

Patrick Hanigan's appeal fails

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The 9th U.S. Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction of Douglas-area rancher Patrick Hanigan in a 1976 attack on three illegal aliens from Mexico.

Hanigan, 29, was convicted in February 1981 in U.S. District Court in Phoenix, but his brother, Thomas, 25, was acquitted of the same charges.

The brothers were accused of kidnapping, torturing and robbing three Mexican aliens on Aug. 18, 1976, as they were trying to cross the Hanigan Ranch near Douglas.

Patrick Hanigan's conviction came in their third trial. They were acquitted by a state court in 1977 in Bisbee, and their first federal trial in Tucson in 1980 ended with a hung jury.

Patrick Hanigan was sentenced in April 1981 to three concurrent three-year prison terms.

His lawyer, Alex Gaynes of Tucson, said yesterday that he will ask the Court of Appeals to rehear the appeal.