# Abortionist accused of pointing gun at crowd of anti-abortion protesters

Jackson, MS—A Jackson anti-abortion activist filed a complaint against a clinic physician on March 19 after the doctor allegedly pointed a gun at him and other protesters.

Roy McMillan said he and other anti-abortion protesters were outside New Woman Medical Center at 614 Briarwood Drive when Dr. Joseph Booker pointed a gun at him and others trying to persuade women not to enter the clinic.

"We were just counseling, armed only with the truth," said McMillan, 51. "He opened uo his black pouch, pulled out his gun and started waving it at the women and children and pointed at me."

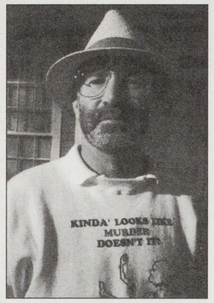
McMillan filed a complaint with the Jackson Police Department. Repeated calls to Booker at the clinic were not returned.

Pro-abortion activists at the clinic would not identify themselves.

Police spokesman Lee Vance confirmed an incident involving a gun occurred at about 9:30 a.m. at the clinic where abortions are performed. Booker has been charged with simple assault, pointing and aiming, Vance said.

"We can't arrest him yet because the charge is a misdemeanor," Vance said. "The judge has to sign the warrant, It will probably be about the first of next week before it's signed." No warrant has yet been issued.

Protesters stand at the clinic's entrance gate on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The group's anti-abortion office is on the same lot as the clinic. ■



*McMillan*

# "Silent Scream" shown to rescue jury

by Nancy Stephens

Fort Worth, TX — "The Silent Scream" of the unborn has been heard in at least one American courtroom. Attorneys for 17 rescuers on trial in Fort Worth, Texas, successfully argued to show the videotape to 24 jurors in Judge Pete Gilfeather's Tarrant County coutroom on March 2, 1994. One juror cried and another slept, while the others watched quietly. The video is narrated by former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson and shows a sonogram of a baby in the womb struggling against a suction abortion. At one point Dr. Nathanson points out where the baby has opened his mouth in a silent scream.

The jurors were not allowed to view the film until the punishment phase of the trial, after they had already convicted all the defendants of misdemeanor criminal trespassing. The 10 women and seven men had been taken into custody outside an abortion clinic in White Settlement, Texas, a suburb of Fort Worth, during one of the "Cities of Refuge" events hosted by Operation Rescue last summer.

Five other defendants received directed "not guilty" verdicts from Judge Gilfeather in response to a motion by defense attorneys Bryan Buchanan and Glen Wood asking that all 22 defendants be found not guilty. The judge said videotapes of the demonstration showed these five had directly heard the White Settlement police chief promise to give individual warnings to anyone who stepped onto the property. The police chief testified during the trial that although warnings had been promised, some people did not receive them.

Jurors appeared surprised by the judge's directed verdict of not guilty for these five defendants. They were not given the directed verdict until reaching their own verdicts for the 17 other rescuers.

The trial broke tradition from the start. Judge Gilfeather made the unusual move of seating four 6-member juries, each with an alternate juror, simultaneously in an effort to save the county money by avoiding multiple trials, and also to help jurors keep track of evidence for the large number of defendants. The judge told a news reporter that he got the multiple-jury idea from the Menendez trial in Southern California, where two brothers were on trial for killing their parents.

Jury selection proved difficult for the court, because of a bomb threat against Judge Gilfeather's courtroom early in the pre-trial stages that news media related to "an anti-abortion trial," and because of strongly held views by many of the Tarrant County citizens called to report for jury selection. One woman referred to the defendants as "frightening," when she heard they had been associated with Operation Rescue. The rescuers had also been referred to as "terrorists" in a letter to the editor of a local newspaper at the time of the rescue.

The 22 defendants were part of 31 rescuers arrested on July 15, 1993, for trying to get to the doors of the Westside Clinic and sit down in an attempt to prevent an arriving abortionist from going inside and killing preborn babies.

On the morning of the rescue, 150 pro-life demonstrators arrived to find the property surrounded by police tape and scattered with police officers, including one stationed on the roof with a video camera. The Christian activists spent the first two hours singing worship songs, praying and calling out to the clinic owner, Roeneal Martin, who was standing outside, urging him to repent of killing the unborn. Martin had worked as a pharmacist in the Dallas-Fort Worth area before going into the abortion business. One young black woman who was part of the worship team took the megaphone and called out to him, choking back tears, "Roe, you took one of my babies .... Please don't kill any more."

Flip Benham, who was the Dallas-Fort Worth Operation Rescue leader at the time of the rescue and has since accepted the position of national director, decided not to risk arrests until the doctor arrived. One pregnant woman was seen going into the clinic, and it was reported that the others were already inside. Dr. Krause drove up around noon, as the police removed barricades to let his red Bronco into the parking lot, rescuers hurried onto the property toward the clinic's front doors.

Though many rescues had been done in neighboring Dallas County, this marked the first in Tarrant County.

During sentencing three of the four juries appeared to be sending the message not to return to Tarrant County, dealing out harsh punishments. Several first-time offenders were sentenced to 135 days in jail and an $1,100 fine, close to the maximum of 180 days and $1,500. Three veteran rescuers with previous offenses on record received 180 days in jail. One jury sentenced its three defendants to fines of $300 each.

Defense attorneys gave immediate notice of appeal and posted bond for all 17 defendants, who were then allowed to return home, pending the appeal.

"Those fined said they would rather serve longer jail terms than pay money to a system that defends killing while punishing those who intervene for defenseless lives," a spokesman commented. ■

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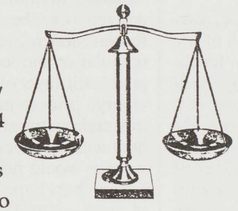

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