Hills man to appeal traffic death conviction

A long-time Wayne County assistant prosecutor from Farmington Hills who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the traffic death of a Novi man plans to appeal the wedlet, his attempt said Priodicated for two days before convicting Jorome S. O'Conner, 46, of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a 75-year-old Novi pedestrian in December 1986.

"Both Jerry and I believe be's still innocent," said Robert Igrisan of Farmington Hills, defense attorney.
"I think that is borne out by the length of the deliberations." It was a very difficult decision. I think the facts really are in line with the length of the deliberations."

After the verdict was announced Thursday, Circuit Judge Richard Kuhn ordered O'Connor to surrender his driver's license until sentencing Tuesday, March 15. The

first day of his trial, O'Connor pleaded guilty to driving with a suspended license, a misdemeanor, on the night of the pedestrian death.

An assistant prosecutor since 1971, O'Connor was suspended from his job in March 1987, the day after the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office learned a warrant for his arrest had been issued. He could lose his license to practice law if the conviction stands.

KIJIN CONTINUED O'Connor's \$1,000 personal bond until sentencing, O'Connor faces up to 15 years in prison on the felony conviction and up to 90 days in juli and a \$100 fine on the misdemenor conviction. The felony conviction stems from the death of Joseph J. McCarthy of Novi, who was struck by a car as he crossed Grand River near Bashian in Novi at 11:10 p.m. Dec. 22, 1988, Novi police said.
Police obtained a search warrant for a blood alcohol test of the driver, identified as O'Connor, after the inci-

dent. Prosecutors argued throughout his trial that O'Connor was intoxicated when he struck McCarthy. Assistant Prosecutor Larence Norma said O'Connor's blood alcohol level was ,09 percent live hours after the incident. Estimates from toxicology experts who testified put his blood alcohol level at .19 percent at the time of the incident. People are considered drunk when their blood alcohol level is .19 percent.

O'Connor testified he had only three drinks the night of the incident, Igrisan denied his client was drunk, asying O'Connor's blood alcohol level "was never shown to be .10." Igrisan argued it "was a very dark night and visibility was very difficult."

IGRISAN SAID the victim walked "out on the road in dark clothing on a pitch black night. You wouldn't send a 10-year-old out at 6 o'clock on Halloween in what he

question," Igrisan added, "what happened to Mr.

O'Connor could have happened to anybody."
Police who testified said the area was lit with street lights and visibility was clear but cloudy the night of the incident.

nt. The going to trial, O'Connor, on the judge's recom-Before going to trial, O'Connor, on the judge's recommendation and the trial prosecutor's offer, said he would plead gulity to negligent homitide, a misdemeanor with a penaity of up to two years in prison. While maintaining his innocence, O'Connor said that plea made more sense than facing a possible felony conviction, Igrisan said.

But the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office rejected the plea, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Richard Thompson said Oakland County has a written policy against plea bargaining in cases involving alcohol-related traffic deaths.

Igrisan has 60 days from his client's sentencing to declare his intention to appeal the verdict.

obituaries HELEN RUTH JONES

Mrs. Jones, 75, of Belleville died Feb. 8 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. Mrs. Jones was a homemaker. Survivors include her son, Ed-ward; daughters, Gloria Barno, Shir-ley James, Barbara Clark and Mar-

jorie Bevins; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were at the Heeney-Sund-quist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. David Strobe officiat-ing. Burial was in Parkview Ceme-tery, Livonia.

clarification

The Farmington Hills City Council passing lane is planned. approved a passing lane on Drake Road at Howard Road Feb. 8. The of 13.1 million paving, curbing and vote was 6-1, with councilwoman caligning project along the two-lane gravel portion to Include a passing lane is planned. The approved pas

Police lieutenant profiles rapists

Rapists, like the one or more who have sexually attacked nine women in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, will not stop until they get caught, according to one sex-crime investi-

according to one sex-trime investigator.
"They're not going to stop all of sudden, that's the bad news for your residents," said LL Paul Wood of the investigative resources sub-unit with the Michigan State Police. "They will not stop until they're caught, especially if it is been a series.
"Even with increased police presence, it might make him more cautious but he's still going to operate," Wood said.

tlous but he's still going to operate," Wood said.
Wood's job is to come up with a profile of rapists when he is asked by local police departments. He would not specifically profile the rapist in the incidents reported in Birming-am, Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield Township, West Since he has not spoken to police about them.

IN CASES LIKE this, Wood said, "The rapist usually uses the same M.O. (method of operation). It's something that works over and over, and it's the same fantasy or dream

and it's the same sames, the has."

Once Wood gets all available information about a series of sex attacks — including the age of victims, type of weapon, how he treats them and what he says during the attacks

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- he can figure out the type of rapist involved, ranging from sadist to with one in September, one in October (word and the sequence, and what he does afterward, "Wood said, the sex act involved and the sequence, and what he does afterward," Wood said, the sex act involved the sex act involved as the sex act involved the s

THE LACK of information is intentional, according to Bloomfield Township police Lt. Jeffrey Werner. "It's just gotten to the point now, every bit of information that gets into the newspaper hurts the case,"

into the newspaper hurts the case," he said.
Yet, Werner adds, "Some of the publicity has brought in information that we haven't had before."
Rumors about the police closing in on a suspect are not true, Werner said Wednesday, "There is not an exist imminent. I know there's been alto of speculation. There's no new breaks."
Some press reports have suggested the rapist might be a student or someone who was out of the area during the summer since several sexual attacks occurred last April

Continued from Page 1

At the request of police, Con-sumers Power has been asked through its "Eyes and Ears" pro-gram to be on the lookout for any-thing suspicious relating to the series of rapes. Power company employees with radio-dispatched vehicles are

with randomspaced ventices are part of the program.
"We want to lend whatever assist-ance we can to the police depart-ment so that the person responsible for these horrifying crimes is brought to justice," said R.K. Drueke, district manager for the utility.

Drucke, district manager as accustility.

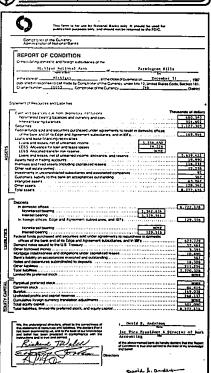
Also related to the investigation, the Oakland County Chamber, of Commerce sent out a press release reminding area residents of the chamber's "Silent Observer

ANYONE WITH information about the sexual assaults is eligible for a \$1,000 reward if his or her tip leads to arrest and conviction of the

criminal.
The informant should call the po-The informant should can the po-lice in the area where the crime oc-curred and identify himself or her-self as a "silent observer." Police will tell the caller how to proceed. The identity of the caller will be pro-tected.

At a meeting this week, the Bloomfield Township United Home Owners Association is expected to approve a \$2,500 reward, according to its president, Hyatt Eby. Eby. Eballenging Birmingham homeowner groups or the city commission to match the amount to bring it up to \$3,000.







Jacobson's SHOP UNTIL 9 P.M. ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday