

PAINTER ARRAIGNED IN SLAYING OF OFFICER

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A self-employed Detroit painter was arraigned Friday in the July 7 shooting death of an off-duty police officer during an argument in which two other men died.

Johnny Ray Murray, 25, was charged with second-degree murder and using a firearm during a felony in the death of Officer Gary Greer, 36, on a Chrysler Freeway service drive near Holbrook.

The shootings occurred at about 2:30 a.m. after Greer identified himself as a policeman and asked Derrick Pendleton, 19, to move his Chevy Monte Carlo to clear the way for a drag race, witnesses said. Illegal street drag racing has been a popular summer sport in Detroit for more than 40 years.

According to police reports, Pendleton asked Greer to prove he was a cop and Greer pulled his badge and gun. Pendleton's friend, Keith Leatherwood, came up behind Greer with an automatic handgun, Greer struggled and shots were fired which killed both Pendleton and Leatherwood, the reports said.

Witnesses among the crowd of about 250 people told police that as Greer retreated, **Murray** said, "Damn . . . he shot my friends," and then fired at the officer, even after he fell to the ground.

According to the Wayne County Medical Examiner, Greer was shot once in the leg and once in the chest.

Murray's attorney, W. Otis Culpepper, said Friday that **Murray** may have been unaware that Greer was a police officer and that he might have been acting to defend his friends.

Murray, who had been arrested, then released while police investigated, was arrested again Thursday. He pleaded not guilty before Magistrate Charles Hammons in 36th District Court in Detroit and was remanded without bond pending a July 1 preliminary examination.

Memo: CORRECTION RAN June 22, 1986

getting it straight

A report Saturday should have said a Detroit painter was arraigned in the June 7 shooting death of an off-duty police officer.

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