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# Inmate acquitted of murder

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*By Ginny McKibben; Denver Post Staff Writer June 26, 1993*

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A Lincoln County jury has acquitted inmate David L. Woods of charges that he killed his cellmate at the Limon Correctional Facility in April 1992. The jury deliberated only a few hours Thursday at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Hugo before finding Woods innocent of charges that he murdered inmate Phillip Rose.

The verdict came shortly after closing arguments by defense counsel and Adams County prosecutors Fran Wasserman and Tammy Russell, acting as special prosecutors in the case. Series of deaths Woods was charged with first-degree murder in Rose's death in December 1992, nearly seven months after Rose, 22, was found dead in the same cell occupied by Woods. Authorities found Rose with a plastic bag over his head at about 1 p.m. on April 1, 1992. During the trial, pathologist Dr. Ben Galloway testified that Rose died of suffocation. Rose's death was one of a series of suspected murders that took place at the Limon prison last year: Killed or aided In July, Daniel C. Shettler, 20, was murdered in his cell. Shettler, who was serving a 30-month sentence for threatening a man with an ax, was found strangled at Limon shortly before the 10 p.m. cell lockdown. A third suspicious death, that of inmate Michael Ellis, has been classified as a suicide. The prosecution tried to prove that Woods either killed Rose or aided an unknown person in the slaying. Even if Woods didn't actually commit the murder, he appeared deeply implicated in the crime, Adams County District Attorney Bob Grant said yesterday. Charges against any other suspect would be filed in Arapahoe County, he said. John Jordan, senior chief

deputy in Arapahoe County, said the case will remain open but no new charges are being filed.

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