

Suspected 'hit man' held on \$1 million bond

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—A minor traffic incident last week has resulted in the arrest of a suspected 'hit man' in the Detroit area narcotics underworld.

A man identified as Chester Wheeler Campbell, 44, of Detroit, was arrested with four guns, \$8,000 in cash, a notebook believed to contain names of potential victims and 15 packets of suspected heroin.

Held in Oakland County jail on \$1 million bond, Wheeler will appear before 48th District Court Judge Alice L. Gilbert Thursday (Feb. 13) on three weapons charges and a fourth charge of possession of narcotics.

ROY C. HAYES, director of the Wayne County Crime Task Force, has reportedly described Wheeler as a known professional assassin.

Richard Thompson, chief assistant Oakland County prosecutor, said it was believed Campbell currently had at least three open contracts for murder.

Among the items under investigation by a joint Wayne-Oakland team is whether the names in the notebook found with Campbell were to be his potential victims.

Although the list was originally reported to contain names and information about Wayne County law enforcement officials, it was learned later this week that names of Oakland County law officials were also found with Campbell.

The list reportedly contains the names of law enforcement officials, their wives' names and the license plate numbers of their cars.

A KEEGO Harbor patrolman, David Sage, arrested Campbell early

Thursday morning after Sage's patrol car was almost forced off the road by Campbell's car, which was moving in the opposite direction on Orchard Lake Road.

Sage radioed for help and pursued Campbell to the intersection of Orchard Lake Road and Indian Trail, where Campbell's car had halted with a flat tire.

Police found two pistols in Campbell's cars during the initial inspection. A .45-caliber automatic pistol was found, loaded and cocked, on the front seat of the car and a .25-caliber automatic pistol was found under the front seat. The packets of suspected heroin were also found under the front seat.

Thursday afternoon, after obtaining warrants to search the rest of the car, two additional weapons were found in the trunk: a Winchester lever action .44-caliber Magnum rifle and a disassembled sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun folded in an attache case.

The notebook of names was also found in the attache case.

ALTHOUGH CAMPBELL is not sought by Detroit police, he has a police record in Detroit.

He was convicted of second-degree murder in 1958 and sentenced to a term of 13-20 years in Jackson State Prison. He was paroled in September, 1969.

Campbell also has four previous con-

victions for burglary, between 1946 and 1950.

He was also one of 28 persons indicted on drug charges by the Wayne County citizens' grand jury in May 1973.

Members of the Wayne County Task Force have joined the Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in its investigation.

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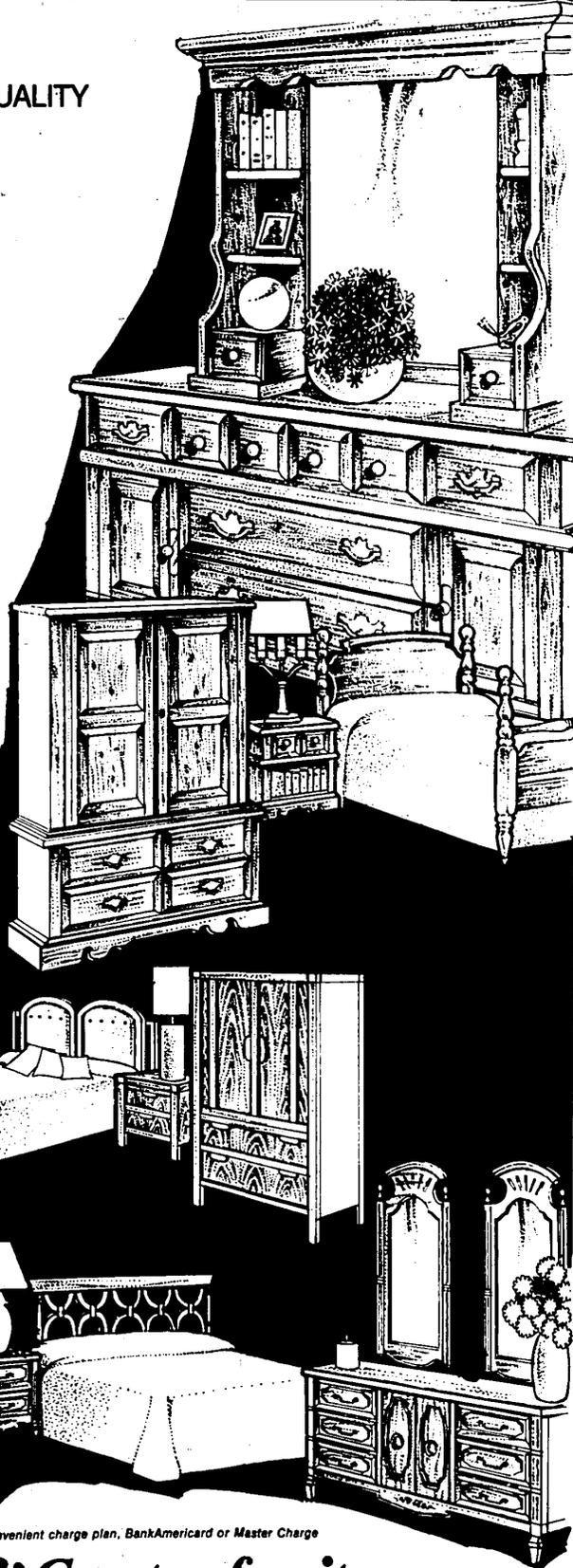
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Washington sales featured

Besides Monday's closing of banks, post offices and some municipal offices, George Washington's birthday will also be observed over the weekend by local merchants with special sales.

Special advertising pages in today's edition inform readers of George Washington Birthday Sales in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Troy, Farmington, Southfield, and Rochester.

For the many employees who will be off work and wish to take advantage of these sales, refer to that feature of today's Observer & Eccentric.

New judge for Rose

OAKLAND COUNTY—Jack Rose, the Southfield millionaire charged with plotting to murder an Oakland County Circuit Court judge, will not face a local circuit court judge when his case comes to trial.

The presiding judge of the Oakland Circuit Court, Judge William Hampton, has disqualified himself and the 10 other Oakland circuit judges from hearing the case. Judge Hampton has asked the Michigan Supreme Court to name a visiting judge to take over the case.

Judge Hampton's decision came last week after Circuit Judge William R. Hestley disqualified himself from the Rose case and Hampton sampled other judges and found them also opposed to hearing the case.

ROSE, NOW free on \$150,000 bond, is charged with attempting to hire a gunman last August to kill his ex-wife and Circuit Judge James S. Thornburn. Thornburn had granted Mrs. Rose a divorce in 1969, ending a six-year legal battle by Rose.

Judge Hampton's office said it expected within days a decision by the Michigan Supreme Court about which judge would hear the case and when he might be available.

Rose was arrested in a Southfield shopping center Aug. 13 when he allegedly negotiated the murders with a Waterford Township patrolman, posing as a hired killer.

Rose faces a maximum life sentence if convicted.

Chairman to speak

First woman chairman of the Republican National Committee, Mary Louise Smith, will be featured speaker at the Oakland County Lincoln Day Banquet on Feb. 13.

About 1,000 guests are expected at the 86th annual banquet at the Raleigh House in Southfield.

Other guests will include Congressman William Broomfield (19th District) and William McLaughlin of the Republican State Central Committee.

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