

2 face charges in shooting, robbery

By Teri Banas
staff writer

An Inkster man on parole from Jackson Prison was charged Tuesday in the shooting of Livonia patrol officer Gregory Henderson on the Jeffries Freeway early Monday.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office issued the warrants against James Douglas Barton, 23, charging him with assault with intent to commit murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

He was arraigned at his hospital bedside in Westland Medical Center where he was taken for treatment of gunshot wounds the day before. His condition was listed as fair, a hospital spokesperson said Wednesday.

Police identified two others involved in the shooting Monday as Arthur E. Sherman, a 25-year-old Garden City man, and Casimir Edward Bagaculnis, 20, of Westland.

SHERMAN WAS killed in the shoot-out while Bagaculnis was wounded by as many as three bullets. Bagaculnis was operated on for a bullet to the chest Monday and yesterday was listed in fair condition at the Westland Medical Center.

The Livonia shoot-out followed a robbery in Farmington Hills in which police said the three men bound and terrorized two men and a woman for 3½ hours.

Farmington Hills police Tuesday received warrants on Barton and Bagaculnis for the drug-related robbery there.

Barton is charged with three counts of armed robbery, one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and four counts of use of a firearm in commission of a felony (second offense).

Bagaculnis is charged with three counts of armed robbery and three counts of felony firearm.

ACCORDING TO Chief William Dwyer of the Farmington Hills Police, three men broke into a house at 28708 Nine Mile at 11:15 p.m. Sunday and tied up the two brothers who live there, Richard, 31, and Robert Shanklin, 26, and sexually assaulted the girlfriend, one of the men, a 17-year-old Detroit woman.

"They continually threatened that they would be killed and pointed guns (a pistol and a sawed-off shotgun) at their heads," said Dwyer.

The men reportedly demanded drugs, money and other possessions in the house, ransacked it and then drove away shortly before 3 a.m.

One of the brothers then drove the woman to Redford Community Hospital, where two Detroit police officers overheard what had happened and encouraged him to call police.

Dwyer said Farmington police weren't notified of the robbery until after 3 a.m. Livonia police list their first call of "an officer being down" at 2:58 a.m.

Henderson, 33, a 13-year decorated police veteran, is listed in poor but stable condition in the intensive care unit at the Westland Medical Center. He was taken to the hospital with one gunshot wound to the chest. The bullet penetrated his left lung and then exited his body.

Despite conflicting reports earlier this week, his condition did not worsen, said Livonia Lt. Bobby L. Duren. No surgery was required. Duren said police were "optimistic" that he would recover.

The shoot-out occurred on the Jeffries Freeway near Midland, following a routine traffic stop by Livonia officers Henderson and Charles Baron-Klask, 42, shortly before 3 a.m.

Duren said the officers were unaware of the Farmington Hills incident when they stopped the 1978 red Thunderbird for a traffic violation.

THE THREE men in the front seat of the car were ordered out when the driver, identified as Barton, could not produce identification.

Police said the two passengers were getting out on the passenger side of the car where Henderson was standing when Henderson noticed that Barton, who was still seated, was holding a handgun.

Henderson yelled a warning to his partner, standing by the driver's door. Police said Barton fired several shots. Both officers returned fire, officers said.

The two passengers, Sherman and Bagaculnis, were struck by the bullets. Police said neither was armed. Sherman was hit by two and possibly three bullets to the chest, leg and elbow.

Barton drove from the scene and was arrested more than three hours later at 8:15 a.m. on Arden Street, about 1½ miles from the shooting scene. A resident there called police to report a man with a gun wandering around the neighborhood.

At the Michigan State Police Crime Lab in Northville Tuesday investigators were sorting and categorizing items recovered from the Thunderbird.

Among them were items believed taken in the holdup including two bags of suspected marijuana, guns and numerous items from the trunk and back seat including stereo equipment, amplifiers, a tape deck, cassette player, a guitar and television sets.

A loaded shotgun and another handgun were found in the trunk. A sawed-off shotgun believed used in the robbery was found inside the car.

Duren said one of the handguns was believed stolen in another armed robbery, this one occurring in the Dearborn area about two months ago.

Police recovered a fourth weapon, the handgun believed used in the 1985 shooting, on Arden Street where they arrested Barton. Another \$1,000 in



Michigan State Police crime lab investigators Sgts. Don Minton and Don Jones look for evidence inside the 1978 Thunderbird driven by the suspects in Monday's shooting. The guitar pictured in the foreground reportedly was stolen in a Farmington Hills robbery.

cash, also believed taken in the holdup, was found on one of the suspects.

Duren said police may ask that Barton be prosecuted under a relatively new federal statute for habitual offenders. Under those circumstances, if convicted, his penalties would be stiffer.

Barton was paroled last January from the Southeastern Michigan Prison at Jackson after serving a 26-month sentence on armed robbery and weapons convictions. He was sentenced in Wayne County Circuit Court in November 1981, according to police.

If convicted of the murder charge, he faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. The weapons charge against Barton carries a two-year maximum prison sentence upon conviction in first offenses. In a second offense, there's a five-year maximum sentence.

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