

Southfield girl, 12, testifies in pre-trial exam

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Twelve-year-old Monica Lindsey appeared relaxed and unemotional Tuesday during a grueling, three-hour court session where she gave eyewitness testimony of a July 9 shooting that left her orphaned and which led to her uncle being charged with murder and attempted murder.

Monica was hospitalized for 12 days and received surgery for a gunshot wound to the chest. During her recovery she missed an earlier-scheduled court date which was postponed to allow the defendant, Roosevelt Richardson Jr., 28, a date for circuit court,

trial on the charges has not been determined.

Surprised the attorney said he was surprised that the judge bound his client over on all four counts. Young stressed that eyewitness testimony by Monica indicated that she deceased, Mrs. Norma Lindsey, probably struggled with Richardson for the gun before she was shot. Further, Young said, the eyewitness couldn't tell if her uncle shot at her or if she was hit by a stray bullet fired by either party.

"Judge Cooper happens to be a fine judge," Young said. "But I think a miscarriage of justice occurred today in this courtroom. It's obvious the shooting occurred as a result of a struggle between two parties. That's what the testimony was."

In cross examination the defense attorney asked Monica: "Is it fair to say that while they were struggling you weren't sure who had the gun?"

Monica answered "Yes."

She also answered "Yes" to the question: "You don't know who shot you, do you?"

Young said his client was acting in self-defense after Mrs. Lindsey produced a knife and threatened him with bodily harm.

BUT ANOTHER prosecution witness, Jacqueline Shepherd, testified in court that she received a call from Richardson "two or three days" after he was arrested at which time he admitted firing the shot that struck Monica.

Richardson was arrested at the Shepherd home less than six hours after the shooting. According to testimony, Richardson planned to move in temporarily with the Shepherds after his sister told him to move out of the home he shared with Mrs. Lindsey and her daughter at 18555 Catalpa, Southfield.

"He said he saw some woman coming through the door and he shot through the door," Mrs. Shepherd said. She said Richardson made no attempt to flee after the shooting of Monica in the phone call, but told her Mrs. Lindsey had pulled a knife on him," Mrs. Shepherd told prosecutor Robert Watson. "He just told me she shot her once."

According to police, the shooting occurred at 5:21 p.m. Mrs. Shepherd told the court Richardson came to their home about 6 p.m. and acted "the same as usual" before telling the Shepherds and his girlfriend at 8 p.m. that he had been involved in a shooting.

Richardson is being held without bail in Oakland County Jail awaiting a trial on the charges in circuit court.

Outside the courtroom, defense attorney Young

said Richardson may have feared for his life because his sister, Mrs. Lindsey, had a violent history. Young said that in 1975 the deceased was found guilty of manslaughter in the death of Delmar Bohannen.

Mrs. Lindsey was sentenced in 1977 to five years probation on the manslaughter charge, according to Mildred Perry, secretary of the Detroit Police Homicide Bureau.

Schools set to open doors

As summer draws to a close, the Farmington School District has prepared calendars for the 1979-80 school year.

Senior high school students will be able to pick up registration packets at their high schools Aug. 20-24, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Sept. 4 will be a teacher workday. Registration will begin on Sept. 5. Students will report to school at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 6. Sept. 7 will be the first full day of school.

Junior high school students will pick up schedules on Aug. 27, 28 and 29, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Students will report on Sept. 6 for classes at which time seventh graders will have orientation in the morning.

All the rest of the students will report in the afternoon.

Sept. 7 will be the first full day of school.

Elementary students will report on Sept. 5 for a half day session and will be excused at noon. The first full day of school will be on Sept. 6.

Parents who are new to the community should register their children in their local school building as soon as possible.

Parents who have children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 1979, may register them for kindergarten classes.

Buses routes for the school year will be posted in the Observer on Aug. 30 and also during the first week of September.

THE JUDGE ordered Monica to leave the courtroom after testifying. She reluctantly complied with Judge Cooper's order.

A former student at Thompson Middle School, Miss Lindsey is currently

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