatment at Western State Hospital since his arrest for the [REDACTED] crime, he said, he now regards such fears as a danger signal that, "I am not adequately expressing my feelings again."

Although Forrest seemed tired, subdued and uncertain of his own innocence at times, he did give testimony supporting the defense's theory of his actions in 1974. He said the [REDACTED] assault is the only one he has a specific

recollection of, and portrayed it as the explosive culmination of a "progressive mental illness." The prosecution regards the [REDACTED] assault as not a culmination but just the last in a series of assaults on Clark County women.

Forrest admitted on the witness stand that he was "uncertain of my ability to present myself in court" and suffering from stress after seven months in the county jail and problems in relating to other prisoners.

He said his memory of the [REDACTED] assault is hazy and in part inaccurate. He testified he recalled slitting Miss [REDACTED]'s throat, something which did not occur.

Forrest was the first witness for the defense, after 6½ days of prosecution testimony that ended Monday. Forrest, 29, formerly of Battle Ground, is on trial for the murder of Miss Blake, who disappeared from Vancouver in 1974. [REDACTED] and Miss [REDACTED] have identified Forrest as the man who abducted them the same year.

The last important prosecution witness was state criminalist Chesterene Cwiklik, who said Forrest's dart gun could have made holes found in Miss Blake's T-shirt. But, she added, the holes could also have been made with an icepick or awl.

Unlike the last trial, the dart gun was introduced as evidence without challenge Monday. Greig still hopes to

(continued)

Forrest trial goes to the jury

By **BILL DIETRICH**
Columbian Staff Writer

A 12-person Cowlitz County jury began deliberations today to determine if Warren Leslie Forrest, 29, formerly of Battle Ground, is guilty of first-degree murder.

The Forrest case went to the jury nearly five years after the crime was committed, almost seven months since charges were filed, and after two trials that, taken together, have run 6½ weeks.

The Cowlitz jury has been transported daily to Clark County to hear the case after Forrest's first trial ended in a mistrial in February.

Tension was high in the courtroom this morning as both the parents of murder victim Krista Kay

Blake and the parents of Forrest heard attorneys make their closing arguments. Abduction victim [redacted] also was present.

The prosecution told the jury today that Forrest, who has admitted to a rape-stabbing in October 1974, also was responsible for the murder of Miss Blake and the abduction of Mrs. [redacted] in July 1974.

Prosecutor's Dennis Hunter and Roger Bennett again wove a complex tapestry of evidence to show Forrest was involved in a series of assaults on Clark County women in 1974.

The defense, in contrast, was expected to argue that Forrest's October assault was the isolated culmination of psychological problems and not part of a pattern.

Forrest's sanity is not an issue in this case.

Defense attorney Don Greig was expected again to point out the differences in descriptions of the suspect and his van, the failure of Mrs. [redacted] to identify Forrest in late 1974 and the loss of crucial evidence by the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

The jury will be sequestered in a county motel until a verdict is reached.

Trial costs alone for the controversial case, which played a part in last year's heated sheriff's race, exceed \$50,000 to date. Hunter and a spokesman for the county commissioners said no effort has been made yet to total the full cost, including investigation.

Forrest given life

Warren Leslie Forrest, the convicted killer of Krista Kay Blake, was sentenced to imprisonment for the "period of his natural life" this morning by Superior Court Judge Robert McMullen. Forrest's attorney, Don Greig, immediately afterward handed the judge a notice of appeal.

It still has not been determined whether Forrest, who was convicted last Saturday of Miss Blake's 1974 homicide, will be housed initially in a state mental health facility or in a prison. That decision will be made by the state Department of Social and Health Services, probably within a day or two, said Clark County Prosecutor Dennis Hunter.

Either way, state law requires that Forrest, 29, be institutionalized for a minimum of 13 years and four months under his current conviction, said Hunter. The judge ruled that Forrest will get credit for the time he has been

in custody in Clark County since last Oct. 20, when he was charged.

The prosecutor said officials at Western State mental hospital, where Forrest was confined in 1975, have indicated they will not receive him there again. Forrest likely will be transported to the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, which has a mental health treatment facility as well as standard prison quarters, said Hunter.

Greig said he will not be available to handle preparation of Forrest's appeal, which would be heard in the state Court of Appeals in Tacoma. Zachary Stoumbos of the Clark County public defender's office will handle the appeal, said Greig.

Prior to Forrest's sentencing, McMullen denied his motion for a new trial in Superior Court.