

Brothers face trial in chauffeur's murder

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff writer

After hearing two gunshots, residents at Hunters Ridge Apartments saw a young black man lean over the body of a 61-year-old chauffeur and remove his wallet, according to testimony in 47th District Court in Farmington.

Though these witnesses said they could not clearly see the young man's face as he leaned over the

body, each of the five apartment residents who testified pointed to Jemal Edward Tipton, 17, of Detroit.

Tipton and his half-brother, Anthony Jerome Parks, 24, are charged with the murder and robbery of Edward S. Chapman of Detroit, who worked as a chauffeur and handyman for at least one Hunters Ridge resident. The exclusive apartment complex is on the west side of Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Chapman died of a gunshot wound to the head, according to the Oakland County Medical Examiner. He was pronounced dead at 12:10 p.m. March 1, at Boford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

"I saw Edward Chapman lying on the grass, face down on the ground. I saw a black boy leaning over Mr. Chapman and he was taking the wallet out of his (Chapman's) pocket," testified a woman, who was watching from her second-floor apartment window the morning of the shooting.

Following a 1 1/2-day preliminary examination, District Judge Margaret Schaeffer Tuesday ordered Tipton and Parks to stand trial in Oakland County Circuit Court for the robbery and murder of Chapman. Schaeffer ordered the defendants held without bond in the custody of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, pending Circuit Court arraignment.

TIPTON FACES one count of felony murder, three counts of possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery and one count of armed robbery. Parks faces one count of felony murder, one

count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery and one count of armed robbery.

Upon conviction, the murder count carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. The felony firearm possession carries a mandatory two-year prison sentence. Conspiracy brings a penalty of two years to life in prison or a \$10,000 fine, or both. Conviction of armed robbery carries a sentence of up to life in prison.

A third suspect in Chapman's murder and robbery, Nellie Lee McInnis, 46, of Detroit, is still being sought by Farmington Hills police. McInnis, who a witness testified knew Chapman, was released on orders from the prosecutor a day after she and the brothers were arrested.

Farmington Hills Detective Patrick Monti testified, based on the defendants' statements, that McInnis had approached Parks a week before the shooting, asking if he knew anyone who could rob Chapman, known for carrying large amounts of money.

In questioning by Parks' defense attorney, Irving Tugel of Southfield, it was revealed that Tipton made several conflicting statements regarding the shooting and robbery.

In the first statement, Tugel said, Tipton admitted robbing and accidentally shooting Chapman. In the second statement, Tipton said his brother and McInnis knew nothing about the robbery and shooting. Yet in still another statement, Tipton exonerated his brother and insisted

McInnis set up the robbery plan and provided him with a weapon.

Schaeffer later upheld Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Lawrence Kozma's objection to testimony based on Tipton's statements and would not receive the testimony into court records.

In closing arguments Kozma said evidence showed that there was a plan to rob Chapman. "Nellie (McInnis) and Parks knew the victim," Kozma argued, adding that Tipton did not, though he was given a gun to commit the crime.

Yet attorney Tugel called Kozma's arguments "fantasy."

"I submit to you there is no evidence whatsoever before this court that Mr. Parks had a gun, knew of a gun . . . or any other suggestion we could come up with to (give) Mr. Tipton," Tugel continued.

In his closing arguments Tipton's attorney, James Waske of Southfield, said the prosecution did not show that "Mr. Tipton is a shooter. Testimony and ballistics findings did not put the gun in Tipton's hands. There is nothing to connect that gun with this shooting," he added.

"At best, what the people are able to show . . . is that this young man took something from the body," Waske said, asking that charges against Tipton be reduced to unarmed robbery or larceny from a person.

WITNESSES TESTIFIED they saw a small silver car driving around the complex as though lost.

They testified they saw only one man, whom they identified as Tipton, walk in the area and later lean over the body. But they testified they could see two other people in the car. None of the witnesses said they saw the actual shooting.

The man leaning over Chapman's body, witnesses said, was wearing a black leather jacket and cap with ear flaps. The clothing was later found in the back seat of the small silver car, according to police testimony.

Shortly after the shooting West Bloomfield Township Officer John Baligian, patrolling in the area, heard a Farmington Hills police radio report of a shooting at Hunters Ridge Apartments.

"I observed a vehicle of that description sitting in the curb area," Baligian testified, adding the vehicle was near 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

"They (the defendants and McInnis) were standing outside the vehicle. The hood was up. It appeared as though they were trying to get it (the car) started," Baligian testified.

Baligian said he looked in the car

and saw a black jacket and hat with ear flaps that matched witnesses' descriptions of the clothing worn by the man leaning over Chapman, he said.

WHEN FARMINGTON HILLS Police Officers Jane Kolasa and Ed Wozniak arrived, the car was searched. Police removed the rear bench seat and found a snub-nose, 22-caliber revolver and a brown wallet bearing Chapman's identification. Oakland County Medical Examiner Bill Brooks testified that Chapman had been killed by a 22-caliber bullet in the temple.

Kolasa testified that after putting McInnis in the back seat of her patrol car, the woman reached in her purse, pulled out a handful of money and put it in her bra. The money, totaling approximately \$450, was later removed from McInnis' clothing, Kolasa testified.

Police later searched the car again and found another \$216 in cash in the back seat, Monti said.

Attorneys Tugel and Waske questioned the police search under the bench seat without a warrant. Schaeffer, however, concluded the search was conducted legally.

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40"	39.19	41.54	43.90	46.27	48.64	51.00	53.37	55.74
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