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Judge holds pretrial hearing in Bryan for Spence's second murder charge

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Judge W.T. (Tom) McDonald Jr. held a pretrial hearing Thursday afternoon in Bryan for David Wayne Spence's second capital murder trial, which will be held in McDonald's 85th State District Court.

The motions filed were termed "routine" by a source at the Brazos County Courthouse who asked not to be identified. McDonald has issued a gag order on officials connected with the case.

Jury selection for the trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 3 and could take three weeks, with the trial lasting another three weeks, according to a source in the McLennan County District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Vic Feazell and assistant District Attorney Ned Butler will prosecute the case.

Spence, 27, was convicted last year in the murder of one of the three teen-agers found stabbed to death in a park at Lake Waco in July 1982.

In the first trial in Waco, Spence was sentenced to death in the stabbing death of Waxahachie teenager Jill Montgomery. He has been on Death Row at the Texas Department of Corrections in Huntsville since August.

Spence's second trial, in the deaths of Raylene Rice and Kenneth Franks, was moved to Bryan on a change of venue. His attor-

neys are Walter Reeves of Waco and W.W. (Bill) Vance of Bryan.

Three other men also have been convicted in the murders. Muneer Mohammad Deeb, 26, was sentenced to death by a Cleburne jury in March. Anthony Melendez, 26, and Gilbert Melendez, 30, both pleaded guilty to two murder charges and received two life sentences each.