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Peel Trial: Prosecution May Rest Case Soon

JUNEAU (AP) — Prosecutors in the trial of John Kenneth Peel will rest their case by Saturday, the end of the trial's fifth week.

Ketchikan Superior Court Judge Thomas Kettle turned aside defense objections and allowed a detective from Peel's hometown, Hingham, Wash., and the head of the Alaska State Troopers' Investigative team to testify again.

Peel, 38, is charged with murder and armed in the September 1984 deaths of Craig of investor skipper Mark Ouchterlony, his wife, two children and four crew members.

Trooper James Stoppell, making his third appearance on the stand, said a friend told him Peel had been told he was a suspect.

Detective Dave McKinn of Hingham Police Department also testified to corroborate earlier witnesses' statements.

The witness said McKinn, trying to coax incriminating statements, told them they had been overheard talking to Peel around the time of the five-week trial.

McNeill also denied forcing a friend of Peel to look at photos of scowboat human remains before Peel's story was put to rest.

Defense lawyer Phillip Paul Weidner complained that McKinn was in court during testimony by Peer's friends, whom he contradicted.

Ketchikan District Attorney Mary Anne Henry said the witnesses had made up accusations against Peel.

Henry said she would call McKinn's parents to the stand on Wednesday, followed by Ruth Moon, mother of slain crewman Dean Moon.

Prosecutors said they hope all their witnesses will finish testifying this week.

McNeill also testified Tuesday that Peel was "very cold" when he was arrested in a Steilachman parking lot, he said.

"He looked at me, put his lunch pot on the floor, took his truck and said, 'Let's do it,'" McKinn said.

B.C. Fishermen Make Plea to Prime Minister

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney must act immediately to avert disastrous consequences for the Pacific salmon fishery, says a coalition of 10 commercial British Columbia fishing organizations.

In a letter to Mulroney, the Pacific Fishermen's Defense Alliance demands the prime minister dissolve the four-band, Columbia Indian band system that provides for a commercial band salmon fishery on the Skeena River system.

The letter, which appeared today as a full-page advertisement in the Vancouver Sun, coincides with efforts by the provincial Attorney General's Ministry in British Columbia Supreme Court to prevent implementation of the commercial fishery.

The ministry, acting on behalf of groups, including the commercial fishery and the Columbia Indian band, has proposed to alter the band system, to permit, in certain areas, the sale of fish without legal representation from the Indian bands.

The province is now seeking a court declaration that:

- No part of the Skeena, Klaskan or Bulkley Rivers are within Indian reserve boundaries.
- Fishing rights on these rivers are the responsibility of the British Columbia government for the use and benefit of all people.

The commercial fishing bylaws of the Skeena, Klaskan, Bulkley and Bulkley-Columbia bands are not valid.

The four bands, members of the Gitksan-Wet'uwet' Tribal Council based in Hazelton, believe the bylaws are legal and are waiting for logging on the Skeena River system, to substitute before going fishing.

An organization representing native commercial fishermen is backing efforts by the four bands to set inland-salmon.

"We've got to support the efforts of people behind those bylaws," said Cliff Brierley, executive director of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia.

Allen said the bands are seeking co-management — not sole authority of the fishery — and have produced detailed bylaws which will improve upon current management practices of the federal Fisheries Department.

He said the bands are initially seeking just 15,000 sockeye salmon — a minor amount compared with the hundreds of thousands of sockeye that died without spawning or without being caught by fishermen last year because

too many escaped to their Skeena River system spawning beds.

In its letter to Mulroney, the alliance

contracts the bylaws would give the bands authority to manage the salmon fishery, thereby overriding authority of the Fisheries Department.

King Salmon Released

JUNEAU (AP) — Sport fishing for king salmon in the Juneau area should improve immeasurably by the end of the decade with the recent release of 250,000 smolts into waters near the capital city, officials say.

It's expected that 3 percent of those fish, or about 6,000, will return to the streams as adults beginning in 1989, according to Tom Collinsworth, coordinator of the state Department of Fish and Game. Said, some 2,000 king salmon probably will be caught by sport fishermen, he said.

The experimental releases were funded with federal money and treated as a joint project by the Division of Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development, the National Marine Fisheries Service and Douglas Island Park and Chain Camp.

The fish and game staff is trying to get permit regulations implemented and applications ready for distribution in a shortened period, following the recently completed Alaska Board of Game meeting.

Pending completion, the material should be sent to distribution points in early July, department spokesmen said.

Shore permit applications will be handled first, because these are the earliest scheduled hunts.

Shore applications must be postmarked by July 21, and received by the department by July 29. Hunters will be notified by mail beginning Aug. 11.

All other permit drawing applications must be postmarked no later than July 21. Hunters will be sent their permits beginning Aug. 11, with a minimum to be mailed Aug. 27.

Most one-shoot drawing hunts open Sept. 6.

Permit Hunt Applications Due Out Soon

JUNEAU (AP) — Permit hunt applications should be available July 7 from Department of Fish and Game offices and permit vendors, department officials say.

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Meeting on Quality of Salmon Set

A meeting to discuss the improvement of the quality of Alaska's salmon packs will be held 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Department of Fish and Game headquarters' office conference room the old Tuka Twin Theater in Juneau.

Some 20,000 smolts were released into Mountain Creek, 80,000 into Alaska Creek, 57,000 into Fish Creek, 20,000 into Sherry Creek and 90,000 were released directly from the Beaufort Harbor fishery.

Parts of Crime Lab Idle; Not Enough Technicians

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Parts of Alaska's \$2.2 million forensic crime lab are going unused because there aren't enough trained technicians to operate them, the Department of Public Safety says.

"We have the equipment and the facility, we don't have the people," said Everett Curry, head chemist at the lab said Friday.

Eleven of the 16 positions have been filled, but the firearms and serology (blood analysis) sections aren't staffed, Curry said.

Most of the new equipment is so advanced that workers must go to special classes to learn how to use it.

"We have an awful lot of training to do related to the new instruments," Curry said. He said an understaffed laboratory everything we're supposed to do but it requires that use.

Anchorage Schools to Ban Corporal Punishment?

ANCHORAGE (AP) — School Board President Betty Davis said she knew of such abuse. "I can bring you valid accounts of abuse of the policy, I believe they are isolated but present," she said.

Davis said she opposed beginning discipline immediately because teachers and principals using corporal punishment need time to serving discipline techniques.

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Man Found Guilty In Slaying

PALMER (AP) — A Superior Court jury Tuesday reduced the first-degree murder charge against Patrick McConell to second-degree murder in the slaying of Thane Enders.

The jury delivered its verdict Tuesday morning after more than 9 hours of deliberations, said Cindy Mendry, a paralegal secretary in the Palmer District Attorney's office.

McConell, 37, was accused of killing Enders, 44, in Douglas. Palmer District Attorney Duwayne McConell said McConell became involved in an after-hour dice game with Enders at a restaurant in Wasilla.

McConell left heavily and had his girlfriend, Ruth Williams, take money from the restaurant's cash register and to cover his losses, McConell said. McConell and Williams worked at the restaurant at the time.

McConell said all three were drinking and using cocaine. After the dice game, they left in Williams' truck. A few minutes later Enders was dead, shot through the head with McConell's .44-caliber pistol.

McConell claimed the shooting was a planned, deliberate murder. But McConell's defense lawyer said McConell was trying to protect his girlfriend from Enders' sexual advances.

McConell faces up to 30 years in prison for the second-degree murder conviction. The jury also convicted him of tampering with evidence and two stealing money from the restaurant.

Each of those charges carries a maximum prison term of five years. Judge Beverly Cutler scheduled sentencing for Aug. 5.

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200 Join in Search for Bodies

FAIRBANKS (AP) — About 200 people are camping by a lake near the interior Alaska village of Vesicote to help search for the bodies of two villagers believed to have drowned earlier this month.

"We didn't imagine there could be that many people," said Chief Lawrence Roberts, a member of the Taimen Club Conference, which is trying to help find the huge search party.

"We're doing the best we can. All the local people are cooking for them. It's food we're looking," Roberts said.

Sometime during the first weekend in June, Abraham Henry Jr., 37, and Timothy Henry, 20, disappeared on Big Lake, about three miles north of the village of Vesicote, which is 150 miles north of Fairbanks.

The men, who are cousins, were hunting for ducks. Within a day after their disappearance was noticed, searchers found their swamped canoe and several killed ducks.

Fairbanks is collecting money, food, supplies and clothes for the searchers, who say they will continue until the bodies are found.

Drug Dealer Gets 2 Years

JUNEAU (AP) — A man convicted after a major drug bust in southeastern Alaska has been sentenced to two years in jail.

Phillip A. Hyatt, 39, was sentenced Monday by Superior Court Judge Roger Pagan. Hyatt was arrested Feb. 21, 1984, after selling a kilogram of cocaine to an undercover officer for \$80,000 at a Juneau harbor. A kilogram is about 2.2 pounds.

Police estimated the drug's street value at \$100,000.

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After the Concert . . .
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As Part Of The
SITKA SUMMER WRITERS SYMPOSIUM
faculty members will give public readings on the following dates:
China Galland, Paul Shepard, Wednesday, June 18, 8:00pm
Siv Cedering, Lewis Hyde, Thursday, June 19, 8:00pm
All readings will take place at the Caroline Yaw Chapel on the Sheldon Jackson College Campus Admission is \$3.50
This project is sponsored in part by the Greater Sitka Arts Council, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska Humanities Forum, Sheldon Jackson College, Oca Press, Alaska Arts Southeast and Old Harbor Books.

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All across this land Americans are celebrating our Greatest Lady's one hundredth birthday. By an Act of Congress America commemorates this event by issuing U.S. Liberty Coins. These valuable keepsakes will be a lasting way for you to treasure liberty.
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