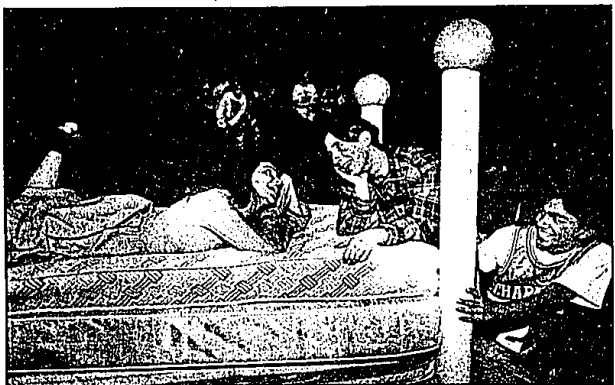


'Once Upon a Mattress'



Rehearsing a scene: North Farmington troupers (from left) Stephanie Myre, Mike Topor and Arvind Suendren prepare for "Once Upon a Mattress," to be staged at North Farmington at 8 p.m. today-Saturday, Feb. 3-5. Reserved tickets at \$8 for adults and \$6 for students may be bought at the door.

Murder from page 1A



Keeping watch: Dennis Lutz, brother of the murdered woman, watches Raymond Ponke's preliminary examination.

John Ponke, a younger brother of the accused, recounted a conversation at the Rustic Pub in Farmington Dec. 30 when Raymond Ponke said he would not go through a divorce.

"He said, 'It's going to be until death do us part,'" John Ponke said during the exam. "Ray was a man of his word."

John Ponke said those threats and other irrational behavior — including sledgehammering the inside of the family's Oxford home for 10 hours — led them to believe their brother needed help.

They had talked about having him committed to a psychiatric facility.

Nicholas Ponke testified he heard his brother making threats

two days prior to the murder during a card game. The next day, Jan. 7, Nicholas Ponke said his brother received divorce papers and a restraining order.

"And I told him, 'It becomes different now,'" Nicholas Ponke said. "I told him any irrational act, he could go to jail."

Ponke's attorney, Tim Ash, asked Nicholas Ponke about the family's history of Huntington's disease, an hereditary ailment that leads to dementia.

Ash said he'll ask that his client be referred for forensic testing. He'll also ask that Raymond Ponke be tested for Huntington's.

"I think it's quite clear Raymond Ponke is insane," said Ash.

Free fingerprinting for kids inked :

A free fingerprinting program is available from the Independent Order of Foresters for the children and grandchildren of Livonia business people.

In the past, the IOF has brought its free "ChildPrint" service to local stores, schools, day care centers, fairs and community events, and will continue to do so.

But the program has proved to be so popular, the nonprofit

fraternal society is now offering it to any business that wants to protect the children of its employees.

Generally, the IOF will perform the fingerprinting and child identification service on a Saturday, during special hours set aside by the business.

"This year marks a new drive to organize with corporations," said IOF spokesman Henry DeVries. "Employees bring their children

to work, usually on a weekend day, to be fingerprinted and photographed."

For more information, or to set up a fingerprinting day for your business, call the IOF at 1-800-246-6794 or 1-800-478-8250.

The ChildPrint program gives children an identification card. With this card, fingerprints and photographs, police get a head start on finding a missing child.

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