

SEPTEMBER 19, 1997 35¢

Court accepts plea

MELISSA HARPER
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

A negotiated plea has been reached in the case of John LaFollette, 28, a co-defendant in the homicide death of 66-year-old Leo Sinner of Buffalo.

LaFollette pleaded no contest to amended charges of complicity to commit involuntary manslaughter and complicity to commit aggravated robbery. Both are first-degree felonies.

LaFollette had previously been indicted on charges of complicity to commit aggravated murder and complicity to commit aggravated robbery.

LaFollette and his co-defendants, Clarence "Skip" Roberts and Albert "Chip" Andrews, are alleged to have killed Sinner on May 17.

Jury selection for the trial of Roberts was winding down today. The trial was expected to begin at 1 p.m.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered for LaFollette. Sentencing will follow the trials of Roberts and Andrews. LaFollette has agreed to testify truthfully in the trials of the other two men.

Guernsey County Prosecutor C. Keith Plummer and Assistant Prosecutor Daniel G. Padden have recommended 8-year sentences for LaFollette on each charge, to be served concurrently.

Guernsey County Court of Common Pleas Judge David A. Ellwood took terms of the plea and sentencing under advisement until after the pre-sentence investigation and testimony in Roberts' and Andrews' trials.

PAGE A-6 - FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 1997

LEE

Troopers cited for professionalism

Two members of the Cambridge post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol were honored by being named the patrol's "Team Employee of the Month" for September.

Sgt. Brian Vierstra and Tpr. Steve Stolarik were honored in an informal ceremony at the Cambridge post on Wednesday.

Vierstra and Stolarik were honored for the professionalism they demonstrated in May while working a program targeting DUI enforcement.

During a traffic stop, Vierstra and Stolarik questioned two male individuals covered with blood. With no evidence of foul play, the subjects were identified and released.

Both officers used the information gathered at the traffic stop and



Sgt. Brian D. Vierstra, l, and Tpr. Steve Stolarik, r, were awarded "Team Employee of the Month" awards from Capt. William Cubbison.

assisted the Guernsey County Sheriff's Department in arresting the two

suspects, who were allegedly involved in a homicide in Buffalo.