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OCT 11 1985

Witness Recounts Torture, Slayings Of Waco Teens

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BRYAN (UPI) — David Wayne Spence was "getting off" by causing pain to one of three teenagers he is accused of killing near Lake Waco in 1982, a witness who has pleaded guilty to two of the killings said Thursday.

Anthony Melendez, who is serving concurrent life sentences for two of the deaths, said during Spence's capital murder trial that the defendant was calm as he tortured one of the teens, "like it wasn't no big deal."

Spence is on trial before a jury of seven women and five men for killing Kenneth Franks, 18, of Waco, who died July 14, 1982, along with Jill Montgomery, and Raylene Rice, both 17 and from Waxahachie.

Spence earlier was sentenced to death for Montgomery's killing. His trial was moved to Bryan from Waco because of publicity.

Anthony Melendez, who along with his brother, Gilbert, was al-

lowed to plead guilty in the Lake Waco killings in return for his testimony against Spence, said Spence first raped and stabbed Montgomery before stabbing and assaulting Raylene Rice.

Melendez said he saw Spence bite Montgomery's breast and stab her several times, adding, "It was like he was getting off to watching her go through all this pain."

Dr. M.F. Gilliland, a medical expert from Dallas, earlier testified concerning bite marks found on the bodies of Franks and Montgomery. In past trials, McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell has introduced evidence that Spence's

tooth pattern was found on the teens' bodies.

Melendez also said he saw Spence take Franks away from the wooded area where Montgomery was being raped, then later saw Franks sitting against a tree with his head down and a large red stain on his chest.

However, Melendez said he did not see Spence kill Franks.

Prosecutors allege Spence killed the teens after mistaking Montgomery for the girlfriend of Muneer Muhammed Deeb, who was convicted earlier this year of offering Spence \$5,000 to kill his girlfriend, Gail Kelley.

Melendez also testified that at Spence's orders, he stabbed Montgomery at least twice.