

WITNESS TESTIFIES IN HOSPITAL KILLING WEARING DISGUISE, SHE IDENTIFIES SUSPECT IN DEATH OF DRUG FIGURE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, December 17, 1988

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

The key prosecution witness, wearing a disguise for protection, would not be shaken Friday from her identification of **Lodrick Parker** as the man who ran with a gun from the hospital room of Richard Carter after the reputed Detroit drug figure was shot to death in his sickbed.

Sandra Harbour, wearing heavy black-frame glasses and a knit cap that was pulled low over her brow, pointed to **Parker** in court as the man she saw outside Carter's room at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital before the shooting. She said he almost knocked her down as he ran past moments later, after the sound of a gunshot from the room.

Harbour, a Detroit police reservist who was a hospital patient at the time, said she was concealing her appearance in court "because I'm afraid for my life and my children." She wept under a withering questioning about her recollection of the incident from **Parker**'s lawyer, Raymond Burkett, but did not waver in her identification of **Parker**.

Carter, 29, reputedly a major east side drug dealer, was recovering from an earlier shooting when he was killed. Assistant prosecutor Richard Cunningham has described the slaying as "one gangster killing another gangster."

Testimony ended Friday in the first-degree murder trial of **Parker**, also 29, before Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Isidore Torres. Final arguments are scheduled for Monday. The defense presented no witnesses.

Harbour said she first noticed **Parker** and another man while she waited in a lounge area at the hospital. She said the men refused to help her get out of a chair.

Burkett hammered at inconsistencies in her testimony and statements she gave police after the shooting.

He also closely questioned Harbour about her mental state at the time of the shooting and when she spoke with police, suggesting that pain medication clouded her perception and that the shock of the shooting left her confused.

Wiping tears from her eyes, Harbour insisted she was not mistaken about **Parker** "because he almost ran me down when he had a gun in his hand."

Edition: METRO FINAL CHASER

Section: NWS

Page: 3A;

Index Terms: SHOOTING ; DEATH ; COURT ; LODRICK PARKER

Record Number: 8802250164

Copyright (c) 1988 Detroit Free Press