

COLEMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN KIDNAPPING

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DAYTON, Ohio -- **Alton Coleman** and Debra Brown, facing a crazy quilt of federal and local charges including murder after an alleged crime spree in Michigan and five other Midwest states earlier this year, pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to a Kentucky kidnapping charge.

Their plea came during a hearing to suppress evidence at the beginning of their trial in U.S. District Court here.

Defense attorneys had sought since Wednesday to suppress photographic and lineup identifications of **Coleman** and Brown before jury selection, which had been scheduled for Monday.

However, they changed strategy and entered guilty pleas.

Attorneys for the pair told U.S. District Judge Walter Rice they had consulted with their clients about the plea several times after psychiatric tests established they were competent to stand trial.

Judge Rice rejected their attempts to plead guilty in September. He entered not-guilty pleas on their behalf and ordered them tested for mental competency.

COLEMAN, 28, of Waukegan, Ill., and Brown, 21, of Kenosha, Wis., were arrested without incident July 20 in an Evanston, Ill., park after police received a tip on their location from a high school acquaintance of **Coleman**.

Their arrest ended a nationwide manhunt in which **Coleman** became a special addition to the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List. The pair were sought in connection with eight murders and numerous other crimes committed in a six-week period.

They are being prosecuted in Wayne County for 10 charges of violent crimes committed in four separate incidents in Detroit and Dearborn Heights between June 24 and July 2.

They also are prime suspects in the murder of a Gary, Ind., woman whose decomposed body was found July 11 in an abandoned home near Wayne State University. She had befriended them in Gary, where she was last seen with them June 19, authorities said.

"She was last seen alive with them in Gary, . . . but my understanding is that there is insufficient evidence to charge them with that murder at this time," Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Charles Marr said Monday.

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