

3 get 25-40 years for Brink's holdup

By Robert E. Walsh
Globe Staff

Three men were sentenced in Suffolk County Superior Court yesterday to 25 to 40 years in Walpole State Prison after being found guilty of the armed robbery of a Brink's truck in 1968.

A fourth defendant, William J. Cresta, 33, of Headland Way, Medford, was found innocent of being an accessory.

The verdicts by a jury of nine men and three women ended a 26-day trial which dealt with the half-million-dollar robbery of a Brink's truck in the North End Dec. 28, 1968.

Sentenced were: Charles A. Domenico,

38, of Putnam av., Braintree, Rocco S. Novello, 33, Moss Hill rd., Jamaica Plain and Carmelo Merlino, 36, of Tilden rd., Canton.

Testifying were John J. Kelley, 56, of Watertown, who pleaded guilty to armed robbery Jan. 11, just before the trial began.

Kelley told about getting a key to Brink's truck 6280 from employee Andrew De Leary, now of New Hampshire, who also pleaded guilty to being an accessory and who testified as a witness for the state.

Prosecutor James F. Sullivan, asking

the court for the 25 to 40 year sentences, said, that while no one was hurt in the robbery, the life of Brink's employee Richard Haines was endangered.

A seven-man gang, according to Kelley, hit the truck while two Brink's employees were having a drink in a North End bar. The gang drove the truck to Nashua Street, where it was emptied.

The jury deliberated two hours after getting the case from Judge James C. Roy.

Roy said he will set a trial date Tuesday for Santos Dia Ferio, 37, of Brook Farm rd., West Roxbury, who had a heart attack as the trial got under way and his case was severed.



ROCCO NOVELLO
... convicted



CARMELO MERLINO
... sentenced