

Alleged murderer faces his accusers

By SHIRLEE IDEN

The blue-and-white Southfield Police car made the turn into the Civic Center parking lot and headed for the police garage.

Two camera crews from local television stations, one newscaster and a reporter watched, straining for a view of one of the car's passengers. After a fleeting glimpse at two policemen and a lone man in the back seat, the black garage door abruptly clunked down.

Gordon Daniel Wingard, Jackson prison escapee and the alleged murderer of 23-year-old Dr. Cynthia Miller, was the passenger. Nabbed recently in California, he is in Southfield to face his accusers.

Wingard is charged with one count of felony murder and one count of first degree murder. Both crimes carry life sentences.

Gail Marie Oliver, Wingard's companion during his 12-month flight from authorities, is being held under \$100,000 bond in the Oakland County jail as a material witness. Assistant Oakland County prosecutor Richard Gilman says he is convinced Mrs. Oliver is not implicated in the Miller murder.

JUST MINUTES after Wingard and his two police escorts disappeared into the garage, he was led into the courtroom of Judge Norman Feder for arraignment.

Wingard stood before the bench. A slight man with thinning hair and a trimmed beard, he was dressed in a well-tailored pink three-piece suit. His off-white shirt was open at the neck.

The prisoner never looked around. He just moved back from the bench

slightly when Judge Feder made that request.

On the back wall of the courtroom, the clock said 3:45. The small group of spectators was completely hushed.

"Is your name Gordon Daniel Wingard?" Judge Feder asked.

"Yes, sir," he answered, standing quietly with hands cuffed behind him. Judge Feder informed Wingard of the charges against him.

Wingard stood mute with no show of emotion even when Judge Feder explained that each charge means life in prison.

"You're entitled to an attorney," the judge said. "And you will get a preliminary hearing at which the people must prove the offenses with which you are accused were committed and that there is probable cause to think you committed them."

"Do you have an attorney?" "No, sir," Wingard answered. "Do you have any income?" Then, "Do you have any assets?"

Twice Wingard made a negative response, and Judge Feder indicated an attorney would be appointed to represent him.

Because of the nature of the crimes, no bail was allowed.

WINGARD was led out of the courtroom.

A preliminary hearing was set for Friday, Aug. 5 in the 48th District courtroom of Judge James Clarkson.

At that time, the burden will be with the people to prove that the crimes Gordon Wingard is charged with were truly committed, and secondly, to show there is probable cause to think he committed them.

"If so, he will be bound over to circuit court for trial," Judge Feder said.

Southfield Police believe there is probable cause connecting Wingard with Dr. Miller's murder.

On the morning of her death, she received a call from someone named "Gordie" than went to the bank, withdrew \$5,000 and drove to Southfield.

Less than an hour later she was found dead in her car on the shoulder of a freeway.

DR. MILLER and Wingard were acquainted because both worked in the infirmary at Jackson Prison in 1975. The doctor also knew Mrs. Oliver, a licensed practical nurse. She fell in love with Wingard, allegedly helped him escape Jackson and then fled with him, taking along her two small children.

For 12 months they ran. Mrs. Oliver's car was found in Tennessee three weeks after the murder. Oakland Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson says the car contained evidence which linked Wingard to the crime.

The flight ended when Mrs. Oliver was arrested for shoplifting in a supermarket in Sacramento, Calif. Authorities discovered she was on the FBI's wanted list, questioned her, and were led to Wingard.

Southfield Police called the arraignment "a day of satisfaction."

Schoolcraft sets women's fair

Plans are underway at Schoolcraft College for a Sept. 29 women's festival in conjunction with the Women's Decade (IWD).

According to festival coordinator Debra Hamilton-Kurtz, the day-long event will include speakers, workshops, films, displays and exhibits of special interest to women.

Ms. Hamilton-Kurtz is a volunteer worker and peer counselor with Schoolcraft's Women's

Resource Center (WRC). She said the festival's purpose will be to recognize the achievements and potential of all women, regardless of their current roles in life.

Two others with major responsibility for the festival are Jean Christensen, WRC director, and Joanne Hurley, volunteer supervisor at the center.

Persons wishing to assist in the festival's planning, which Ms. Hamilton-Kurtz hopes to complete during July, may contact her at the WRC, 593-6400, ext. 363. She would also like to hear from those willing to work the day of the festival.

The International

Women's Decade (1975-85) continues the efforts launched in the 1975 International Women's Year (IYW) proclaimed by the United Nations.

The aim of IWD is to raise women to a more equal partnership with men. Stress is on greater freedom of choice for women in planning their lives, and on equality of opportunity, compensation and responsibility.

The festival will be without charge and open to the general public. Some topics tentatively scheduled include: health, education, help for displaced homemakers and legislation affecting women in jobs, schools and personal rights.

Ms. Hamilton-Kurtz said men will be welcome to attend and indicated some thought is being given to a program offering especially for men.

Sobels win Master Points

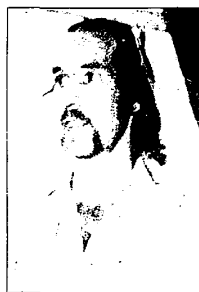
Robert A. Sobel, 3085 Running Stream, Farmington Hills, and Del Sobel, Berkeley, Cal., were among Master Point winners at the 1977 Summer North American Championships of the American Contract Bridge League.

They were section leaders in a one-session game, part of the 10-day competition held in Chicago, July 15-24.

The event, which was one of three major tournaments sponsored annually by the ACBL, drew 7,000 players from every class of skill.

Players came from four North American championships and 18 Central States events.

The ACBL is a nonprofit organization of some 220,000 competitive players in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda.



GORDON DANIEL WINGARD



GAIL MARIE OLIVER

Groups urge minimum wage

A campaign to urge congressional passage of a fair minimum wage law has been announced by the Labor Zionist Alliance and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

At a conference supported by the Jewish Community Council, Jewish Labor Committee, Frontlash and Social Democrats USA, Tom Turner, president of the Detroit AFL-CIO, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and Rabbi Leon Fram called upon Congress to set a minimum hourly wage of \$3, which, according to Norman Natmark of the Labor Zionist Alliance, is just above poverty level.

Natmark said the Carter administration's compromise proposal, set at \$2.65, is legislating poverty for those who work at a minimum wage.

Citing a government report stating a family of four needs over \$11,000 per year to live at an austere standard, Selma Goode, an organizer of the campaign, said the \$3 wage is not what is needed, but is at least a step in the right direction.

The coalition also called upon Congress to peg the minimum wage at 60 per cent of the average industrial wage, and called for agricultural workers and restaurant workers to be

Ministers wives

(Continued from Page 3A)

congregation. We were glad for people to watch over us and be possessed," she said.

After 18 years in Farmington, she's happy to be with her husband's congregation.

"Our first congregation was a rural one. We were so young that we weren't pressured. It was like guidance. No one put pressure on, now," she said.

"I had a marvelous time with the sinners in my congregation—the sinners who are trying. The saints have absolutely crucified us. They have their own measuring stick," summed up Mrs. Morcer.

included under the protection of the minimum wage bill.

Ms. Goode said the coalition will embark on a lobbying campaign urging citizens to write President Carter, their congressmen and senators asking them to pass a fair minimum wage bill which will set the minimum wage no lower than \$3.

Swimmers gather for meet at S-L

Some of the area's best young swimmers will compete in the 18th annual Northwest Suburban League championship meet Aug. 3-6 at Southfield-Lathrup High School.

The meet should attract more than 1,500 swimmers from the 15 teams in the NSL. Preliminaries will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Aug. 3-5. The finals are scheduled for Saturday (Aug. 6) beginning at noon.

Some 52 events will be held for boys and girls in five age groups—eight years and under, nine and 10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-17.

Cranbrook Swim Club, which won its fifth straight league title in last year's meet, may have trouble defending its championship this summer. Bloomfield Surf, with a 6-0 record in NSL dual meets, looks like a strong contender. Cranbrook is 4-2 this season.

The league is divided into two classes. Besides Cranbrook and Bloomfield Surf, the Class A teams are Beverly Hills Forest Hills, Heart of the Hills, Village and Woodbrooke Hills. Class B teams include Beechview, C.B. Swim Club, Farmington Glen, Kendallwood, Orchard Valley, Pinebrook, Pleasant Ridge and Woodside.

Team trophies will be awarded to the overall winner and to the Class B team which scores the most points. The meet director is Joanne Dudley of the Livonia C.B. Swim Club.

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