

# Court resets hearing for accused murderers

A special pretrial hearing for two Pontiac brothers accused of killing a West Bloomfield widow will resume at 8:30 a.m. Friday in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The evidentiary hearing before Judge Francis O'Brien is to determine whether evidence gained from a third party is admissible in the case against Charles and Daniel Meyers.

Charles, 23, and Daniel, 21, are charged with first-degree murder in the beating death of Gladys Smith, 72, who lived alone in her Pontiac Trail home near Haggerty Road. Mrs. Smith was killed June 24, 1978.

The evidentiary hearing began Oct. 4, 1979 but was interrupted when other charges against the brothers were brought to trial.

That case involved an armed robbery stemming from a July 6, 1978 incident in Keego Harbor. The trial lasted 1 1/2 weeks.

A jury deliberated six minutes in convicting the brothers of robbing Leo's Pour House, now called the Fire Station, located at 3159 Orchard Lake Road. Sentencing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Tuesday.

INFORMATION GAINED during investigation of the robbery led Keego Harbor Police Chief William Holloway to alert West Bloomfield Police seeking suspects in the murder of Mrs. Smith. West Bloomfield Detective Lt. Wayne Allen is expected to take the stand again when the pretrial exam resumes Friday.

Allen, under cross-examination at the first session of the pretrial, admitted some reservations about methods used to obtain evidence in the murder case.

He also testified that some reasons given as basis for issuing a warrant in the case were not wholly true. The warrant was sought to search the Pontiac home of the Meyers' parents.

The brothers were extradited from Texas in May where they were being held on charges of robbery committed in that state.

A fellow Texas prisoner, apparently arrested with the Meyers, told Texas authorities he had information relating to the West Bloomfield slaying, police said. His information was allegedly gained from Daniel Meyers, according to testimony.

The man also testified that he offered to find out more details if he were placed in a cell with Daniel. He was interviewed by Allen the day after the two were presumably placed in the same cell.

Search and arrest warrants were issued following that meeting.

## Suspect convicted in drug slayings

By JUDITH BERNE

Harris took the witness stand to testify he stabbed the Freedmans in self-defense during a dispute over a drug transaction, then tied them up.

Harris said he sold drugs for Freedman, reserving some for himself as payment. Both attorneys told the jury to accept as fact that Freedman was a drug dealer.

The county medical examiner verified Assistant Prosecutor Frank Mandelbaum's contention that evidence showed Harris bound the Freedmans up, then killed them.

Dr. Robert Sillery said multiple stab wounds to the neck and throat of both Freedmans would have proved fatal within 30-90 seconds.

Bruises caused by the coat hanger wire showed Harris tied them up and then killed them, said Sillery. He said "bruises occur before death, not after death."

The defense brought no medical expert to refute that testimony.

CLOSING ARGUMENTS by Prosecutor Mandelbaum and by Harris' attorney, Thomas Keenan, both focused on the March 13 events in West Bloomfield. Trial testimony also dealt with two addresses in Detroit and events at the Toledo, Ohio motel where Harris was first arrested by Toledo police on an unrelated charge.

Harris previously testified he believed Freedman had hired him to kill him because he couldn't pay back the \$3,500 debt he had guaranteed for a friend buying cocaine from Freedman.

He said he went to Freedman's house to make a partial payment and try to get Freedman to call off the men. Harris said Freedman refused the money and when Harris attempted to leave a fight started with both men going for a knife on the living room table.

He stabbed Freedman, who called

for his wife's help. He then stabbed Mrs. Freedman when she tried to intervene.

"He reacted," Keenan argued to the jury. "The intent was not to kill. It was to escape."

He portrayed Harris as "a small little nobody caught in the scheme of drug trafficking. He was a bad debt," Keenan said. "Somehow the whole world's coming down on him. He did what he did to stay alive."

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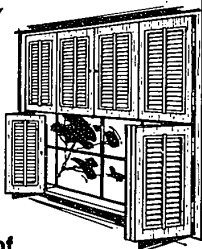


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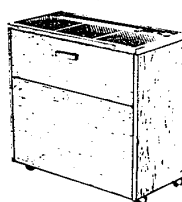
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