

Jury Convicts Timmons Of Hiring Man To Kill His Ex-Wife

By Don Mathews
Of The Dispatch Staff
CIRCLEVILLE, Ohio — A Pickaway County jury found Wayne A. Timmons, 38, guilty of the shotgun-for-hire killing of his former wife last Feb. 2.
 The jury deliberated less than five hours before returning a verdict of guilty to aggravated murder with a specification of guilt of complicity in aggravated murder for hire in the shooting of Linda Jane Timmons, 36. The defendant's attorney said the verdict will be appealed.
THE EIGHT-WOMAN, four-man jury began deliberations at 9:45 a.m.

and gave a hint of its verdict to come when at 1:40 p.m. it asked Common Pleas Judge William Ammer for additional instructions on the complicity specification.
 The judge repeated his earlier instruction that the specification should be considered only if jurors reached a guilty finding of aggravated murder beyond a reasonable doubt.
 The judge then asked David Drake, jury foreman, if this cleared up the question in the jurors' minds. "I think it does," the foreman replied and the jury returned to its deliberations.
TO THE JUDGE and attorneys in

the courtroom the question indicated the jury would return a guilty verdict. Defense attorney Leonard Velsky predicted the jury would arrive at its final verdict in 20 minutes.
 In exactly that time, the jury signaled that it had reached a verdict and would be ready to report in five minutes. There had been an hour's delay in answering the jury's question because defense attorneys had to return from Columbus.
 There was another delay in bringing the jury back into the courtroom for its verdict. Ammer ordered the courtroom cleared and had sheriff's deputies

check the spectators with metal detectors before they came back into the courtroom. The judge then warned spectators against showing any emotional outbursts.
 Sara Dresbach, clerk of courts, read the verdict.
AMMER SET a 3 p.m. hearing July 24 for motions concerning the verdict and for probable sentencing of Timmons.
 Prosecutor James Kingsley credited the investigation by Sheriff Dwight Radcliff and his department for making the convictions possible.

The guilty verdict against Timmons will bring an even more determined effort by attorneys for the accused triggerman in the slaying, Teddy Dingus, 27, for a change of venue.
 Dingus is scheduled to go on trial here Aug. 4 but his attorneys, Gene Long and John Farthing, have been asking for transfer of that trial to another county.

are an attempt to correct these problems and comply with state rules.
 Firefighter Robert Thornton, secretary of Local 1441 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, said he was disappointed the trustees did not discuss the changes with the men.

Firefighters Lose Benefits

By James Breiner
Of The Dispatch Staff
 Franklin Township trustees have rescinded some pay benefits firefighters have had since the 1960s.
 The action was taken to bring the township in line with state laws on firefighters' pay.
FIREFIGHTERS now will get eight hours' compensatory time for a holiday instead of 12. They also will be paid straight time rather than time and a half for after-hours schooling.
 Trustees Joseph Donovan and Gary Gabriel voted for the change Monday.
 Board Chairman Janet Peoples voted against it.
 Donovan has made an issue of firefighters' pay and benefits since taking office in January.
AT DONOVAN'S request, the state auditor's office has been reviewing the township pay practices.
 The audit, expected to cost the township about \$4,000, is not complete but it has been learned that the auditor has found some irregularities.
THE CHANGES in firefighters' pay

Hilliard Schools Trying New Levy

The Scioto-Darby (Hilliard) School District will vote again in November on a 6.1-mill, \$14 million bond issue.
 For the owner of a home with market value of \$50,000, the bond issue would raise taxes \$108.41 a year.
 The school board decided Tuesday to go back to the voters on the issue, which would finance school construction and expansion.
 In June the issue went down 2,924 to 2,144.
 Voters also are asked in November to renew a half-mill permanent improvement levy for five years.

Few Attend Alternative Panel's Public Hearing

A public meeting on discipline in Columbus Public Schools attracted only a small crowd Tuesday night. But its organizer, Board of Education member Gary Holland, said he was "more than elated" at the outcome.
 Holland said testimony of eight witnesses — an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) representative, a university researcher and social workers among others — will be incorporated in a report he expects to submit to the school board by mid-August.
 About 25 people, including only a few parents, turned out for the hearing at the Columbus Model Neighborhood Facility, 1393 E. Broad St.
HOLLAND CONVENED his own

four-member panel, which included sponsors David Larson, Cathleen Ransier and Judith Ayers, about 20 minutes after the close of a school board meeting at which he voted against a proposal to form a panel of school administrators to review discipline policies.
 He said the independent study group intends to offer the school board "a different perspective" on the discipline problem when it issues its report about the same time the school administration panel is expected to complete its work.
 Dennis Cichon, coordinator of the central Ohio chapter of the ACLU, reviewed federal case law on due process

for students and suggested several ways the Columbus schools might improve handling of discipline cases.
HE SAID STUDENTS and parents being notified of disciplinary hearings should be given a complete list of specific charges and opportunity to obtain legal counsel and question witnesses at such hearings.
 Philip Lesser, an Ohio State University instructor in education, told the panel of findings by the Phi Delta Kappa Commission on Discipline, which studied various school systems. The study showed the most successful discipline programs were in schools of limited size which conducted ongoing staff training.

Curtis Richardson, representing the Columbus chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, said studies show there is a national trend in schools to give harsher punishment to students of low social and economic status.
THE PANEL ALSO received criticism from Thelma Frazer, a teacher at Northgate Elementary School, who said too much emphasis was being placed on the role of administrators in discipline.
 "Everybody leaves out the classroom teacher," she said. "Columbus needs a good human relations program for the teachers first."

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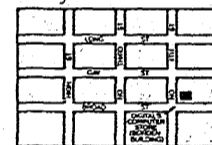
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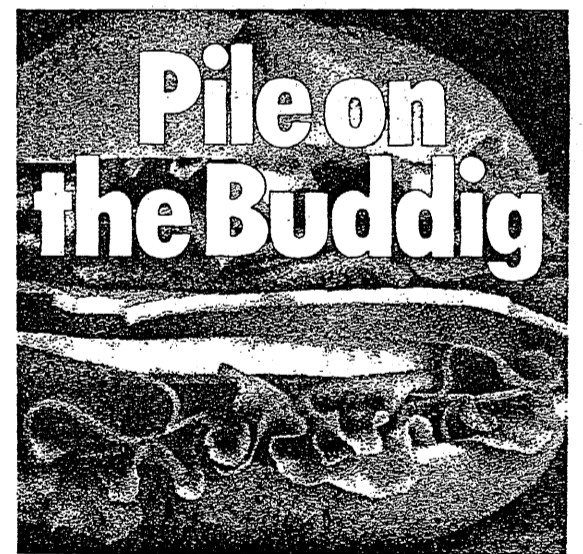
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