

# They knew one another

## Suspect arrested in murder of elderly resident

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

A 28-year-old man who told police he has served prison sentences for burglary, auto theft and possession of heroin, has been charged with the brutal murder Nov. 17 of Amundus J. Hoover, 89, a Hartel Street resident for 45 years.

James L. Collett, who was arrested Thursday, told police he knew Hoover, had grown up in Livonia a half-mile from the old man's home and had gone to visit him the day he was killed. Hoover lived in a small frame house

pan and stabbed with a knife, police said.

According to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office, Hoover died Sunday evening, Nov. 17, from several blows to the head by a blunt instrument and had also received multiple stab wounds to his chest and back.

"Collett was arraigned on charge of second-degree murder Friday before District Judge John C. Seltzer in Wayne. He stood mute to the charge, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, and a not guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Judge Seltzer set a \$250,000 bond pending examination Dec. 7 in 16th District Court in Wayne. Police had few clues after discovery

of Hoover's body until area witnesses reported seeing Collett on Hoover's property Nov. 17. When police found Hoover's body, the house was locked and officers had to force a window open to get in.

There was no sign of a burglar's forced entry and nothing had apparently been taken from the house, said Sgt. Fred Benson, who with Sgt. Douglas Smith, is heading the investigation.

OFFICERS WENT to the home of a Collett acquaintance Thursday to see if they could determine Collett's whereabouts when they found that he was in the house with three other people, Benson said.

Collett was arrested and offered no resistance, the sergeant said.

At his arraignment, Collett said he grew up in Livonia, attended Paradise Valley High School in Arizona and had been living in Detroit for the past eight months. He said he was unemployed.

Police said Collett had been living in an abandoned car on Cardwell Street in Livonia since at least last Sunday night.

At the time of his arrest, Collett was wanted by police on a bench warrant after failing to appear in court on a burglary charge in Romulus, Benson said.

COLLETT ADMITTED to serving prison sentences in Michigan and Ariz-

ona for burglary, auto theft and possession of heroin. He served two years in the Arizona State Penitentiary until his release in 1975, he said.

So far, police have no theory as to the motive of the slaying. Nothing was taken from Hoover's home, Benson said that Collett admitted to going to Hoover's home that day to "talk to him." The sergeant said there are no other suspects in the case.

Police took a number of pans, kitchen knives and utensils from Hoover's home for laboratory testing. A report is expected this week from the Michigan State Police crime lab in Northville.

Laboratory personnel are also checking a number of fingerprints found.

## Marygrove features Christmas concert

The Music Department of Marygrove College will present its annual Christmas concert 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 in the Sacred Heart Chapel in the Liberal Arts Building.

Marygrove is located at 8425 W. McNichols at Wyoming in northwest Detroit. There is no admission charge. The public is invited.

Featured in the Christmas concert will be the voices of two ensembles: the Marygrove College Choral and the Marygrove Chamber Singers. James Turner, instructor in the music department, is directing both groups in the musical event. In addition to being part

of the faculty of Marygrove College, Turner is the director of the adult choir of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington.

He is also a candidate in the doctoral program in choral conducting at Indiana University, Bloomington.

The first half of the Christmas concert will feature "Gloria," a classical piece by Vivaldi, sung in Latin.

The second part of the program will be composed of a collection of traditional and well-loved Christmas carols, performed by the Marygrove Chamber Singers and the Marygrove College Choral.

## Business security seminar planned

National Bank of Detroit and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration, will sponsor a loss prevention workshop for merchants in

the Farmington area on Dec. 2. The two-and-one-half-hour breakfast program is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. at the Bolaford Inn, 28000 Grand River in Farmington.

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