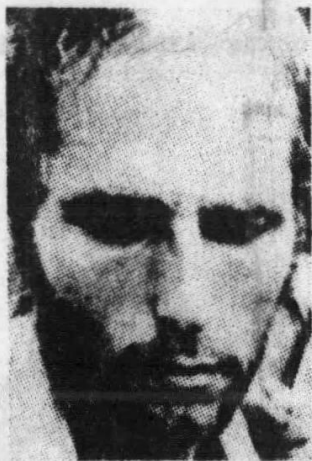


Cultist accused of killing Ryan was drugged, defector testifies

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (UPI) — The man accused of killing Rep. Leo Ryan was being drugged because he was distressed by his mother's death a month before Ryan visited Jonestown, a People's Temple defector testified yesterday.

A pathologist testifying at a coroner's hearing near Jonestown said cult leader Rev. Jim Jones probably killed himself, but, in the first official indication of murder in Jonestown, said the cult's nurse was shot by someone else.



Larry Layton

should go to trial on charges of killing the California Democrat, three journalists and a Temple defector at the Port Kaituma airport ambush Nov. 18.

THE WITNESSES who testified against Layton were Dale Parks, 24, of Ukiah, Calif., the son of one of the massacre victims — Patricia Parks — and Monica Bagby, 18, of San Francisco.

Parks testified during the morning session that Layton "appeared to have gone to pieces" when his mother died at

Jonestown about mid-October, a month before Ryan's party visited the jungle commune in northwestern Guyana.

"Layton had to be treated for emotional distress" during his mother's two-month-long illness and was given heavy doses of painkilling and anti-depressant drugs, Parks said.

He said he and five members of his family defected when Ryan visited Jonestown Nov. 17-18 because they were disenchanted with the 12-hour work days, the skimpy diet and the "physical and moral abuse" cultists underwent.

IN REMOTE Matthew's Ridge, the town nearest to Jonestown, Guyana pathologist Dr. Lesley C. Mootoo testified at a coroner's hearing Wednesday that the circumstances of Jim Jones's death were consistent with suicide.

A bullet fired from close range entered the right side of the head directly above the ear and exited above the left ear, smashing the brain and causing a compound fracture of the skull, Mootoo said.

He said he conducted autopsies on 64 of the more than 900 bodies found in Jonestown and all — with the exception of Jones and nurse Elizabeth Moore, 24 — died of "acute cyanide poisoning."

Mootoo testified Miss Moore, whose body was found near the commune's open safe box, was hit in the face by a bullet that blew off the left side of her head. "This could not have been self-inflicted," he said.

There was no word of published reports that as many as 70 of the Jonestown victims showed needle marks that

indicated they might have been killed by others after refusing to drink the fatal potion.