

ALLEGED \$ 100 HIT MAN MUST STAND TRIAL

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, February 9, 1983

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

A Detroit teenager, who allegedly styled himself as a \$ **100 hit man** , was ordered Tuesday to **stand trial** in what authorities say was a poorly executed but successful murder for hire.

The 16-year -old youth, Luther Earl Hemingway, was allegedly hired by Stanley and Cathy Rider to murder Robert Brock, her brother-in-law and former lover.

Although Brock was slain, the **alleged** murder scheme, according to police reports and court testimony, was riddled with blunders that focused attention on the Riders and Hemingway from the beginning.

AFTER HIS arrest for the Aug. 3 killing, Hemingway told police that Rider recruited him for the murder, police said.

"He asked if I wanted to make any money," Hemingway said, according to Detroit Police Sgt. Tommy Alston. "I asked him what I'd have to do. He said I would have to shoot the **man** (Brock)." Alston read the court a statement attributed to Hemingway.

Hemingway, court documents allege, set \$ **100** as the price of murder.

ACCORDING to court testimony, documents and interviews with other sources, the murder plot developed this way:

Mrs. Rider had left her husband to live with Brock, but the couple fought frequently, according to earlier court testimony, and she eventually returned to her husband.

When Brock refused to accept the end of the relationship, the Riders allegedly decided to have him murdered.

The plan started going awry when the Riders had to buy the bullets for Hemingway because he was too young to purchase them himself. The couple created such a scene when asked for identification that the store clerk was able, in an earlier court appearance, to clearly recall the sale.

POLICE SAID the Riders planned to lure Brock into their van, where he would be shot by Hemingway. The body would then be dumped in the country.

The day of the slaying, Rider drove his wife, Brock and Hemingway on Greenfield near Tyler. "I cocked back the .25 (caliber pistol) and I shot the **man** ," the statement quotes Hemingway as saying. "Then he jumped on me."

Brock, wounded only in the arm, began struggling with Hemingway.

When Rider let go of the steering wheel to join the fight, the van careened across two lanes of traffic and crashed into a utility pole.

Beverly Montgomery, a passing motorist, rushed to the van and saw the three **men** struggling inside.

ONE OF the **men** , identified by police as Rider , jumped out of the van with a broom handle and broke it across Brock's head when he tried to escape through the window, Montgomery said.

The Hemingway statement says Brock managed to pull out a pistol

"He shot me in the back, and then I shot him," the statement says.

Hemingway, after tossing Brock's pistol out of the window, collapsed unconscious next to the fatally wounded Brock. Hemingway was found there by police summoned by Montgomery.

Detroit District Judge Ricardo Lubienski ordered Hemingway to **stand trial** in Recorder's Court for Brock's murder. If convicted, he faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

No **trial** date has been set for Hemingway.

The Riders, who ran away from the shooting scene, were arrested later at their home. They are scheduled to **stand trial** in April before Judge Edward Thomas in Recorder's Court for murder and conspiracy. They also face mandatory life sentences if convicted.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: JUVENILE ; SHOOTING

Record Number: 8301290951

Copyright (c) 1983 Detroit Free Press