

## **ST. AUBIN EXECUTIONERS LEFT BEHIND CASH, GOLD LOOT OVERLOOKED, BUT ROBBERY STILL SUSPECTED**

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The killers of six people in what police said was a crack house robbery on St. Aubin Street fled without taking more than \$600 in cash and pieces of gold jewelry from their victims, according to investigative reports.

Some money was believed taken, but investigators found left behind a \$100 money order, several packets of suspected cocaine and a .22-caliber rifle in the ransacked two-story house after the April 4 killings.

Each of the victims was shot in the head by a gun held close enough to leave powder burns. But one, Steven Owens, apparently was singled out for special treatment during the slaughter.

Owens was shot three times -- close-range shots to the head from two different guns -- while the other five victims were shot only once, according to investigators' reports.

Investigators think Tamarra Marie Marshall, Owens' former girlfriend, fired one gun into her former boyfriend's head. Investigators based the theory on witness statements and evidence gathered at the scene.

The gun believed used by Marshall to shoot Owens once was not used on any other victims, according to laboratory reports.

That single shot from the second gun "was a case of one for good measure," said one law enforcement official, who declined to be named because the case is pending in court.

Three guns -- two .25-caliber automatic pistols and a larger caliber revolver -- were used in the killings, according to laboratory reports.

On Monday night, Inspector Gerald Stewart -- head of Detroit police homicide -- reiterated statements made at the time of the arrests, that the motive for the slayings was "robbery, plain and simple."

"There's no feud going on. . . . We have three people who robbed a suspected dope house to obtain money," Stewart said.

The unnamed official said robbery -- and not revenge -- is still the presumed motive despite the stormy Owens-Marshall relationship and the amount of loot left behind.

Witnesses said people carrying plastic garbage bags were seen leaving the home after the shootings.

Killed in the attack were Owens, 32; Levon Robinson, 18; Bobby Lee Frazier, 16; Rodney Lamar Lewis, 22; Carl Darnell Williams, 20 and Robert Hill, 15.

Charged with six counts of first-degree murder are Marshall, **Jamal Latiff Biggs**, 19; Mark Lamond Bell, 20 and Marc Caison, 19.

The four face preliminary examinations Friday to determine if there is enough evidence to hold them for trial.

Investigators believe that Marshall, **Biggs** and Bell entered the house with guns while Caison waited outside in a car as the driver.

Five of the victims were found upstairs. Owens was found in the north bedroom. Frazier, Williams and Hill were found in the south bedroom. Lewis was found in the west bedroom.

Police found \$575 in Owens' pants pocket, and cocaine and the money order was found in the north bedroom. More cocaine was found in the dining room.

Another victim had \$20 and a gold chain while a third man still had two gold chains around his neck when police arrived.

Another \$8 was in the bedroom where Lewis was found.

Robinson was found in the basement.

At least four people managed to escape from inside the house and several others turned and fled when they noticed something amiss as they walked up to the house, investigators said.

Investigators have been given conflicting accounts of what happened inside the house, but a general scenario has emerged.

Marshall, **Biggs** and Bell entered the house and forced Owens, Frazier, Hill, Lewis and Williams upstairs, investigators believe. Another woman and a man were also rounded up.

Investigators believe Bell, armed with a .25-caliber automatic pistol, shot each of the men upstairs. Marshall, armed with a second .25-caliber automatic pistol, was responsible for Owens' third wound, investigators believe.

A woman -- in her late teens or early 20s -- was spared because she convinced the attackers she was only 14, investigators said.

Robinson, a friend and a passerby then came to the house and were taken at gunpoint on the first floor.

**Biggs** , armed with a revolver -- probably a .38-caliber or .357 Magnum -- took Robinson into the basement and shot him, according to witnesses' statements. The friend and the passerby managed to escape in the confusion.

Neighbors and relatives said Marshall had been angry with Owens since last summer, when he broke off a brief relationship and took back some jewelry he had given her. One neighbor said Marshall once had fired a shot at Owens' home and thrown a brick through a window another time.

The neighbor described the killings as "strictly a personal thing, a quarrel type of thing."

#### WHAT POLICE FOUND

At the St. Aubin Street house where six people were fatally shot April 4, police report finding:

- \* Three gold necklaces, one on one victim and two on another.
- \* \$603.50 in cash, most of it on the victims but including eight \$1 bills on a bedroom floor.
- \* A money order for \$100.
- \* Seven spent shell casings in three different rooms.
- \* A .22-caliber rifle.
- \* Suspected cocaine in four small plastic bags, three on a dining room table and one in an upstairs bedroom.

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