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## Judge tells of Goyt Valley horror

# 'Life' for 3 killers

By Ray King

**THREE** brutal Goyt Valley murderers were given triple life sentences this afternoon.

Mr Justice Jupp told Manchester Crown Court that to describe the killings of Mitchell Elgar, aged 17, and Martin Pollitt, 19, as horrific was by no means an overstatement.

The jury of nine men and three women took 80 minutes at the end of the 10-day trial to convict John Bannister, 21, and 20-year-old Michael Howe of the two murders and of plotting to kill a third young man.

The third man in the dock, Michael Bailey, 20, had changed his plea to guilty on all three charges last week.

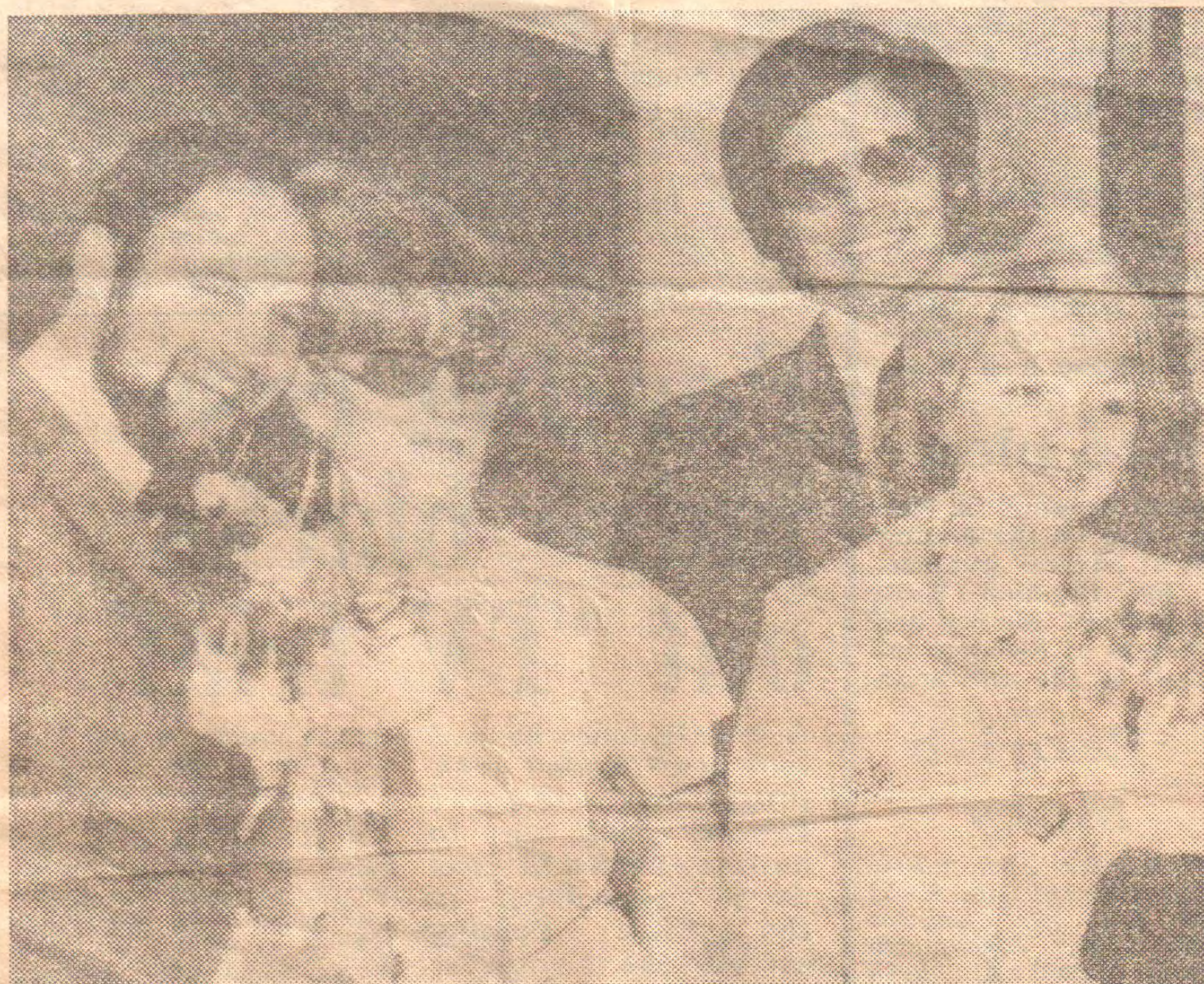
The fourth Goyt Valley murderer, evil gang leader Peter Murray, 36, who also changed his plea to guilty on all three counts, was being sentenced later. The judge said he was considering making a recommendation on a minimum sentence to the Home Secretary.

### Wed to a man of evil: Page 7

Bannister, of no fixed address, received life sentences on all three counts. Howe, of Stockport Road, Cheadle Heath; and Bailey, of Wirral Crescent, Cheadle Heath, were ordered to serve three life sentences in youth custody because they were under 21.

The judge said that Mitchell Elgar's murder was of a most horrible kind accompanied by torture and sexual indignity at toilets in the Derbyshire beauty spot. The killing process would have been very long had it not been for the intervention of Bailey, who strangled the brilliant young student.

In the killing of Pollitt the following day it was Bannister and Howe who delivered the "coup de grace" by strangling him.



WEDDING DAY . . . Peter Murray (left) with his bride Mollie in December, 1977. During the ceremony Murray was handcuffed to a prison officer. With them is Mollie's daughter Elaine.