

FREE

NORMA
JEAN
CROY

U.S. A. G. I.
DETENTION



STATEMENT OF FACTS

On the evening of July 16, 1978, Norman Jean Croy and her brother Patrick Hooty Croy, and three of their relatives (ages 17 through 26) stopped at a local store in their hometown of Yreka, California. The store clerk became verbally abusive, mistakenly accusing Hooty of short-changing him. Norma Jean and a female cousin defended Hooty against this verbal onslaught, and the clerk became physical with them. Following the scuffle in the store, the clerk ran outside and hailed a passing police car, directing them to "get" the Indian youths.

The five were chased by police to a cabin where their grandmother and aunt lived in a rural hilly area outside town. Norma Jean, Hooty, and another cousin (who grabbed the .22 rifle which the group had planned to use deer hunting that evening) fled their car and climbed up a hillside adjacent to the cabin.

In total, 27 police officers, wielding military style semi-automatic assault rifles, shotguns, and .357 magnum pistols, fired in excess of 200 shots at the spotlighted hillside, shooting at "anything that moved," as the three dodged behind the sagebrush. By dawn, one police officer had been killed, another shot in the hand, and Norma Jean, Hooty, and their cousin had been wounded.

In 1979, Norma Jean, along with her brother Hooty, was tried and convicted of various offenses, including robbery and first degree murder, even though she never fired the .22 rifle that evening. Hooty received the death penalty, and Norma Jean was sentenced to life in prison. Their appeals went to different courts, with different results: In 1985, the California Supreme Court ordered a retrial for Hooty; a lower appeals court affirmed Norma's convictions.

At Hooty's retrial, which was held in San Francisco from September 1989 through April 1990, important evidence was presented which the 1979 jury had not heard, most importantly, that Hooty shot officer Hittson in self-defense only after the officer (who responded from off-duty status that night having just consumed alcohol) had fired at Hooty, hitting him twice from behind, before Hooty returned the one fatal shot. Hooty was acquitted of all charges on May 1, 1990. The trial judge has stated his opinion regarding Norma Jean's situation:

I think that when Norma Jean comes up for parole hearing again, that the parole board should take into consideration the fact that this court at least believes that had Norma Jean Croy been tried in the case I heard, Norma Jean Croy would have been found not guilty.

Hooty will continue to fight for his sister's freedom. For more information, and to be kept notified of developments in her case, contact:

Norma Jean Defense Committee
473 Jackson St. 3rd Floor
San Francisco, Calif. 94111
(415) 986-5591

Norma Jean Croy #14293
P.O. Box 1508
Chowchilla, Calif. 93610