

SUSPECT GREW UP WITH TROUBLE 4 CHARGED IN SLAYINGS

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Four young Detroiters stood unflinching Monday as 36th District Court Magistrate Izetta Bright told them that they face mandatory life sentences without parole if convicted of the city's biggest mass murder in nearly 20 years.

"They're just kids," was the whispered refrain through the crowded courtroom as the four were arraigned on six counts of first-degree murder for the slaughter last week at a crack house on St. Aubin Street.

Jailed without bond were:

- * Tamara Marie Marshall, 18, who allegedly was first to the door in what police say was a drug house robbery. The house was the residence of Steven Owens, her former boyfriend and one of the victims.
- * **Jamal Latiff Biggs**, 19, and Mark Lamond Bell, 20, allegedly the two gunmen who rushed into the home behind Marshall.
- * Marc Caisson, 19, allegedly the driver of the black Ford Taurus that brought killers to the house and waited for them outside as the victims were shot.

The four are to face a preliminary examination April 20 to determine whether they will stand trial.

Only Caisson was represented Monday by a lawyer, Kathleen Galen, who said she would not comment.

According to police and witnesses, at least four people escaped from inside the house during the gunfire.

It was the most people slain in a single incident in Detroit since 1971, when seven people were killed in a dope house on Hazelwood Street.

Police believe cocaine, cash, jewelry and other goods were taken from the St. Aubin house.

In addition to Owens, 32, victims were Bobby Frazier, 16; Rodney Lewis, 22; Carl Williams, 21; Robert Hill, 15 and LeVon Robinson, 18.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor John Bianco said Monday that Owens, who had a history of crimes related to auto theft, was "a good guy."

"I convicted him once, then he came around and testified for me," said Bianco. "I liked him."

After Monday's brief court proceeding, law enforcement officials, lawyers and spectators shook their heads over the youth of the accused versus the enormity of the crime.

"They look like kids. They are kids," said one veteran court official.

Marshall's father, Hubert, was not in court but said Monday morning that he spoke briefly with his daughter on Sunday while she was in police custody and "she told me she didn't do it."

Marshall, a 1987 Northern High School dropout, has had at least two earlier brushes with the law, although her brother Hubert Jr. described her as a quiet teenager.

"For her to shoot somebody, her back would have had to been against the wall and someone was threatening to shoot her," he said.

In November, armed robbery charges against Marie, Hubert Jr. and sister Mary Marshall were dismissed. In September, Marie Marshall was acquitted of possession of less than 50 grams of drugs.

"Marie didn't fight too much, something really had to push her," said Hubert Jr. "Marie liked to skate and party, but was always quiet. She did not drink or smoke."

Two of the other murder suspects also have minor criminal records.

In 1988, **Biggs** was convicted of two counts of armed robbery and was given an 18-month-to-10-year sentence. He was on parole.

In 1987, Bell was placed in a special probation program for youthful offenders on a concealed weapons charge. The next year he was charged with armed robbery, but the case was dismissed. Bell was convicted of felonious assault in February 1989 and was given an 18-month-to-4-year sentence. He was on parole.

Inspector Gerald Stewart, head of the police homicide section, said the case was quickly broken because "there were some survivors" who provided information.

Stewart said that the victims paid with their lives for knowing who their killers were. He said the killers apparently spared people who they did not think knew them.

Marshall was the first one arrested. She was taken into custody Saturday afternoon at her uncle's house in Southfield, according to officials.

Bell and **Biggs** were arrested early Sunday morning, and Caisson was captured when police found him Sunday afternoon. All three men were arrested on the west side without incident.

Less than 30 minutes after the crowd that came to see the St. Aubin suspects had drifted out of the courtroom, Bell's younger brother, Roosevelt, was charged in an unrelated killing.

Roosevelt Bell, 16, was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Ljuca Ivezić, 24, during a robbery at Martin's Coney Island at 8000 W. Warren. Bell's share of the loot was \$1, according to court records.

Ivezić was slain about 8:45 p.m. Wednesday -- about two hours before the St. Aubin killings.

THE SUSPECTS

The following four people are each charged with six counts of first-degree murder in connection with the slayings last week in a crack house on St. Aubin Street. If convicted on that charge, they would serve mandatory life sentences without parole. Each also could face an additional two-year term for possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

TAMARA MARIE MARSHALL, 18: According to police, she was the former girlfriend of Steven Owens, one of the victims, and led the charge into the house. She carried and used a nickel-plated .38-caliber revolver, survivors said.

On Sept. 26, 1989, she was acquitted by Recorder's Court Judge James Roberts of possession of less than 50 grams of drugs.

On Nov. 22, 1989, armed robbery charges in another case were dismissed against Marshall and her siblings Hubert Jr. (Stoney) and Mary.

Marshall dropped out of Detroit Northern High School, where she was in 9th grade, in November 1987. Before that she attended Murray-Wright.

JAMAL LATIFF BIGGS, 19:

Biggs allegedly used a blue steel .25-caliber automatic pistol in the house.

On Oct. 4, 1988, **Biggs** was convicted of two counts of armed robbery and sentenced by Judge John Patrick O'Brien to serve an 18 month-to-10-year prison term. He was on parole until 1996.

MARK LAMOND BELL, 20:

Bell allegedly used a blue steel .25-caliber automatic pistol in the house.

In April 1987, he was charged with carrying a concealed weapon but diverted through a special young offenders probation program.

In September 1988, an armed robbery charge was dismissed by Recorder's Court Judge Dominick Carnovale.

On Feb. 2, 1989, he was convicted of felonious assault by Visiting Judge Harvey Tennen and sentenced to serve an 18- month-to-four-year prison term. He was given credit for 99 days in jail awaiting trial.

He was on parole until 1992.

MARC CAISSON, 19: The alleged driver for those doing the killings. He had no criminal record.

Caption: Photo JOHN COLLIER; Photo Color PAULINE LUBENS

: From left, Tamara Marie Marshall, 18; Marc Caisson, 19;

Mark Lamond Bell, 20, and **Jamal** Latiff **Biggs** , 19, are arraigned Monday in 36th District Court in Detroit. They were jailed without bond in the killings of six people at a St. Aubin Street crack house. They face an April 20 preliminary examination to determine if they will stand trial.

Tamara Marie Marshall and Mark Lamond Bell, right, are escorted by Detroit Police Lt. Tommy Alston as they leave police headquarters on their way to arraignment Monday in 36th District Court.

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