

CAREER CRIMINAL RECEIVES LIFE PRISON SENTENCE FOR MURDER CONVICTION

A Campobello man received a life prison sentence this afternoon for shooting an Inman man to death.

Robert Clyde Clayton, 63, was found guilty of murder at the conclusion of a two-day jury trial. The convicted murderer is not eligible for parole.

Clayton shot Kenneth W. Bristol, 60, to death on June 23, 2005 at the victim's Asheville Highway home.

Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies arrested Clayton on the murder charge two days later. Following his arrest, Clayton confessed to the fatal shooting in three written statements. He said a disagreement over a business transaction led to the fatal shooting.

He also took deputies to the Saluda, N.C. road where he placed the murder weapon in a plastic bag and hid it under a nearby rock. He took deputies to the Polk County business where he hid the clothes he wore during the crime.

Kenneth Bristol's murder is part of a criminal career that spans more than 40 years with convictions for voluntary manslaughter, armed bank robbery and multiple property crimes.

"Robert Clyde Clayton is a cold-blooded killer," Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette said. "Spartanburg County is a safer place with Mr. Clayton behind bars."