

4B ■ The Clarion-Ledger ■ Wednesday, March 26, 1997

AROUND MISSISSIPPI

High court won't hear appeal in '83 slaying

■ The man slashed a woman's throat in a wooded area of Jackson County.

The Associated Press

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear the appeal of a man sentenced to death in 1990 for fatally stabbing and cutting the throat of a Jackson County woman.

A Jackson County jury convicted Jessie D. Williams of capital murder and sentenced to him death in the Jan. 12, 1983, killing of Karen Pierce, whose body was found in a wooded area by hunters a few days after her death.

The state Supreme Court in 1987 upheld Williams' conviction but ordered a new sentencing hearing. In 1996, the high court upheld the second death sentence. Williams appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Williams' conviction was based mainly on testimony by his co-defendant, Thomas Terrell Evans, who entered a guilty plea to accessory after the fact. Evans received a five-year sentence.

Evans testified that Pierce left the Scoreboard Lounge with him the night of Jan. 12 to go the Old Plantation Home. Evans said he had planned to have sex with Pierce and for her to have sex with a third man, Mike Norwood. Pierce had sex with Williams and Norwood, Evans testified.

The group later made stops for beer and other activities before proceeding to the wooded area, Evans testified. Pierce tried to run away, but Williams tackled her and took into the woods, Evans said. He said he later found Williams standing over Pierce's body with a knife in his hand.

Williams still has several appeals pending.



The A-frame home of Dr. Carl Nicl

Flooded area

The Associated Press

GREENVILLE — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard are retrieving floating tanks, drums and containers from flooded areas around Lake Ferguson in Washington County.

The work began over the weekend.

Already collected have been 55-gallon drums of diesel fuel to five-