

Murder Indictments

DEC 1 1966

Name Carter, Artis

Ex-Middleweight Contender, Sparring Partner Accused of 3 Tavern Slayings

Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, middleweight boxing contender, and his sometime sparring partner, John Artis, were both indicted for murder and atrocious assault and battery with intent to kill yesterday by the Passaic County Grand Jury.

Another Wounded

They were charged with the slaying of three persons and the serious wounding of a fourth, at the Lafayette Grill, 428 E. 18th St., Paterson, the morning of June 17.

Slain were the owner of the tavern, George Oliver, 52, of the same address; a male patron, Fred Nauyoks, 60, of 89 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove, and Mrs. Hazel Tanis, 51, a patron, of 176 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne, who died of wounds two weeks later.

William Marins, 42, of 225 Keen St., Paterson, lost the sight of one eye and sustained other head wounds.

Police said that two men entered the tavern at 2:30 a.m. and opened fire with a pistol and a shotgun.

Carter, 29, of 498 20th Ave., and Artis, 21, of 5 Tyler St., were picked up shortly after the shooting but were released after questioning. Police said they were in a white car which someone had been seen leaving the area of the tavern around the time of the shooting.

Subsequently, a "mystery" witness was produced whose testimony resulted in the arrest of Carter and Artis.

The Lafayette Grill shooting followed by a few hours a fatal shooting at another tavern in Paterson, in which the Negro proprietor was slain.

Frank J. Conforti, 48, of 520 River St., Paterson, was charged with the shotgun slaying of Le Roy Holloway, 49, of 14 N. First St., Paterson, in Holloway's Waltz Inn Tavern, 71 Montgomery St., at 8:15 p.m., June 16.

Conforti was due to go on trial, but his defense attorney obtained an indefinite stay, while Conforti undergoes psychiatric examination and treatment.

Conforti had sold the tavern to Holloway, but a dispute reportedly arose over the payments.

Police have theorized that the first tavern shooting may have triggered the second, but so far no proof of any connection has been made public.