

## CONVICT HELD IN 3 SLAYINGS

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A Detroit **man** who escaped from prison where he was serving time for **murder** was **charged** Monday with killing three people and critically wounding a fourth person during a drug-related robbery **in** May

Delbert Anderson, 29, who had eluded police since escaping from prison a year ago, was arrested at his girlfriend's west side Detroit home Sunday night, Detroit police said.

Anderson, who is 6 feet 3 and weighs 230 pounds, was discovered "hiding underneath a sofa," according to Homicide Sgt. Lloyd Clemons.

Clemons credited the persistence of his partner, Sgt. Ralph Woolfolk, with Anderson's arrest. "Ralph was sure Anderson was there," Clemons said, "and when the officers came out after searching the house a first time and said he wasn't inside, Ralph said, 'Let's give it a second try.' We did, and . . . there he was, under the sofa."

POLICE HAD BEEN searching for Anderson **in** connection with the May 4 slayings of Dana Johns, 22; David Witherspoon, 27, and Eric Curry, 31. Anderson's alleged accomplice, Larry Pearson, a 27-year-old Detroit school custodian, is awaiting trial **in** the case.

Johns and Witherspoon shared a home **in** the 15000 block of Muirland where they sold heroin, according to homicide investigators. About 1 a.m. May 4, police said, Leroy Thompson, 25, admitted Anderson and Pearson to the home, and once inside the two **men** pulled guns and announced a holdup.

Thompson, who survived the incident, later told investigators he, Johns, Witherspoon and Curry were ordered to lie on the dining-room floor and were bound with electrical cord. All the victims except Johns were gagged, Thompson said, and Anderson then walked through the dining room and fired shots into the victims' heads. He was followed by Pearson, Thompson told police, who stabbed each of the victims **in** the head and neck.

AFTER TAKING money and drugs, police said, Anderson and Pearson fled.

Thompson, who was stabbed **in** the neck and suffered a grazing gunshot wound of the head, told investigators he lay still to make the **men** believe he was dead, then crawled next door for help.

**In** 1975, according to police records, Anderson pleaded guilty to the **murder** of an 18-year-old **man** during a robbery. Sentenced to life **in** prison, Anderson was placed on trusty status by Jackson prison officials, and he escaped Sept. 5, 1981, according to the records.

Anderson was taken into Detroit District Court Monday on three counts of **murder** and one count of attempted **murder** and ordered held without bond pending a preliminary examination later this month.

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