Accused murderer takes stand in own defense

An accused murderer has told a jury he was unaware Donald and Mary Lou Freedman were dead until he heard it on television nearly 12 hours after the stabbings.

Dorchester Harris is pleading self-defense to two counts of first degree murder in the March 13 slayings of the West Bloomfield couple.

Harris, 47, of Detroit, took the stand in his own defense at his jury trial in Oakland County Circuit Court last

Harris testified the stablings took place following a disagreement over a drug transaction. He further testified that both he and Freedman went for a knife during the argument. When Mrs.

Freedman tried to intervene, Harris said he stabbed her.

The Freedmans were later found in the living room by Mrs. Freedman's 5-year-old son. The bodies were bound at the hands and feet with coat hanglers.

"I was scared to death. I was trying to stay alive," Harris testified. "I was fighting for my life."

Harris's testimony elaborated on taped recording of his confession made by West Bloomfield police three days after the killings. The tape was presented earlier by the prosecution. Harris sachwelegde he was a business associate and friend of Freedman Harris said he sold occaine sold for Freedman and took a percentage for his own use.

HARRIS SAID he believed Freed-

man had hired men to kill him. He testified he went to the Freedman home on Horseshoe Drive in an attempt to get Freedman to call off the most of the first testified he owed Freedman a farmy testified he owed Freedman home prepared the first the first the first testified he owed freedman home prepared to the freedman home prepared to the first the first

When he got up to leave, Harris said.

Freedman attempted to detain him. They started to grapple, both went for the knife and Harris got there first, ac-cording to Harris's testimony.

"HE'S PUSHING me back. I'm pushing him. I just give in 1 beat him to the knife." Harris recounted. "Now I was down. He was halfway on the couch. I hit him with i (the knife).
"He calls out "Mary Lou, Mary Lou" and all I know is Mary Lou is all over me." Harris testified. "I tussled her over my shoulder. I hit her in the face. I stuck her with the work of the couch.

I stuck her.
"He rolled out on the other couch, trying to get away. I hit him and that's where I left him."
Following the stabbings, Harris says he bound the two with coat hanger wire because "I wanted to keep Don from opening the door. If the hired killers

come he'll let them in," Harris said.
"And I'll still be in the neighborhood."
"They wasn't dead," Harris testified.
"He was mumbling. He tried to keep me from tying him up."

me from tying him up."

HIS TESTIMONY contradicts testimony by prosecution witness Oakland County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Silkery control of the County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Silkery control of the County of the County

after death."

He further testified there were no

detensive wounds" on either body. He referred to wounds inflicted in the course of a struggle that usually occur around the hands.

THE TRIAL enters its third week when it resumes Monday before Judge William Beer.
Harris is expected to complete his testimony and submit to cross examination.

nation.

Attorneys for the two sides have agreed to several facts that the jury will not have to deliberate:

- Mrs. Freedman's 5-year-old son. Brian Glonka, was in the house at the time of the slayings. He peeked into the living room.

- At no time did Brian see Harris in possession of a gun.

- The investigation determined Freedman was a dealer in cocaine.



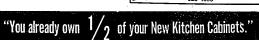
CALL **522-5556**

Art~a~Facts

ART QUIZ

A favorite portrait painter of high society on both sides of the Adantie in the years preceding WW was? (a) Sergeant Stoto (c) Sergeant Bilto (b) Sergeant Striver (d) John Singer Sargent and his works are now currently on exhibit at the Cortect answers John Singer Sargent Scott State of Sergeant Singer Sargent Scott State of Sergeant Sergeant

Northwest Blue Print Artist and Drafting Supplies 13450 Farmington Rd.(at Schoolcraft) Livonia 525-1990



DRAWERS AND They make your kitchen NEW! again

dura wood

SAVE!!! **U**%

OR MORE OVER NEW CABINETS Licensed, insured, and bonded 52177

ura wood OF MICHIGAN INC.

Call YPSILANTI 482-0220

721-5514

FREE ESTIMATES

OUR CUSTOM DOOR SYSTEM GIVES YOU

The Following:

All New Doors and Drawe Fronts
All New Hardware and
Hinges Installed Over
Wood or Metal
All Other Existing Surfaces
Covered with Matching Ma-

Covered with manager terials
Can Be Installed in Hours.
No Need To Tear Up Your
Kitchen or Disrupt Your
Home Rouline
Does not show finger marks
like formica



Now in Birmingham Bloomfield area

Drop in today! See the fabulous new Spa we're in the process of building in the Telegraph-121/2 Mile area. Test actual full-size fitness and reducing equipment now on display in our Preview Center on the site. Check all the important benefits you will be enjoying soon in our new \$1,000,000 Health Spa. See full color pictures of our luxurious swimming pool, whirlpool, dry heat room, sauna and beautifully appointed fitness areas with the finest equipment to help you achieve your goals.

Enroll now while Phase 2 Charter Memberships are available!

able membership rates now average only \$2.75 per week on 24-month pre-opening special prepaid cash rate. Regular rate \$5.00 average per week.

and shape up free!



you'll receive unlimited FREE use of our other Spas until our new Teleavailable only to residents north of B Mile, west of an area within Evergreen to 14 Mile to Woodward.



30000 TELEGRAPH AND 121/2 MILE Phone 356-6700



Free yourself from service appointments, wax jobs, transportation problems...P.A.M. takes care

A Membership in P.A.M. entitles you to:

● You will get a coupon book which allows you one car wash per week

at participating car washes.

Once every 90 days YOUR CAR IS PICKED UP cleaned thoroughly and then returned to you. A complete clean up consists of: the outside is washed, rubbed out, waxed and detailed; the engine is the outside is wasted, futboard out, waxed and detailed, the engine is degreased and washed; the interior is shampooed, vacuumed and the windows cleaned; all the chrome is cleaned along with the vinyl tops and whitewalls; the trunk is washed and vacuumed.

Twice a year your car's oil and oil filters are changed. Also available to you are our certilied mechanics who can handle any of your mechanical peeds at a discounted price.

word and the control of the control

A HOTLINE will always be open to handle any special problems that might arise unexpectedly (i.e. spilled pop, fallout, etc.).

CLIP OUT COUPON Send your name and address for a complete analysis of your car needs NAME_. ______STATE._____ PHONE .__ Send to: P.A.M., 744 Wing St., Plymouth - Phone 459-3794 Hours of operation - 12 to 3