

COURT HEARS CHILLING ACCOUNT OF 5 DEATHS

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, August 27, 2004

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Roger Thompson admitted that the argument started with a simple inquiry: His girlfriend wanted to know why he had stuffed a coat under his pillow before going to sleep.

He said that question led to a fight with Lisa Shelton, and eventually he grabbed her around the neck and choked her.

"I killed her," Thompson allegedly told a Detroit police homicide investigator.

Then he turned to the children.

He hit the oldest child with a pipe and forced him to tie the hands and feet of his three younger siblings. Then, one by one, Thompson beat them in their heads with the pipe until their bodies lay still, in pools of blood.

"I'm going to hell. I'm going to hell," Thompson allegedly told the investigator.

As Thompson sat Thursday in 36th District Court, he shuddered and hung his head as he listened to his own words being read by homicide Investigator Dale Collins. At one point during the preliminary examination, Thompson put his head on the table, but was made to lift it up.

Thompson will continue his journey through the criminal justice system. He was bound over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court and will be arraigned Sept. 2. He is charged with five counts of first-degree murder in connection with the deaths of Shelton, 33; and her children, William Parker Jr., 16; Wrandell Parker, 14; WaNee Parker, 12, and AuShanai Thompson, 9. AuShanai was Thompson's biological daughter.

The five were killed in their east-side Detroit home on Minnesota, and the bodies were found April 1. Shelton was strangled; the children were beaten. Shelton's 13-year-old sister, Christina, was at home during the attack but was spared. The Free Press is not publishing Christina's last name because of her age. The girl said she was locked in a closet for 31 hours during the ordeal.

In court Thursday, Detroit Police Officer Sophia Devone testified that Christina was standing on a porch in the neighborhood when officers arrived. She started crying and said: "They in the house dead."

Christina then pointed to Thompson, who was walking through an open field across the street. "That's him. That's him," Christina told the officers, who immediately chased and caught Thompson.

Lt. Herbert Myles testified that he then led a group of officers into home and found the bodies in a bedroom.

On Thursday, Shelton's older sister saw for the first time the man accused of killing her sister.

"This guy wiped out an entire family," said Cynara Jeffries of Kannapolis, N.C. "I just don't know what to think. I would like to know why. Nobody seems to be asking that question yet."

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Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 5B

Index Terms: ; domestic violence ; testimony ; Roger Thompson; Lisa Shelton ; multiple ; homicide ; child ; parent

Record Number: 0411096917

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