

LONQUEST, GEORGIA THELMA
June 20, 1905-July 10, 1970

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Late Monday night, May 3, after nearly two hours of deliberation, the jury found Harry Lonquest guilty of first degree murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Judge John Raper pronounced sentence.

The 66-year old rancher was found guilty of fatally shooting his wife, Thelma, at their ranch home located 15 miles southeast of Wheatland on July 19, 1970. Dr. Henry Tsumagari, a Cheyenne pathologist, testified Mrs. Lonquest was hit by 38 pellets, in the back, which caused fatal damage to her heart. He also said an autopsy indicated bruises on her face and chest.

Lonquest pleaded innocent to the charge, as well as innocent by reason of insanity at the time of the commission of the offense. He was examined at the state hospital in Evanston and later was under examination and treatment at a private mental hospital in Denver.

Platte County Attorney Frank Jones asked the jury not only to find Lonquest guilty but also asked for the death sentence.

Judge Raper read lengthy instructions to the jury Monday morning. The instructions made it possible for the jury to find Lonquest guilty of any degree of homicide from first degree to the minimum offense of manslaughter, or to find him innocent of any offense.
