

TORMENTED MAN ADMITS TO '75 SLAYINGS - HE TELLS POLICE HE KILLED 3 IN DETROIT

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He told police that for 30 years he was haunted by the young mother's plea:

"Please don't hurt my babies."

Police and prosecutors say those were the last words uttered by 27-year-old Maxine Kelly on March 14, 1975, before **Vollie Payton** shot her, then hacked her to death with a hatchet as her 12- and 8-year-old children listened.

Thirty years ago, Kelly's daughter repeated that final phrase to Detroit police.

Last Thursday, detectives heard it again - this time from **Payton** himself.

The now-65-year-old Inkster man walked into Detroit police's Central District and announced that he was the one who had killed Kelly and two men - a third man was wounded - during a robbery of a suspected drug house on Rutherford in northwest Detroit.

He'd gotten away with murder, authorities said, and he couldn't live with himself.

"It's been said, 'The torture of a bad conscience is the hell of a living soul,' " Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said Wednesday in announcing charges in the case. "We're glad he had that torture of conscience."

The other victims were Levi Morse, 21, and Allen Loggins, 27, both of Detroit. Raymond Martin, 37, of New Mexico was shot and injured.

Today, **Payton** is set to be arraigned on three counts of first-degree murder, three counts of felony murder, one count of assault with intent to murder and a count of using a firearm to commit a felony.

If convicted, he faces a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

Payton turned himself in for violating his parole on a bank robbery conviction, said Detroit Police Officer Michael Carlisle. Then he told police he had information about an old homicide case.

After **Payton** 's confession, police dug up the case file and compared details, Carlisle said.

"It was very high profile," he said of the triple homicide. "The information the suspect gave to me was corroborated by everything we had in the file."

Carlisle described **Payton** as a "hard-core criminal."

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, **Payton** has served several years in prison for robbing banks.

"The way he was raised, the associates he hung out with, this is what they did - with no emotion," Carlisle said Wednesday. "The only thing that has bothered him through the years is seeing the face of the woman when she asked him before he killed her, 'Please don't hurt my babies.' "

The children weren't hurt.

Police would not identify them except to say they are now 42 and 38 and still live in the area.

"They've both been notified," Carlisle said. "They're very ecstatic, very sad - a lot of emotions."

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