

# 3 Girls' Ordeal At Knife-Point

By MAURIE WALKER

Robert A. Widgren, 25, charged with the murder of a Redford girl, the kidnapping of two other girls and assault with intent to murder, was returned to Wayne County Jail Wednesday to await continuation of his pre-trial examination. He is scheduled to appear in 20th District Court, Dearborn Heights again next Wednesday morning.

The pre-trial examination started last Wednesday morning and was ordered continued next week in order that testimony of the Wayne County medical examiner may be heard.

Widgren, of Detroit, is facing charges in the stabbing murder on Jan. 1 of Kathleen Hannan, 18, of Redford; kidnapping in connection with the abduction of Debbie Perrin, 18, of Westland; and Debbie Hennessy, 16, of Livonia, plus a charge of assault with intent to murder Miss Perrin.

Widgren, who was arraigned on the charges Jan. 3, was to have appeared for pre-trial examination on Jan. 12. This was delayed a week pending the appointment by his family of an attorney. Representing the defendant is Detroit Attorney George Matish.

THE COURTROOM of District Judge George E. Wicklund was crowded as the examination opened on Wednesday.

Miss Hennessy, an attractive blonde who appears older than her 16 years, described the strange chain of events leading to the tragedy.

She said she left work at the Red Cedar Restaurant, 2855 Telegraph Rd., Southfield, about a 1 a.m. New Year's Day. She is employed as a salad girl there, she explained.

"Kathy (Miss Hannan) and Debbie (Miss Perrin) stopped at the restaurant to see me, but we missed connections," Miss Hennessy said.

minutes and was talking to Kathy about cars and tires," she recalled.

Defendant Attorney Matish asked her if there was anything to drink in the car to which she replied, "some beer, maybe a six-pack."

Matish then asked her if the defendant had been offered a drink. "I don't think so," she retorted.

After driving around for a while, Miss Hennessy said she told the defendant she had to meet her sister at Biff's of Telegraph.

"He said OK and started down Ann Arbor Trail toward Telegraph. Then he turned off onto Woodbine near Edward Hines drive," she continued.

THE DEFENSE attorney asked if she drank any beer in the car that night. She said no, but the other girls did.

She became confused when asked by the defense attorney in which hand the man held the knife when they were stabbed. At first she said right, but later said she meant his left.

Otherwise, throughout the hour she was on the stand, Miss Hennessy appeared calm.

During the testimony, Widgren, a tall, thin man, sat with his head in his hands, looking up only occasionally.

Perhaps it was his youthful face or maybe just his gaunt appearance that made one of the women in the court room remark:

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"I had my own car and drove to the home of Bill Stevenson on Columbia in Redford. I thought the girls might be there because I heard there was to be a New Year's party."

Miss Hennessy said that when she arrived at the Stevenson house, no one was home.

"I WAS ABOUT to leave when Debbie and Kathy drove up. We decided to leave my car in the driveway and all go in Kathy's car."

The trio drove to the Cow Shed on Ford and Telegraph to see if Miss Hennessy's father was there.

"He wasn't, so we decided to go to Debbie's house on North Wayne in Westland." Questioned as to their reason for going there, Miss Hennessy explained that they wanted to wish Debbie's mother a happy New Year.

"Debbie wanted to get some money, too," she commented.

"At about 3 a.m. we drove to the Studio Lounge on Wayne and Warren Roads. Kathy was driving. I was in the middle and Debbie sat next to me."

other girls were all right too," she added.

Upon leaving the bar, the girls drove east on Ford Rd. to Inkster Rd. where they were stopped by Garden City police and given a speeding ticket.

"We were delayed by the police about 20 minutes and then went north on Inkster to Warren where we turned right."

"Shortly after we turned onto Warren, we saw a car behind us flashing its bright lights on and off. I thought it was the police again because we were going pretty fast."

"I TOLD Kathy to pull off Warren to the side street (Centralia) and stop."

Miss Hennessy said she could not see what type car was behind them nor how many people were in the car.

"This man (pointing to Widgren) came up to the driver's side of the car. Kathy was getting her driver's license out of her purse and as the man approached, reeled down the window."

She reported that the man asked them if they had just gotten a traffic ticket.

"We told him we did. He then said he studied law and would represent us. I explained to him that we had taken care of the ticket."

Miss Hennessy said the defendant then pulled a knife out of his left pocket, held it at Miss Hannan's throat and told the girls to slide over.

"NO ONE invited him into the car. He just got in. Once in the car, he put the knife on the dashboard, told us he was sorry for having frightened us and started up the car."

He drove down several side streets for about 10 to 20

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SHE SAID the girls stayed at the lounge until about 4:20 a.m., during which time she admitted to having three drinks (screwdrivers) while her companions had "one or two beers."

Questioned to how she was able to purchase drinks when she is 16 years old, Miss Hennessy said she had false identification.

"I was feeling straight (sober) when we left the bar," Miss Hennessy stated. "The

girl said Miss Perrin was stabbed near the neck, that the man had reached across the other two girls to do it."

Debbie and I jumped out of the parked car and ran. I flagged down a car driven by a security guard. I told him we were being attacked. He drove me around, looking for Debbie, but we couldn't find her."

Questioned as to why she didn't look for Kathy Hannan, she replied, "I just don't know."

Miss Hennessy said the security guard took her to the Dearborn Heights police station. She was transported first to Garden City Hospital and then to Wayne County General.

When asked how badly she

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