

Kidnaper Sentenced To Life

DECATUR, Ga. (UPI)—Gary Steven Krist was found guilty last night of the bizarre December kidnapping of Miami millionairess Barbara Jane Mackle and sentenced to life in prison.

The 12-man jury returned the verdict at 9:53 p.m. EDT.

Judge H. O. Hubert Jr. immediately sentenced the bearded 24-year-old Krist to life in prison after the jury recommended mercy. Kidnapping in Georgia carries the death sentence.

Krist, who had displayed almost no emotion throughout the trial, seemed almost to yawn as the verdict was read. He then glanced at the clock.

"Mr. Krist," Judge Hubert intoned, "the jury has found you guilty and I hereby sentence you to life in prison."

Krist was hurried from the courtroom by three deputy sheriffs and returned to his cell in the DeKalb County jail.

His chief defense counsel, James Venable, said he would appeal the decision immediately.

Venable, a red-faced Ku Klux Klansman, told the jury in his summation to either return an innocent verdict or "sit in there until the roaches bring you out the keyhole."

Krist is accused of abducting Miss Mackle and burying her alive for 82 hours in an elaborately constructed box. He sat doodling on a pad yesterday as prosecutor Richard Bell and one of Krist's attorneys, Mobley Childs, made final arguments to the jury.

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