

Man admits '75 triple slaying - Grisly Detroit crime went unsolved until conscience gets better of career criminal.

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Author: The Detroit News ; Ronald J. Hansen and Norman Sinclair

DETROIT -- Unable to live with his conscience any longer, a career bank robber walked into a police station last week and confessed to being the killer in a grisly 1975 triple slaying involving a gun and a hatchet, authorities said Wednesday.

Inkster resident **Vollie Calhoun Payton**, 65, offered specific details of the killings, convincing police he was involved in the March 31, 1975, deaths of Maxine Kelly, Levi Morse and Allen Loggins inside a Detroit drug house on Rutherford. Authorities considered **Payton** a "person of interest" at the time of the killings, though another man was charged and acquitted of the crimes.

"Mr. **Payton** literally ... turned himself in after being tortured mentally by these murders he had participated in 30 years ago," said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Payton is scheduled to be arraigned today on three counts of first-degree murder, firearms charges and one count of attempted murder for injuries to New Mexico resident Raymond Martin, who survived the attack.

Payton told authorities that Kelly, 27, begged him to spare her children, then ages 8 and 12.

He then killed her inside her house with a hatchet and a gun, but didn't harm the kids, Worthy said.

On Feb. 9, **Payton** walked into a police station, in part to report for a parole violation. While there, he told Officer Michael Carlisle, who works in the Homicide Unit, what he knew of the slayings.

"He's a very hard-core criminal ... ," Carlisle said. "The only thing that has bothered him through these years is seeing the face of the woman where she begged him, 'Please don't hurt my children.' "

That is virtually identical to what the 12-year-old girl told police. Kelly's children, now 42 and 38, still live in Metro Detroit.

Authorities would not detail the 1975 killings, but The News reported at the time that police said all four victims were shot in the head at close range. Kelly's children were upstairs sleeping in their bedroom when the killings began, The News reported.

Based on a voice identification made by the girl, police charged another man in the case. He was acquitted and died of a drug overdose in 1999, Carlisle said.

Records show **Payton** has three bank robbery convictions from 1989 and 2000.

Caption: **Payton**

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