

Taped confession adds to trial drama

By JUDITH BERNE

A tape recording of Dorchester Harris confessing to the March double murder of a West Bloomfield couple was played Tuesday in Oakland County Circuit Court.

"I stabbed them. I wired them up. I snatched the coke. I ran," Harris said, on the tape, in answer to police ques-

tions three days after the killings. "I'm telling you that I committed that homicide."

Harris has pleaded not guilty for reasons of self-defense to charges of first degree murder in the March 13 killings of Donald and Mary Lou Freedman, 2329 Horseshoe Drive.

The bodies were discovered by Mrs. Freedman's five-year-old son, Brian

Glonka, in the living room of the family's township home.

The Freedmans had multiple stab wounds in the neck and throat. Their hands and feet were bound with coat hangers. Drugs, particularly cocaine, and the apparatus for using them, were nearby, police report.

THE CONFESSION, prompted and

taped by West Bloomfield Detective Lt. Wayne Allen and Detective Sgt. Bruce Siebert of the Michigan State Police, was reportedly made March 16 in Toledo, Ohio.

Harris, 49, of Detroit was arrested in Toledo for shooting a gun in a motel. When evidence linking him to the double murders was found in a routine search of his car, West Bloomfield police were called to Toledo.

On the tape, Harris portrayed a scene in which he felt his life was threatened.

According to the tape, Harris went to the Freedman home around noon, March 13 hoping to straighten out a problem over a drug transaction. Harris reportedly had sold drugs for Freedman, an alleged drug dealer, for about two years.

Harris told of guaranteeing that a client would pay Freedman for some drugs. When the person left town with-

out paying, Freedman pressed Harris for immediate payment, according to Harris's account.

"I told him I couldn't get the money," Harris said on the tape. "I got grandbabies. I got my wife. I got everybody."

According to Harris' account, Freedman refused to take time payments from Harris.

Harris said he was convinced Freedman was planning to have him killed.

"All I know is he had a contract out on me, because he never denied it," said Harris on the tape. "I thought if I could talk to him he would see my side of things. I couldn't talk to him."

ALTHOUGH THE TAPE recording of Harris' comments was, at times, difficult to hear, he depicted a struggle for a folding knife which was on a table in the Freedman's living room.

When Mrs. Freedman joined in the struggle, Harris stabbed her and then stabbed her husband, according to the tape.

"I don't know if they were dead or not," he said on the recording. "I don't know how many times I stabbed them."

Harris then returned to his home for clothing. He may have spent a night in another Detroit residence before driving to Toledo.

In the tape recording, Harris confirmed that he fired the shots in the Toledo motel because he believed there was still a contract out on his life and that someone had come to Toledo to get him.

In testimony Monday, Toledo police confirmed Harris was "very scared," when they were called to the motel because of a reported disturbance.

HARRIS SOUGHT the police out, and made no attempt to run away, they said.

Reading education blooms

(Continued from page 1A)

rhymes, children play word games which acquaint them with the different sounds of each letter.

CHARACTERS such as Munchy Mouth, who munches macaroni and marshmallows, acquaint the young with the lessons which their parents learned through the regimentation of rhyming sounds.

"Linguistics has not much meaning for a child. They should be learning they use. Who's heard of a rat named Matt?" Ms. Poelke.

"Reading isn't a chore. It isn't something that you must learn to do here, now, in the first grade," she said. "It's something that gives you pleasure. It's something that will work for you."

At Flanders, Mrs. Spencer's com-

plained first and second grades used their reading skills to give the correct treatment to one of the class' two pet hamsters. They read the instructions on the ointment bottle to learn how to apply lotion to the rash-afflicted nose of the hamster.

But not every child easily learns to use reading as a tool. While many children do encounter a few problems in reading, there are some who have special difficulties in mastering the skill.

Parental pressure and the child's development each play a part in learning to read.

SOME PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS make it a special point to emphasize that the child will learn to read in first grade.

Although the adults may not realize they are placing a lot of pressure on the

child, sometimes their words of encouragement make the first grader worry that he won't be liked as well at home if he doesn't learn to read quickly, Mrs. Poelke notes.

Good vocabulary and speaking skills help a child learn to read, teachers agree.



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