

Investigator says sexual advance led to slaying

■ Confession in Beasley death not recorded under FBI rules

By **JOHN SURRETT**
Mississippi Press Staff

PASCAGOULA — David John Cannon told FBI agents that he killed Thomas Earl Beasley III, a Jackson County sheriff's investigator said Monday.

Investigator Sgt. Greg Settles said during a preliminary hearing Monday morning in Jackson County Court that Cannon admitted killing

Beasley during questioning by the agents in Pascagoula shortly after his arrest on Jan. 12. Beasley was killed in April.

Settles, however, said the confession was not recorded because the FBI is considering prosecuting Cannon on federal charges, and it was their policy not to record statements in that situation.

"We were playing by their rules," he said.

Cannon, 41, is charged with murder in



Cannon

Beasley's death. He is accused of killing Beasley by striking him in the back of the head with a shovel, and dumping his body in a marshy area in Monroe County, Ala.

An autopsy showed that Beasley died from massive head trauma.

Judge Larry Wilson bound Cannon over to the next grand jury.

Cannon, Settles said, told FBI agents that he knew Beasley and gave him a ride home from the Miss-A-Bama Club on U.S. 90 to Beasley's home in Helena.

According to Cannon, Beasley attempted to kiss him, claiming the act as a sexual advance and the two got into a fight. He said Beasley got out of the pickup truck, and he ran over him, knocking him down.

He told agents he thought Beasley was dead, adding he put him in the back of his truck and drove off. When he reached the Tiger Mart on Franklin Creek Road, he said, Beasley apparently regained consciousness and kicked in the truck's rear window.

See CANNON, Page 1