

GUILTY IN NEWSBOY'S MURDER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, September 21, 1982

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

John Mazzie, whose **guilty** plea **in** the 1979 **murder** of a 14- year-old Free Press carrier was thrown out on a legal technicality, was convicted Monday of second-degree **murder** and kidnapping.

A Recorder's Court jury took a little more than an hour to reject Mazzie's defense that he was insane when he lured Curt Cizio into his southwest Detroit home the morning of Oct. 4, 1979, and strangled the youngster when he resisted homosexual advances.

Assistant Prosecutor Timothy Kenny had called Mazzie's claim of insanity "the defense of last resort."

"Hold him responsible for what he did," Kenny urged

MAZZIE SAT rocking impassively, as he had throughout the week-long trial, when the jury returned with its verdict.

Members of the jury gathered around the Cizio family afterward to offer sympathy. The family thanked them.

"I'm just happy, happy," said Jeanne Cizio, the victim's mother. "It won't bring back my little boy, but maybe it will save another mother's son."

Mazzie, 31 , convicted of second-degree **murder** and kidnapping, faces two life sentences. Recorder's Court Judge Leonard Townsend is to sentence him Sept. 28.

"I just hope he doesn't get an appeal (decision) like he did the last time," said Ted Cizio, the youngster's father.

In 1980, Mazzie pleaded **guilty** but mentally ill to a single charge of second-degree **murder** and was sentenced to 25-50 years **in** prison. However, the verdict was overturned last year because the sentencing judge did not warn Mazzie that his plea made him liable to a life sentence without probation.

MAZZIE WAS ARRESTED the day after Curt, an altar boy and honor student at St. Andrew's High School, disappeared while on his newspaper route. After first telling police he let young Cizio into his house because the youth was being chased by two men **in** a Gremlin, Mazzie later admitted killing him.

Police found the youngster's strangled body wrapped **in** a blanket **in** Mazzie's attic. Also found were notes addressed to "Paper Boy," demanding instant and silent obedience. A notebook recovered from the house detailed a series of homosexual and sadistic acts to be forced on Curt.

"There really wasn't much discussion ," said jury foreman Wilfred Williams, 35. "The notes the police found at the scene were the biggest thing. They pretty well spelled out that Mazzie planned it."

DEFENSE ATTORNEY O. Lee Molette argued that Mazzie was insane when he killed Curt.

Mazzie had a history of paranoia and was hearing voices at the time, Molette said, adding that Mazzie's behavior alone was enough to raise doubts about his sanity.

"Wouldn't you be suspicious about someone who plans this and carries it out with their wife and children asleep right there **in** the same house?" Molette asked.

Kenny urged the jury to reject the claim of insanity, saying Mazzie described progressively worse symptoms each time he was examined by psychiatrists.

"At first he doesn't hear voices. Then he hears voices , and finally he hears voices saying, 'Revenge! Revenge!' . . . Mr. Mazzie is a man who is trying to beat the system," Kenny said." What he did was a heinous offense . . . It is our deepest and darkest nightmare."

Caption: Pix

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Record Number: 8301120689

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