

# FBI investigating details of shootout

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at the hobby show as a coin dealer saw the gunfire and radioed Detroit police, who notified Farmington Hills police that the getaway car was going south on Middlebelt.

"He really helped put us on the right trail," Farmington Hills Lt. Richard Murphy said.

Conviction of either the assault or robbery charge will bring a penalty of up to life in prison. A felony firearms conviction brings a mandatory two-year prison term.

EDWARD MUSZYNSKI has held five coin, stamp and baseball card

**'The nicest thing is the refreshing way the police caught the suspects without any more shooting.'**

— Edward Muszynski

shows at Mercy Center — one last October and four each month since January.

Involved in such shows for 25

years in Farmington Hills, Livonia, Detroit, Royal Oak and Dearborn, he's aware of the potential for trouble. But this was the first time a

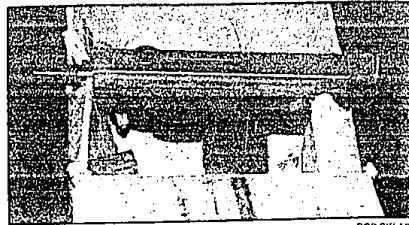
show has been marred by violence, he said.

"It was a real isolated incident," he said. "The nicest thing is the refreshing way the police caught the suspects without any more shooting."

Muszynski praised the off-duty Detroit officer "for using discretion not to shoot with people around, for quickly radioing the incident to police and for following the car the gunman was in."

"He did something outstanding," Muszynski said.

This was the first arrested hold-up at a coin show in Farmington Hills, police said.



GOD SKLAR

This is the Uzi 9 mm semiautomatic pistol police believe was used in the robbery.

## Gunfire marks closing of coin show

Farmington Hills police gave the following update of what spurred gunfire outside Mercy Center at 5:35 p.m. Sunday.

A Taylor coin dealer had just loaded two cases of rare coins into his van following a daylong coin, stamp and baseball card show when a masked gunman approached from behind and knocked twice on the driver's window with the barrel of his gun. The van was parked in Mercy Center's east lot.

"Told he'd be killed if he didn't get out, the 52-year-old dealer reluctantly complied, but dropped his keys. Outside the van, he was slapped on the side of the head and ordered to the ground."

As the gunman got into the van and looked for the keys, the dealer retreated four car spaces. He took cover, drew his handgun and pointed it at the gunman.

When the gunman ducked, the coin dealer ran back to the Mercy Center doorway.

He told people leaving the building to take cover, then fired one shot from his handgun into the hood of the van, below the windshield, in hopes of disabling it.

THE GUNMAN, unable to find the keys, got out the passenger door, went behind the van and, from about 75 feet away, fired three shots toward the doorway, where the coin

dealer and others were standing. One bullet whistled through a pool window, above and left of the doorway.

The gunman then ran toward the front of the building and waved to his accomplice, waiting near Gate 3, off 11 Mile, in the same car the dealer had seen pull into the lot and park 50 feet away, with the motor running, as he loaded his van.

An off-duty Detroit police inspector at the hobby show as a coin dealer saw the gunfire and radioed Detroit police, who notified Farmington Hills police that the getaway car was going south on Middlebelt.

The Detroit officer followed the getaway car south on Middlebelt, keeping a safe distance behind.

FARMINGTON HILLS officer David Glowacki picked up the pursuit at Grand River and Nine Mile. He cornered the car on Albion, a dead-end street, where the two occupants jumped out and ran east.

Farmington Hills officers Craig Summers and Al Patterson arrested one suspect, with a loaded Uzi 9 mm semiautomatic pistol and keys to the suspected getaway car, in bushes in front of Williams & Co. CPAs, Grand River and Albion.

Farmington officer Vincent Ziegler arrested the other suspect near a creek behind McFarland's Florist & Greenhouses, Grand River and Middlebelt.

## Doctor gets probation in patient's death

A Farmington Hills physician convicted of poisoning a terminally ill patient in Detroit's Northwest Grace Hospital last May was sentenced by Detroit Recorder Judge Terrance Boyle to five years' probation April 4.

Donald A. Caracelo, 33, had faced up to life imprisonment for his guilty plea last month to a charge of poisoning with intent to kill. He pleaded guilty in exchange for dismissal of an open murder charge.

"The court has imposed a sentence which I said I would accept," Wayne County prosecutor John O'Hair said. "I hope the message to the metro community is very loud, very clear."

The physician admitted injecting Juliette Cherry-Sapp with a fatal dose of potassium chloride last May 6. Cherry-Sapp was dying from diabetes. According to court testimony, Cherry-Sapp would have died within days of her ailment, including gangrene, heart disease and kidney failure.

Southfield defense attorney Justin Ravitz had argued that Caracelo was under extreme stress at the time from his own father's terminal illness.

"Part of his problem was that he cared too much and that he was too sensitive," Ravitz said.

AT A HEARING in Recorder's

Court in March, Caracelo said he felt sorry for Cherry-Sapp and injected her with the potassium chloride to end her pain and suffering.

Caracelo was suspended from the hospital when the investigation began and has not practiced medicine since his arrest last November.

Initially Cherry-Sapp's death was listed as natural and attributed to heart and lung failure resulting from a blood infection, with diabetes and heart and kidney failure as contributing factors.

After hospital officials talked with employees and Caracelo, they contacted authorities last May 20 with information about a wrongful pa-

tient death that may have occurred — as required by state law.

Cherry-Sapp's body was exhumed in June from a Southfield cemetery, by permission of Southfield District Judge Susan Moiseev. An autopsy resulted in recertification of her death as homicide.

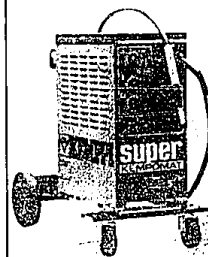
"The principal significance of this prosecution to the people of the community is confirmation of the basic truth that no one has a right to take an innocent human life, no matter how short the expectancy of that life may be," O'Hair said in March.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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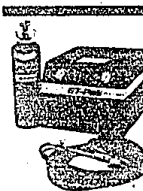
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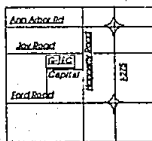
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