

Hemme

lin; Buchanan County Medical Examiner Dr. York Silliman; former St. Joseph resident Robert Swift, now of Omaha, Neb.; and four St. Joseph police officers, Vernon Burris, Detective Steve Fueston, Detective Lt. Terry Boyer and retired Detective Lt. John Muehlenbacher.

Fueston testified that he first decided to talk with Hemme after he read a report about her involvement in a disturbance involving a knife on Nov. 25, 1980, at a home on Gene Field Road. On Nov. 28, Fueston met with Hemme at the State Hospital where she was a patient.

Fueston said he showed Hemme a photograph of Jeschke, and Hemme identified her as the woman who picked her up while hitchhiking on Nov. 12. Over the next two weeks, Fueston said he interviewed Hemme six times. Each time she told him a different story, with some similar elements, about how she came to be at Jeschke's home on Nov. 12, 1980.

In two signed statements, she told Fueston that she watched while a man named Joe Wabski murdered Jeschke. Fueston said when he checked up on Wabski, then 44, he found the man had a solid alibi since he was in a Topeka detoxification center on Nov. 12.

Fueston testified that when confronted with Wabski's alibi, on Dec. 9, Hemme became very upset and began crying. He said she told him she "sometimes gets the urge to hurt herself or others that she can't control." She also told him she had once tried to stab a man in a Baltimore, Md., bar, he testified.

On Dec. 10, Hemme was interviewed by Boyer and with a court reporter in the room she described how she had acted alone in killing Jeschke.

Reading from the signed statement she made to Boyer that day,

Boyer testified that Hemme had told him she sniffed a can of lighter fluid after leaving the hospital about 1 p.m., intending to hitchhike to her parents' home in Concordia. She said Jeschke picked her up and offered to take her to Concordia, but first wanted to go home and clean up.

Hemme told Boyer she was sitting on the couch until Jeschke came out of the shower.

"I confronted her in the hall. I don't know. I lost it. I'm standing on the outside looking in," Hemme told Boyer.

Hemme told Boyer she grabbed Jeschke by the throat, pushed her into the bedroom, hit her with something, then stabbed her two or three times in the head. She then cut the phone cord and tied Jeschke's hands behind her. Next, Hemme said, she picked up a pair of panty hose and tied them around Jeschke's neck as tight as she could. Hemme told Boyer she then jammed the knife handle into Jeschke's vagina a couple of times.

Hemme said she took Jeschke's purse when she left. She said she caught a ride to Kansas City and threw the purse away on Sixth Street near Interstate Highway 70.

Judge Connett refused to allow testimony of Muehlenbacher concerning an interview he had with Hemme on April 7, 1981. During that interview, Hemme reportedly told the detective that Holman was involved in the murder.

Connett ruled the testimony inadmissible because it was self-serving in that she named Holman after she had been charged with the murder.

Holman, who resigned from the Police Department a week after Jeschke's death, is currently serving a five-year sentence in the Missouri State prison for stealing and forgery convictions.

Closing arguments should begin about 10 a.m. Wednesday and the case should go to the jury before noon.

Ex-officer had mysterious role in Hemme case

By TERRY RAFFENSPENGER

Courthouse Reporter

The trial and capital murder conviction this week of Sandra Hemme for the killing of Patricia Jeschke brought out information about the brutal killing that had never been disclosed in the four and a half years since it occurred.

But the evidence presented in the trial did little to clear up unanswered questions about the suggested involvement of a former police officer who became a key figure in defense attorney Robert Duncan's closing argument to the jury.

Duncan argued that while there was no physical or trace evidence to tie Hemme to the crime scene at Jeschke's home at 1501 Riverside Road, a black hair found in the victim's bedsheets could not be ruled out as coming from Michael Holman. A fragment of a Negroid hair, too small to compare, was also found. Holman, then 22, is a black man

who had been on the Police Department for 18 months. The day Jeschke's body was found, Nov. 13, Holman was caught using the dead woman's credit card in a Kansas City, Kan., photography store.

During the trial the jury was not told Holman was a police officer, nor how he came to have the credit card. After the trial Assistant Prosecutor Pat Robb was able to clear up a few of the lingering questions about Holman, who is now in the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City.

According to Robb, Holman told investigators that he found Jeschke's discarded purse in a ditch along Riverside Road the evening of Nov. 12, the night she was murdered. He admitted taking the Master Charge card and trying to buy \$630 worth of camera equipment with it.

Hemme told police she threw Jeschke's purse away near where Sixth Street in downtown Kansas City crosses over Interstate Highway 70.

Robb said Holman had an alibi for Nov. 12 and that he could account for his time, but Robb said Holman was alone and no one else could verify it.

Less than a week after the murder, Holman was arrested by St. Joseph police and charged with stealing by deceit. He had collected theft insurance on a truck which was not stolen. He was then fired from his job.

Four days later Holman was arrested again: this time on a state warrant charging him with receiving stolen property. Police, using two search warrants, recovered a stolen rifle, camera and box of jewelry. The items reportedly were taken from the home of Donald Hinderks.

On April 7, 1981, in an interview with then Detective Lt. John Muehlenbacher, Hemme first talked about the murder of Jeschke. Robb said she never mentioned Holman until after it was reported in the local news media, in February, that Hol-

man had used Jeschke's credit card.

Robb said investigators then took photographs of six black men to Hemme and asked her to identify Holman. She picked out three of the photos as possibly being him. None of the three was Holman.

In March 1981, a month before Hemme named Holman as the killer, he was arraigned on two grand jury indictments, receiving stolen property and stealing by deceit, the two crimes he had already been charged with. In June 1981, he pleaded guilty and was sent to prison for two years.

Out of prison a year later in June 1982, he was convicted of stealing and forgery, according to Robb. In 1982, he also was charged with breaking into the residence at 2408 Shamrock Lane.

On parole in 1984, he was convicted of stealing, this time in Nebraska, and did prison time there. After he got out of prison, he was returned to St. Joseph, his probation revoked and sent to prison in Jefferson City.

1 A Yes, I looked at the records, but the reason perhaps
2 this line was not pursued---

3 MR. HARMAN: Your Honor, I ask that he just
4 answer my question.

5 THE COURT: Just answer the question.

6 Q You made a statement to the Court that in view of her
7 mental state, she should be evaluated and sent to the
8 State Hospital and be evaluated, is that true?

9 A Yes, that was discussed.

10 Q Did you advise Sandy or Mr. Hemme that the police had
11 discovered male pubic hairs on the body of Pat Jeschke?

12 A There is an F.B.I. report that there were some hairs
13 that were collected and I saw these F.B.I. reports.

14 Q And did they indicate they were negro pubic hairs or
15 similar to negro pubic hairs?

16 A There was one, yes.

17 Q Did you advise Sandy the impact that might have had
18 before a jury?

19 A I did.

20 Q Did you also advise her a black male had passed a credit
21 card of the victim the next day in Kansas City?

22 A Yes, we were very well aware of that.

23 Q When did you become aware of it?

24 A I believe I first became aware of it through the review
25 of the police records.