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For the British lacrosse player, see Gerald Mason (stick). Gerald MasonBornGerald Fiten Mason (1934-01-31)31 January 1934Columbia, South CarolinaDiedJanu 22, 2017 (2017-01-22) (82)South CarolinaConviction 24, 2003 (guilty plea)Criminal chargeSmurderPenaltyLife imprisonmentDetailsVictimsEl Segundo police officers Milton Curtis and Richard PhillipsDateJuly 22, 1957Location El Segundo, California Gerald Fiten Mason (January 31, 1934-January 22, 2017) was an American murderer and rapist. Mason's arrest and prosecution in 2003 for the murders of two police officers in El Segundo, California, made national headlines. Criminal career Born in Columbia, South Carolina, he was arrested and spent time for burglary in that state in 1956. After his release in 1957, at the age of 23, he hitchhiked in California, stopping in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he bought a revolver using a pseudonym. He later stated that he had been purchased to protect himself during the hitchhiking. In Hawthorne, California, Mason bumped into four teenagers in the alley of a local lover. Pulling his revolver, Mason forced the two couples to undress to their underwear and tied up and bandaged them blindfolded. He then raped one of the girls. Leaving the teens alive as they were, Mason then drove in their 1949 Ford sedan, ran a red light, and was stopped by officers Richard Phillips and Milton Curtis of the El Segundo Police Department. Mason later recalled, I thought, if I don't understand them, they're going to get me. So when the officer turned away from me, I shot the two officers, I got back in the car and left. Emergency units and medical personnel arrived at the scene to find Curtis dead in his patrol car, with Phillips lying fatally wounded on the ground. Both had been shot three times. Meanwhile, Mason, who had been shot by Constable Phillips, dumped the car and fled into numerous backyards before hitchhiking to safety. Investigation The murders of Officers Phillips and Curtis triggered a homicide investigation that continued for nearly half a century. In 1960, the murder weapon was recovered a mile from the crime in a backyard. The serial number was assigned to a purchase at Sears in Shreveport, Louisiana, under the pseudonym George D. Wilson. The signature matched Wilson's signature on a receipt from the YMCA, located near the Sears store. El Segundo detectives tracked down all The George D. Wilsons in the United States. However, all were excluded, and the investigation cooled. For the next 45 years, Mason was a respectful citizen never get as much as a parking ticket. He owned two gas stations, married and raised a family. He was later described by friends and neighbors as friendly and helpful. In 2002, thanks to advances in computerized finger printing technology, the evidence was also based on the prints collected arrests in all 50 states. A match based on partial left thumb prints raised from the steering wheel of the stolen car, returned to a man convicted of burglary in 1956 at Columbia. He had served a sentence for this case. In addition to the corresponding fingerprint, the evidence was also based on the corresponding handwriting, thus linking it to the murder weapon. Police located Mason, who had returned and was still living in his hometown of Columbia, South Carolina. He was a wealthy retiree and grandfather, living quietly with his family in a suburban neighborhood. Then, in January 2003, a large group of police called to his door. Mason was completely shocked and asked where they came from. The officers had said, We are from the El Segundo Police Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Mason then said, You're homicide detectives? I think I need a lawyer. The police then told him that they were there because of the murders of two police officers in 1957. Horrified, Mason replied, We God, are you here for that reason? After his arrest, Mason was identified by the wound scar of the bullet on his back, following a bullet fired by Constable Phillips in 1957. Confronted with so much evidence, Mason admitted to detectives that he ran into the intoxicated teenagers. He later shot the two officers in an attempt to cover up the rape, theft and theft of the car. Mason added to the detectives: I really don't have an explanation as to why this happened. I wish I had. When asked why he raped a 15-year-old girl, Mason said he couldn't remember. Mason pleaded guilty to the murders and was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences, with a minimum of seven years. As part of the agreement, charges of rape, robbery and theft were dropped. At his sentencing hearing, Mason tearfully apologized to the families of Officers Phillips and Curtis. He said: It is impossible to express to so many people how much people are sorry. I do not understand why I did that. He's not coming into my life. That is not the person I know. I hate these crimes. An El Segundo detective commented: He was remorseful. But I think he was sadder and more sorry to have been caught. Mason, 75, was denied parole in 2009. The three-member board decided Mason should not come before the panel again for the maximum period of 15 years[2] until March 2024 when he would have been 90 years old. California prosecutors have been determined that he will never be released. He was incarcerated in South Carolina, his plea allowed him to serve his prison sentence near his family. Constable Curtis' widow said, I am no longer his victim. My son is no longer his victim. I am so grateful, and I had to wait that long. It's worth the wait. In a 2003 interview with People Magazine, Jerri Jerri Gerald Mason's daughter Whittaker said, There really are no words to describe the range of emotions we have experienced. Despite this, she insisted: E could not have had a better father. This story has been shown on episodes of Cold Case Files, Forensic Files, 48 Hours Mystery and Murder Book. Death Mason died in prison on January 22, 2017, nine days before his 83rd birthday. He spent 14 years in prison. His next parole hearing was still seven years. References to b c The Ghosts Of El Segundo. Cbsnews.com. Recovered 2019-08-05. Cop killer refused parole. Dailybreeze.com. Recovered 2019-08-05. Why We Wear the Stars - City of El Segundo Sources The Ghosts Of El Segundo: Cold-Blooded Crime Haunts Investigators For Half A Century, CBS News, October 2, 2004. (URL last viewed on November 17, 2006). Final Justice: The Past Catches Up with Gerald Mason, a Murderer on the Lam Since 1957, People Magazine, Author: Patrick Rogers, Date: May 19, 2003. (consulted on August 11, 2010). The Ghosts Of El Segundo: Cold-Blooded Crime Haunts Investigators For Half A Century, CBS News, Author: Rebecca Leung, Date: October 2, 2004. (consulted on August 11, 2010). Man sentenced to life in two 1957 murders Los Angeles Times, Authors: Richard Winton, Steve Berry, Date: March 25, 2003. (Consulted August 29, 2015) Excerpt from African-American businessman Gerald Mason told 200 people who packed a public auditorium on Martin Luther King Boulevard.Gerald Mason, who is also charged with rape, kidnapping and robbery, did not appear in court. Gerald Mason, 68, was arrested without resistance at his home in Columbia, South Carolina, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Capt. Frank Merriman said. Gerald Mason '(1877 and ndash; September 30, 1951) was a British lacrosse player who participated in the 1908 Summer Olympics.Under a plea agreement, charges of rape, robbery and kidnapping were dropped against Gerald Mason, who apologized in tears to the court as he stood before families and a dozen members of the El Segundo Police Department. In a 2003 interview with People magazine, Gerald Mason's daughter Jerri Mason Whittaker said, There are really no words to describe the range of emotions we've experienced. Despite this, she insisted: E could not have had a better father. It's hard to see Gerald Mason in a sentence. Gerald Fiten Mason (January 31, 1934-January 22, 2017) was an American murderer and rapist. Mason's arrest and prosecution in 2003 for the murders of two police officers in El Segundo, California, national headlines. Criminal career[edit] Born in Columbia, South Carolina, he was arrested and spent time for burglary in that state in 1956. After his release in 1957, then aged 23, he hitchhiked in California, stopping in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he bought a revolver using an alias. He later stated that he had been purchased to protect himself during the hitchhiking. In Hawthorne, California, Mason bumped into four teenagers in the alley of a local lover. Pulling his revolver, Mason forced the two couples to undress to their underwear and tied up and bandaged them blindfolded. He then raped one of the girls. Leaving the teens alive as they were, Mason then drove in their 1949 Ford sedan, ran a red light, and was stopped by officers Richard Phillips and Milton Curtis of the El Segundo Police Department. Mason later recalled, I thought, if I don't understand them, they're going to get me. So when the officer turned away from me, I shot the two officers, I got back in the car and left. 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