

Woman Found Not Guilty In Death Of Daughter

A Cincinnati woman who was charged with the murder of her baby daughter was recently found not guilty.

Sandra Cornett admitted that she was aware of what she was doing when she fed her daughter and second child toilet bowl cleaner. But being in a highly depressed state of mind at the time, she said that she didn't realize the medical consequences of her actions.

"You can be aware, but have no control over what you're doing," said Mrs. Cornett, who said she also drank some of the lye solution.

On Dec. 28, 1974, Mrs. Cornett administered the solution to her children. Both were taken to Cincinnati General Hospital immediately. One of her children recovered, but her three-year-old daughter, Mary, was said to be

suffering from a condition known as "stricture of the esophagus." Attempts were made to relieve the condition, but without success.

In the trial, defense attorneys Will Outlaw, John Burlew and Ruth Edwards argued that it was the medical procedures used by the doctors that killed the baby and not the lye solution.

A jury of 10 whites and two Blacks deliberated for eight hours before reaching a not guilty verdict.

Mrs. Cornett said that she had been depressed and upset for a long period of time.

"I can't really pinpoint it. I've just been upset," she said. Her husband had recently left her, and she had little income, she added.

Mrs. Cornett (seated) poses with defense attorneys (l-r) Will Outlaw, Mrs. Ruth McCalla and John H. Burlew after her acquittal.

