

Salesman admits causing the deaths of two elderly women

SYDNEY: A salesman accused of murdering six elderly women on Sydney's north shore admitted in the Supreme Court yesterday causing the deaths of two of them.

John Wayne Glover replied "yes" when Justice Wood asked him if, on the advice of his counsel, he admitted that Gwendoline Louise Mitchell died of head and chest injuries caused by his striking her with a hammer with the intention of causing her death. He also replied "yes" when asked if Win-

ifred Ashton had died of asphyxiation caused by him strangling her with the intention of causing her death.

Glover, 58, has pleaded not guilty to murdering the six women between March 1, 1989 and March 19, 1990.

Opening the Crown case, prosecutor Wendy Robinson, QC, told the jury that Glover had allegedly killed one elderly woman before embarking on a series of savage and lethal assaults.

She alleged that the first five victims had been unknown to Glover and selected by him at random. Similarities in the cases had included an initial violent attack and then robbery. However, Glover allegedly had known the sixth and last victim, Joan Violet Sinclair.

Police had found Glover subsequently semi-conscious in her bath, after he had allegedly consumed scotch and prescription drugs.

Detective Sergeant Dennis

O'Toole told the jury Glover had been admitted to hospital, where he had been asked what he knew about Ms Sinclair's death. Glover had allegedly said, "I can't help myself, half of me wants to do these things and half of me doesn't". When asked what things, Glover had allegedly said "like Joan". Detective O'Toole said Glover had later admitted attacking all the women. Glover allegedly had said he had known Ms Sinclair, 60, intimately for about 18

months but did not know why he had killed her by striking her with a hammer before tying pantihose around her neck.

He allegedly had said he then tried to kill himself, but when asked why had said, "I wish I knew."

The prosecution alleged that on March 1, 1989, Glover had seen Ms Mitchell, 82, walking toward him. He had followed her before striking her on the head a number of times with the hammer.

On May 9, Glover allegedly had seen Lady Winifred, 84, followed her and grabbed her from behind, hitting her head against the concrete before removing her pantihose and strangling her.

On November 2, Glover allegedly had followed Margaret Frances Pahud, 85, down a walkway, before striking her from behind with the hammer. The next day, he had been at the Wesley Gardens Retirement Village as part of his job as a salesman. He allegedly had spoken

to Olive Cleveland, 81, before grabbing her from behind and striking her head on the concrete walkway, then removing her pantihose and strangling her.

On November 23, Glover allegedly had followed Muriel Beryl Falconer, 92, into her Mosman home, where he had struck her on the head with the hammer before strangling her with her pantihose.

Ms Sinclair, the final victim, had been killed on March 19, 1990. The trial will continue today.

Man surrendered: police

By TONIA LIOSATOS

A man charged with the murder of his estranged wife's lover had admitted to police that he had stabbed the man, the ACT Magistrates Court heard yesterday.

Constable Peter Kossatz said Frank Del Castillo, 54, a Canberra university lecturer, had come into the City Police Station on the night of Thursday, September 5, and said "I'm the one you're looking for. I've come to give myself up."

Del Castillo had told Constable Kossatz that he had been involved in a stabbing at a Narrabundah motel.

"I did it," he had told the constable. "This will save you looking for me."

Del Castillo has been charged with the murder of Christopher Kenneth Wilder, of Sydney. He has been charged also with two counts of inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr Wilder.

He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Del Castillo had told Constable Kossatz

Evidence in stabbing case

also that he had thrown the knife into the lake.

On Monday, Constable Kim Francis, of the Australian Federal Police's forensic unit, testified that she had found a blood-stained hunting knife not far from the room in which the stabbing had taken place, on the premises of the Banjo Paterson Motor Inn, Narrabundah.

In her evidence on Monday, Del Castillo's estranged wife identified the knife as a hunting knife owned by her husband.

She told the court that at about 10.30pm on Thursday, September 5, she had received a phone call from Mr Wilder. He had said he'd been stabbed and had asked for an ambulance and the police.

She told the court that when, earlier that evening, she had rung Mr Wilder, she had discovered from him that her husband had been in the room with him.

She had been having an affair with Mr Wilder since April.

Mr Wilder's mother, Jean, gave evidence on Monday that at about 10.30pm on the same night she and her husband had received a phone call from their son in which he had told them "it's terrible, I'm dying".

She said Del Castillo had been known to some members of her family for 20 years.

Both Mrs Wilder and Del Castillo's wife said Mr Wilder had told them about a time in mid-July when Del Castillo had threatened to shoot Wilder. Del Castillo's wife said Mr Wilder had told her also that Del Castillo had confronted him about his love for her.

The manager of the Banjo Paterson Motor Inn, Peter Britton, and his wife, Minette, testified on Monday that Del Castillo was the man they had seen standing near a wounded Mr Wilder in the motel that night.

Mr Wilder was taken to Royal Canberra

Hospital by ambulance after the stabbing, but died at about 9am the next day.

Yesterday a pathologist, Dr S. Jain, said Mr Wilder had died from "irreversible shock caused by loss of blood from perforation of the spleen caused by the knife".

There had been two stab wounds in Mr Wilder's torso; the one on the right had been surface deep, but the one on the left had penetrated 90mm. There had also been cuts on Mr Wilder's hands.

Dr Philip Cumpston, a specialist in the intensive-care unit at Royal Canberra Hospital, denied suggestions by the public defender, Terry O'Donnell, that a second operation, to find the cause of Mr Wilder's continued excessive blood loss, in the early hours of September 6, had been unnecessary. He also denied that a hematologist should have been consulted earlier than 6am.

Dr Cumpston said it had been an "act of desperation" to take Mr Wilder to the operating theatre.

"I haven't seen anybody that had survived," he said.

Woman returns home a convicted thief

LONDON: Melbourne-born Suzannah Jackson returns home on Friday as a convicted thief accused of embezzling £10,000 (\$A22,894), of betraying trust and lying to her ex-employer, the royal dress designer Linda Cierach.

Though Jackson appealed successfully against her nine-month jail sentence she is determined to fight her conviction and clear her name.

The 30-year-old, who has a baby daughter, was released from serving the sentence because of evidence that she suffers a life-threatening heart condition.

Yesterday, her solicitor was to seek counsel's advice on whether to try to appeal to the House of Lords against her conviction.

What began as a £13,000-a-year (\$A29,762) plum position as personal assistant to Cierach ended bitterly last month in court

amid allegations of lesbianism, theft and betrayal.

According to Jackson, she and Cierach were once as close as sisters — they worked, travelled and socialised together.

Jackson was exposed to high society and high fashion but the experience has left her jaded.

"It's such a snobbish, superficial world," Jackson told *The Independent* newspaper.

Jackson said she had fallen out with Cierach when she had begun a relationship with a London underwriter and became pregnant.

The Australian was convicted of stealing company cheques that were used to buy a car and pay rent. She was convicted also of stealing Cierach's designer clothing. Jackson maintains that she was allowed to wear the clothing as an ambassador for the company and that the car was for company use.

— AAP

Shots warning at plaza was too late, court told

SYDNEY: A man had tried to warn a woman to hide from the Strathfield-massacre gunman Wade Frankum when she told him, "It's too late; he's behind you!" Glebe Coroner's Court heard yesterday.

Giving evidence at the coronial inquiry, Gregory Reed told the court he had been shopping in the plaza when he had heard shots and screams.

That afternoon Wade Frankum shot dead six people and stabbed a seventh fatally before killing himself.

Mr Reed said he had run toward the sounds, calling out to people to get down, when he had seen Frankum below him on a lower shopping level.

"Then I heard shots and felt the wind of something past my face," he said. Mr Reed had continued to warn people, then had run to the open car park, where he had warned a woman sitting in her car. "She said, 'It's too late; he's behind you,' and I looked up and saw him standing on the parapet above me. He was aiming the gun right at me so I dived for cover behind the car."

Frankum had fired two shots at Mr Reed, both of which had hit him in the

feet, causing permanent injuries.

In earlier evidence, Belinda Dickinson, 20, said she had crawled away from her mother, who had been shot, for fear of attracting Frankum's attention. As relatives wept in the public gallery, Ms Dickinson said she had been in the restaurant with her mother and a family friend, Rachelle Milburn, 17, both of whom had been shot dead. "...I saw him coming towards me; he was calm, just firing, with no expression on his face," she said.

She had put her hand over her mouth to stop herself from crying out to her mother as she had crawled out of the coffee shop and hidden behind a plant.

Two boys told how they had seen their mother and grandmother killed in the restaurant. Kevin Hingston, 15, said his mother, Patricia Rowe, had tried to throw a table at the gunman. Patricia Rowe and her mother, Joyce Nixon, had died.

"I saw that mum was bleeding in the back but still shouting to us to keep down," he said.

"There was also a lot of blood near Nana's head and I knew she was dead."

War-crimes trial evidence ruling

ADELAIDE: A magistrate in Australia's first European war-crimes hearing has ruled inadmissible certain evidence being given by a senior war-crimes investigator.

There were continued doubts about the health of the accused, 75-year-old Ivan Polyukhovich, who failed to attend the Adelaide Magistrates Court yesterday, still ill after being overcome by dizzy spells last Thursday.

The hearing went ahead for 90 minutes, despite the non-attendance of Polyukhovich, who was being examined by a specialist.

After a lengthy debate, Magistrate Kelvin Prescott ruled that certain evidence given by war-crimes investigator, Detective Sergeant Robert Reid, last week, resulting from an interview he conducted in the Ukraine with an alleged witness, was inadmissible.

The prosecutor, Greg James, QC, began questioning Sergeant Reid last Wednesday about the interview, but Polyukhovich's lawyer, Michael David, QC, objected, saying it was supporting evidence.

At that time Mr David indicated also that the issue would be raised on many more occasions and would affect videotaped interviews conducted with witnesses overseas.

He argued yesterday that Sergeant Reid should be "recalled after primary evidence is given".

The first eyewitnesses are not expected to give evidence until March next year, a number being brought from the Ukraine.

The committal hearing, which will determine if Polyukhovich is to stand trial, has been adjourned until today.

Polyukhovich is alleged to have killed 24 Jews and been involved knowingly in the murders of between 553 and 850 others in Nazi-occupied Ukraine in 1942.

LAW LIST FOR TODAY

HIGH COURT
Before the Full Court, in Court 2, at 2.15pm:
For judgment: *Davis v The Queen*.

FAMILY COURT
Before Justice Mullane, in Court 1, at 10am: *Kindness*.
A.C.T. SUPREME COURT
Before Chief Justice Miles, in Court 1, ACT Law Courts, at 10am: *Trill v Michael Guerin* (part heard).

Before Mr Justice Higgins, in Court 2, ACT Law Courts, at 10am: *Hearing: Ronald William Harvey v Commonwealth of Australia* (part heard).

Before the Registrar, in Court 6, ACT Law Courts, at 2.15pm: *Application: Re Criminal Injuries Compensation Application*.

NOTICE TO JURORS
Jurors serving in the trial of *R v Guerin* are required today at 9.50am.
A.C.T. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Before Senior Member Boddoo, in Hearing Room 1, 4th Floor, AMP Building, Hobart Place, Canberra: *Directions bearing: 9.15am Andracchio and the Chief Minister for the ACT*.

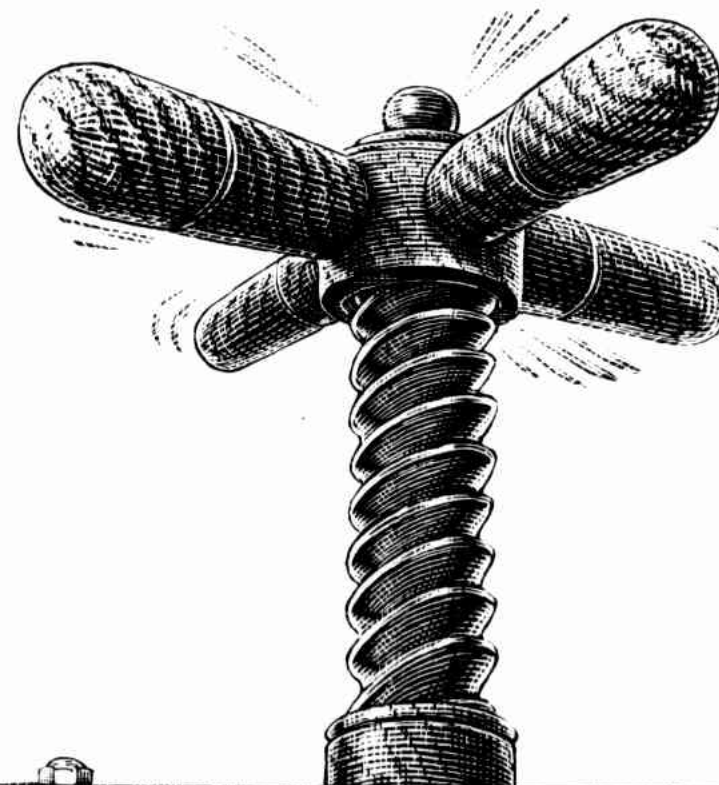
Before Senior Member Boddoo, Dr Travers, member, Dr Stephenson, member, in Hearing Room 1, 4th Floor, AMP Building, Hobart Place, Canberra: *Hearing: 10.15am Cameron and Repatriation Commission*.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION
Before Commissioner Sheather, in Hearing Room 1, at 10.30am: *ACT Minister for Housing and Community Services and Public Sector Union re wage claim by custodial officers — Belconnen Remand Centre — report: 11.30am: Executive Engineers SMHEA Award re national wage case*.

April, 1991.

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