

# I SAW WITCHES IN A RITUAL AT THE FULL MOON

*Daily Mirror*  
Oct. 11th, 1967 — COURT TOLD

**F**LEET-STREET Journalist William Hall told a High Court jury yesterday that he had seen a witchcraft ceremony on the night of the full moon in a Surrey wood.

"It was anything but a joke," he said. "It was extremely serious and very vivid. It was very solemn, like a service."

He said that a slab of stone in the wood had been decorated to look like an altar, with what looked

like a shrunken animal's head on it.

And he described how, watching from the undergrowth, he saw "at least a dozen" hooded figures walk into a clearing in single file.

Mr. Hall, of the London Evening News, was giving evidence on the second day of a libel action brought against his newspaper by Miss Mary Cardell, of Charlwood, Surrey.

She claims damages for alleged libel in two stories about witchcraft which appeared in the newspaper in March, 1961.

Mr. Hall said that the hooded figures he saw were led by a man in a cloak, who carried a sword.

"From time to time his face was lit up by a fire," he said. "That was Mr. Cardell."

## Rigid

He was referring to Mr. Charles Cardell, who lives with 54-year-old Miss Cardell as her brother, though they are not in fact related.

He went on: "A woman wearing a red robe sat on a tree, very still and rigid with her eyes closed. It was Mary Cardell."

Miss Cardell and her "brother" both deny taking part in a woodland witchcraft ceremony.

Mr. Cardell, 74, told the court: "There are no witches, there never have been and I don't think there ever will be!"

The hearing goes on today.