

Ohta

GREEN SHEET

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Indictment of Ohta suspect sought

The future course of the Ohta murder case rested in the hands of the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury which met most of Wednesday afternoon to consider evidence.

District Attorney Peter Chang said he had planned to present as many as 25 witnesses to shed light on the slayings a week ago Monday of Dr. Victor Ohta, 45, his wife, Virginia (Tobie), 43, their sons, Derrick, 12, and Taggart, 11, and Dr. Ohta's secretary, Dorothy Cadwallader, 38.

One late development was the disclosure by Chang that Dolores Frazier, wife of John Linley Frazier, an automechanic who is charged with the murders, has

At the end of the hearing, when people were filing out of the courtroom, Frazier — standing with his guards — turned towards his wife and called out, "It's all right, baby."

Mrs. Frazier was hurried from the courtroom by Cartwright, and immediately followed by a score of news photographers as word passed along the way that she was Frazier's wife.

Mrs. Frazier never lost her composure and walked quietly alongside Cartwright, who escorted her to a waiting car in the parking lot, where she was immediately driven away by another woman.

Jackson told reporters that "Mrs. Frazier will not testify."

Security precautions this morning again included patting down all persons who were admitted to the courtroom, including members of the local press well known to officers and matrons at the door of the courtroom. However, the doors to the courthouse were not secured prior to the hearing as they had been last Friday, until the hearing began. Once the court hearing started, the doors leading out of the courthouse were locked.

Jackson turned the items over to Chang Monday but said they had not been identified as belonging to Frazier.

The items subsequently were turned over to the state bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification to determine if they have any bearing on the case.

Chang said he would hold a press conference after the grand jury hearing is over and estimated the hearing might take

three or four hours.

Meanwhile, a .38 caliber revolver found near Lighthouse Point in Santa Cruz Tuesday had not been connected with the Ohta crimes. Dr. Victor Ohta was killed with a .38 pistol. The weapon was found by a fisherman in some bushes. The gun has since been returned to its owner, the sheriff's office said. The owner's name was not made public.

According to sheriff's Lt. Carl

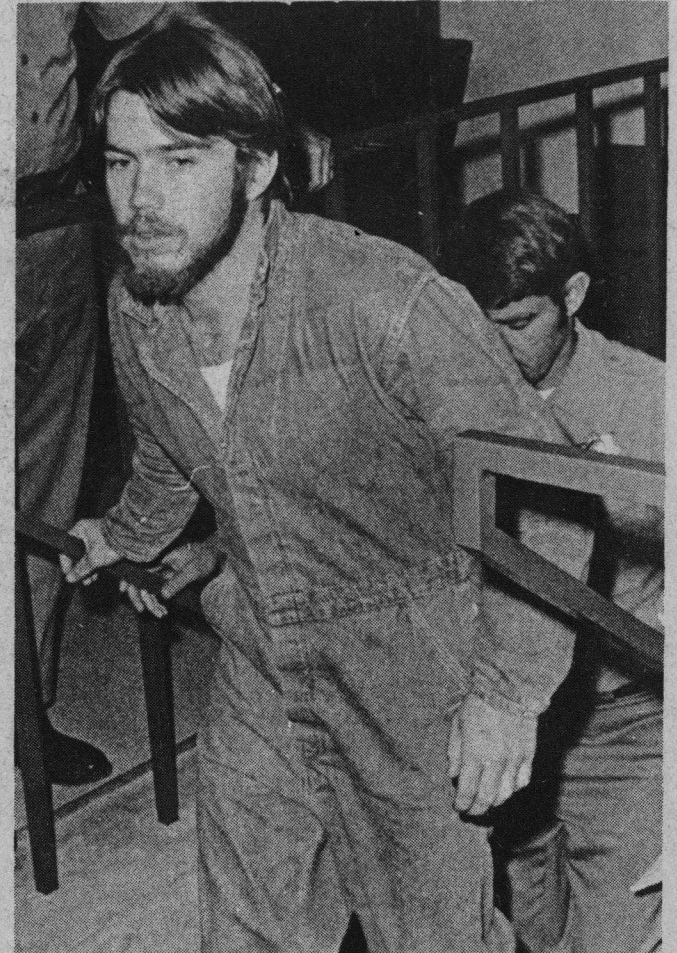
Wood, in charge of the county jail, Frazier is being kept in the felony cellblock along with other felony prisoners. The cellblock holds 22 prisoners, and there are 17 inmates quartered there now, Wood said. The cellblock is one large area which is locked at all times and it contains separate cubicles which can house up to four men. These cubicles are unlocked at all times, giving the inmates free access to the interior of the cellblock.

Wood, asked if Frazier was

occupying a cubicle by himself, said he had no idea because the men are free to occupy any cubicle they wish.

Weather

FORECAST: Outlook for Northern and Central California Friday through Sunday — Fair weather with chance of a few showers in extreme north; highs in the 70s, with lows dipping into 40s.



Frazier, in leg irons, is led toward courtroom

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decided she will not testify against her husband. Chang had said last week that Mrs. Frazier had waived her immunity and would testify against him.

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decided she will not testify against her husband. Chang had said last week that Mrs. Frazier had waived her immunity and would testify against him.

This was considered a setback to the prosecution which has been busy assembling evidence and witnesses to present its case to the jury.

Meanwhile, Frazier was brought before Municipal Court Judge Donald May Wednesday morning for a preliminary hearing. Judge May granted the prosecution's request to continue the hearing for two days, which would give the grand jury time to consider the case.

(According to a spokesman in the district attorney's office, Mrs. Frazier has the right to change her mind and to not to testify unless she has already begun testimony in a court proceeding.)

The tiny, neatly-groomed, dark-haired young woman appeared in court Wednesday morning accompanied by Herb Cartwright, a private investigator hired by defense lawyer James Jackson.

During the brief hearing, her husband, sitting in the raised jury section, turned toward the spectators' benches where she sat and smiled and nodded at her; she returned his smile.

Frazier was far more relaxed than he had been at his arraignment hearing last Friday. And though he was again brought into the courtroom wearing leg chains and surrounded by four deputies, the chains were removed just inside the courtroom door.

Frazier sat with his legs comfortably crossed and rested his arms on his chair. Last Friday, he kept his hands tightly jammed down into the pockets of his blue denim jail coveralls.

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There were no curious crowds surrounding the courthouse area Wednesday, probably due to the fact that the hearing was held at 8:30 a.m., an hour before municipal court begins its daily calendar.

In granting the two-day continuance this morning, Municipal Court Judge Donald May overruled an objection by Jackson to continuing the hearing. Jackson asked the court to dismiss the charges if the district attorney's office was not prepared to proceed with the preliminary hearing, and he also asked for bail to be set.

Judge May refused the motion for dismissal and ordered Frazier to be held in county jail without bail until a preliminary hearing at 8:30 a.m. Friday. May explained that if an indictment was returned against Frazier Wednesday, the preliminary hearing will not be held Friday.

If he is indicted by the grand jury, Frazier then will be arraigned on the murder charges in superior court.

Chang himself did not appear in municipal court yesterday, but was represented by deputies Art Danner and John Frye.

Chang said he expected to call about 25 witnesses to testify. Among those to be called, Chang said, were to be Frazier's mother, Mrs. Pat Pascal, and Jackson's two private investigators, Cartwright and Bill Tubbs.

Cartwright and Tubbs are the persons, according to Jackson, who found the backpack, machette, .45-calibre gun and straw hat in the storage shed behind Mrs. Pascal's trailer.