

Deputy sheriff killed

T.M.
3-19

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — A Grant County sheriff's deputy was shot to death late Sunday night, and a man suspected of the killing was arrested 4½ hours later.

Lloyd Runde, chief deputy of the Grant County Sheriff's Department, identified the victim as Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston.

Reuter was shot once after he stopped a farm tractor on New California Road two miles south of Livingston.

Gregory Coulthard, 18, of rural Livingston was in the Grant County Jail this morning pending his initial court appearance in connection with the shooting.

Runde said authorities expect to charge him with first-degree murder.

Runde said Reuter had stopped Coulthard, who was driving a farm tractor on New California Road, at about 11:30 p.m., Sunday.

When Reuter failed to respond to radio calls, another deputy went to the scene, where he found Reuter.

Grant County Coroner Donovan Nelson pronounced Reuter dead of a single gunshot wound.

Runde declined to comment on whether Reuter may have drawn or fired his weapon.

Runde said he believes Reuter is the first Grant County deputy to be killed in the line of duty in at least 30 years.

About 40 officers from various southwest Wisconsin police departments assisted in the search for Coulthard and in setting up roadblocks throughout the area.

Runde said the canine units from Spring Green and Dane County are credited with tracking down Coulthard, who had apparently fled on foot.

Coulthard was found alone in a barn about five miles from the shooting scene, Runde said, and did not have a weapon when he was arrested.

Runde said Grant County deputies are in shock today over the death of Reuter, who was a full-time deputy for four years and a part-time deputy before that.

He said the department has made no firm plans yet for a special memorial for Reuter, but, "I'm sure there will be something."



Reuter

Telegraph
Herald
3-20-90

Deputy slain

Suspect nabbed 4½ hours after Grant County shooting

By **NORB ASCHOM**
and **GERI PARLIN**
Of the Tribune

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — A Grant County deputy sheriff was shot and killed Sunday night when he stopped an 18-year-old man on a tractor south of Livingston, the Grant County Sheriff's Department said.

A man, identified as Gregory Coulthard, was arrested several hours later in a hay barn about five miles

from the scene of the shooting. He was tracked by canine units from Spring Green, Wis., and the Dane County Sheriff's Department and other officers.

Deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston, stopped Coulthard about 11:30 p.m. on New California Road, according to Deputy Jim Muller. Reuter's body was found about 20 minutes later by another deputy.

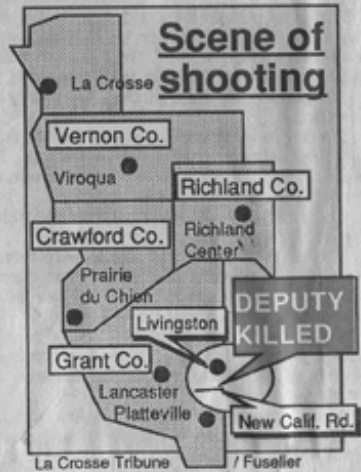
No other details of the incident were released by the department.

The assailant apparently fled on foot cross country.

Coulthard was found and arrested at 4:05 a.m.

Jim McNabb, Spring Green police chief, said he joined the search with his dog about 2 a.m.

"It can never hurt to use a dog," McNabb said this morning. "Anytime, anywhere somebody wants us, we're more than happy to come. It's teamwork is what it is. It's cooperation from everybody."



Deputy's death baffles police

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for the answers.

The shooting has puzzled residents of this farming village as they mourn the loss of a longtime friend and reach out in sympathy for the young officer's wife, Dianne, and their children — Sherry, 10; Dan and Doug, both 15; Tim, 13; and Andrew, 6.

Formal murder charges were to be filed against Coulthard this morning. He was being held in the Richland County Jail in Richland Center.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix said he was waiting for investigation reports and an autopsy before deciding on the charge. He also was determining what additional charges might apply in the case of the death of a police officer.

This is the first case of a Grant County sheriff's deputy being killed in the line of duty.

The horror of what was found along the roadside on the hill a few yards west of Highway 80 at 11:50

p.m. began to unravel 20 minutes earlier when officer Reuter radioed that he was stopping to "assist a motorist."

When Reuter failed to report back to the sheriff's dispatcher or answer his radio, Deputy Robert Bloyer was sent to the scene. He found Reuter, dead, in a pool of blood.

From that point, details are sketchy as investigators give guarded responses to questions about the shooting in order not to "mess up" their investigation.

There was one report that says a 12-gauge shotgun was found at the farm along Highway 80 where Coulthard had worked as a farmhand for the past two months.

There were reports that the tractor was found parked broadside on the roadway and when Reuter stopped to check it out he was shot point-blank with the shotgun but managed to crawl back to his squad and key his radio microphone by was unable to talk into it.

There also were reports that

there had been an exchange of shots between the officer and his assailant, and the assailant fled the scene on foot.

"All we can confirm at this time is that he was shot and that his own gun was not involved in the shooting," said Lloyd Runde, Grant County chief deputy sheriff.

The only other confirmed report is that Coulthard was found shortly after 4 a.m. Monday, hiding in a haystack in a barn on Badland Road about six miles south of where the shooting took place. He had been located there with the help of tracking dogs from Spring Green and Dane County.

According to officers, the youth gave up without resistance. Some 70 lawmen from neighboring counties and communities were mobilized for the search, Runde said.

Little is known about Coulthard other than he began work at the Lindon Grove Farms, reportedly operated by Keith and Ralph Bourret. A farmhand, who identified himself as Charlie, confirmed that

Coulthard worked there.

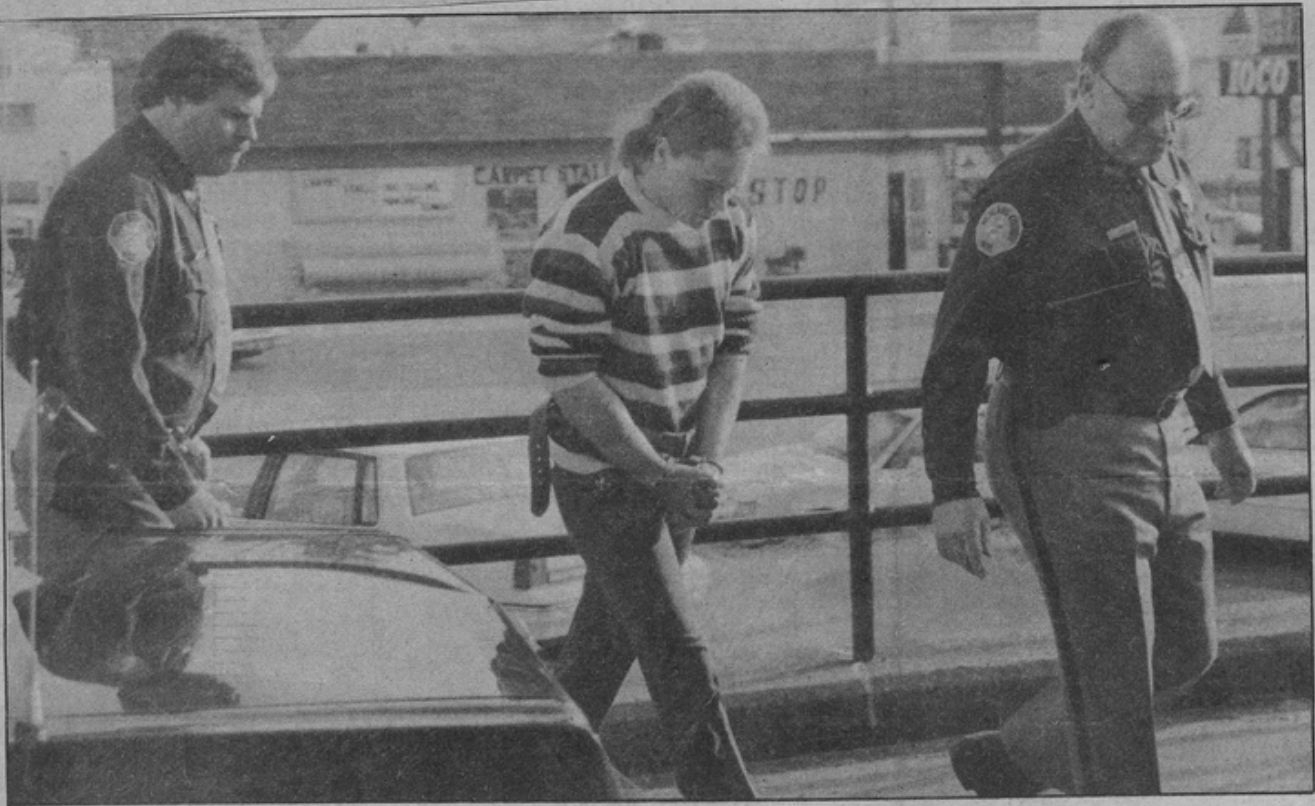
Coulthard, who goes by the nickname "Goober" and grew up in the Hazel Green and Cuba City area, is on probation after confessing to vandalizing cars in Platteville last July and stealing a radio from one of them.

Coulthard, who will turn 19 on April 24, also was without a driver's license after being convicted of drunken driving and hitting a parked car in Cuba City in December. He was fined \$1,012 and still owes on that fine.

Grant County Sheriff Herbert Hottenstein, who spent all night working on the shooting, struggled to hold back tears as he tried to explain what happened and what his investigation has turned up.

The realization suddenly hit him. He plopped down in an office chair and shook his head in disbelief as he looked up at the ceiling, his eyes reddening.

"God, he's dead. His two boys were over to my place," the sheriff said, and got up and left the room.



Richland County Chief Deputy Tom Hougan (left) and Sheriff Fred C. Schram escort Gregory A. Coulthard to the Grant County Courthouse for his initial appearance in Circuit Court Tuesday afternoon. HI photo/Steve Prestegard

18-year-old man charged in killing

by Steve Prestegard

The man accused of the shotgun killing of Grant County Deputy Sheriff Tom Reuter late Sunday night made his initial appearance in Grant County Circuit Court Tuesday afternoon.

Gregory A. Coulthard, 18, Livingston, will face a first-degree intentional homicide charge at his preliminary hearing Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Circuit Judge John Wagner Tuesday afternoon denied bond for Coulthard, who will be housed at the Richland County Jail in Richland Center. Coulthard faces a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted, plus five years for using a dangerous weapon.

Coulthard, who was handcuffed and had his hands further restrained by a leather belt, said little as Wagner read the criminal complaint to him, with his lawyer, public defender Seth Stoltz, seated by his side.

Coulthard is accused of allegedly shooting Reuter with a 12-gauge shotgun on New California Road in Clifton

Sunday night. Reuter was killed by a single shot to his left chest area, according to results of an autopsy performed Monday morning.

A Dane County K-9 unit captured Coulthard in a storage shed in Lima about five miles south of the death scene Monday morning around 4:07 a.m., about 4½ hours after the shooting.

Sheriff's deputies from several area counties responded to the scene early Monday morning to search for Coulthard.

Reuter, 38, had stopped on New California Road around 11:24 p.m. and approached a farm tractor, according to a news release from the Grant County Sheriff's Department.

After Reuter radioed the sheriff's department, he failed to respond to a call from the dispatcher about 10 minutes later, according to Chief Deputy Lloyd Runde.

Deputy Robert Bloyer was then dispatched to the scene and found Reu-

ter's body lying in the road.

After the shooting, Coulthard went back to the farm where he lives, the Linden Grove Farm in Livingston, and Coulthard and another man returned to the scene of the shooting. When the car arrived at the scene and Coulthard saw Bloyer, he left the car and fled the scene, according to the complaint.

A search of Coulthard's house Monday found a 12-gauge shotgun in a closet in the house's kitchen, according to the complaint.

Coulthard, a 1989 graduate of Cuba City High School, is serving a two-year probation term on two criminal damage to property charges and one theft charge. Coulthard and another man were accused of slashing tires and stealing a radio from a car in Platteville last July. He also was fined on drunk driving and hit and run charges in January.

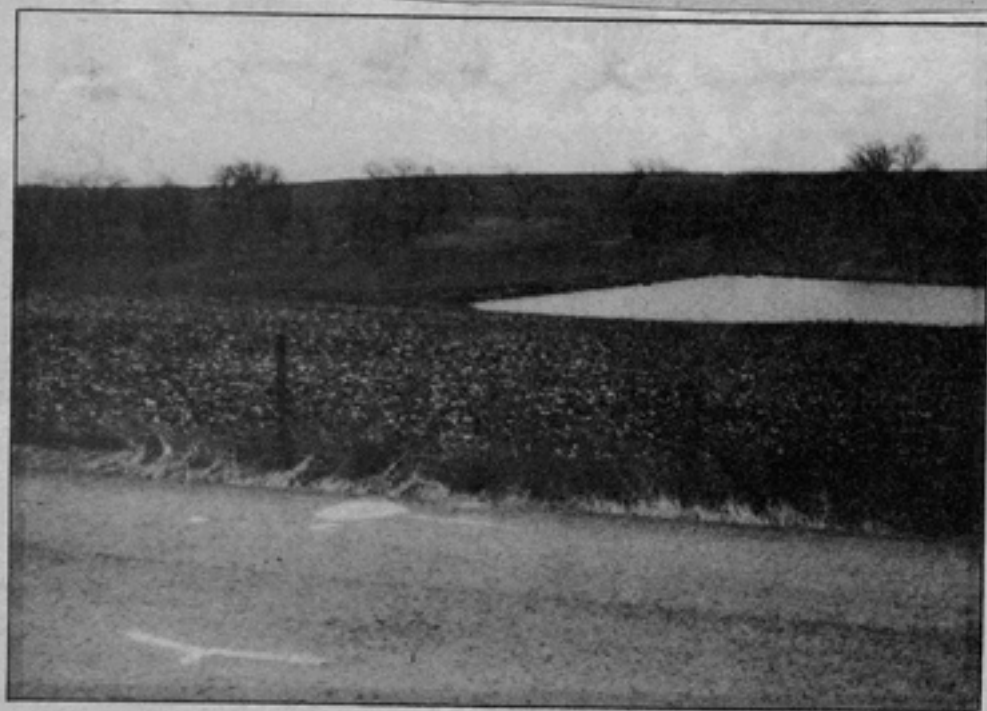
Editorial/4A

Grant County Herald Independent
3-22-90

Reuter, Tom
LIVINGSTON — Tom Reuter, age 38, a Grant County Sheriff Deputy, died early Monday morning, March 19, 1990, while in the line of duty. He was born on April 17, 1951, in Platteville, the son of LaVerne and Frances (Sherwin) Reuter. He was united in marriage on July 7, 1973, in Platteville, to the former Diane Allen. He was a graduate of Platteville High School. Tom farmed for a while, and was a technician for Tri-State Breeders before becoming a Grant County Sheriff Deputy in 1985. Survivors include his wife, Diane; one daughter, Sherry; four sons, Dan, Doug, Tim, and Andy; his parents, LaVerne and Frances Reuter of rural Platteville; two sisters, Mrs. Jack (Kay) Maisa of Port Saint Lucie, Florida, and Mrs. Shirley Mayo of West Bend, Wisconsin; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Sherry Ingersoll in 1980. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 1990, at ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Platteville, with burial in Rock Church Cemetery, rural Livingston. Friends may call from 2:00 until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, at the SOMAN FUNERAL HOME, MONTFORT.

Wisconsin State Journal

3-20-90



Investigators' marks blot the surface of New California Road near Livingston, Wis., where Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter was found shot to death late Sunday night. Reuter was killed with a single shot after he apparently stopped a tractor on the road. An 18-year-old Livingston man, Gregory Coulthard, is in custody. (Photo by Colleen Schultz)

Telegraph Herald
3-21-90

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

and Colleen Schultz 3-20

Telegraph Herald correspondent

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — As the Grant County Sheriff's Department and the village of Livingston mourn a fallen officer, questions remain about what happened on New California Road Sunday night, and why.



Coulthard

Coulthard, 18, of Livingston.

Coulthard, a 1989 Cuba City High School graduate, is accused of firing the single shot that killed

Reuter. He is being held in the Richland County Jail at Richland Center, and is scheduled to appear in Grant County Circuit Court in Lancaster at 4:30 p.m. today.

Until then, Runde won't comment on the caliber of the gun that killed Reuter, or whether Reuter fired his own weapon during the incident. He did say, however, that Reuter was not killed with his own gun.

The Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation has sent several special agents to assist Grant County in investigating Reuter's death, said Tom Steingraeber, acting DCI administrator. However, he declined comment on the case because he has not seen any reports.

At about 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Reuter radioed to other officers that he was conducting a "motorist assist" for a farm tractor driver on New California Road, two miles south of Livingston. When officers heard no communication from him 15 minutes later, a dep-

uty went to the scene and found Reuter's body.

Reuter is believed to be the first Grant County deputy killed in the line of duty.

Coulthard was tracked down by police dogs, and found in a barn about five miles from where the shooting took place. He was arrested at about 4:30 a.m. Monday.

The mourning — and disbelief — continued today at the sheriff's department in Lancaster.

Neighboring law enforcement agencies have offered not only condolences, but also assistance, Runde said.

For example, the Iowa County Sheriff's Department at Dodgeville sent one of its cars to pick up a Grant County prisoner at the Waupun Correctional Institution for a court appearance.

"We're stressed or strapped with the everyday duties we have to carry on," Runde said.

Iowa County Sheriff Nicholas Basting said his deputies will

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Deputy

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offer Grant County any help it needs.

The Iowa County officers, too, are mourning Reuter's death — and confronting a renewed sense of the dangers that police officers face.

Although some aren't talking about it, Basting said he believes his deputies are thinking about recent incidents when they could have been endangered.

"Sometimes if they know a suspect, they may relax a little more than they should," he said. "I think they're all thinking back on times when maybe something like this could have happened to them."

Basting said law enforcement officers from southwest Wisconsin will honor Reuter at his funeral at 1 p.m. Thursday in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Platteville.

In Livingston, neighbors and friends of Reuter, his wife Diane and their five children expressed shock.

If there's been a murder in Livingston before, nobody could remember it.

"This is the kind of thing that happens in big cities," said postmistress Sherry Leonard. "Why Livingston?"

Townpeople often come to E.J. Connery's office at the Livingston Stockyards for a cup of coffee. On Monday, they came to share their grief.

"Everyone is shocked and heartbroken," Connery said. "We never expected this to happen in Livingston."

Dorothy Gundlach, who has lived 78 of her 80 years in Livingston, is a lifelong friend of Diane Reuter, and taught piano to the Reuters' only daughter, Sherry, 10.

She remembered hearing the sirens along Wisconsin 80 late Sunday and early Monday, and wondering who was hurt.

On Monday morning, she learned that it was Thomas Reuter — someone who had offered to help her with anything she might need.

"I always felt safe until now,"

Gundlach said. "You never think of murder until something like this comes home to you. I wish Wisconsin had a death penalty."

Runde said Coulthard was moved Monday morning to the Richland County Jail. This is a common procedure, he said, when an officer is slain. It spares jailers and workers from having to deal with the defendant.

The sheriff's department, he said, will probably re-evaluate its patrol procedures in the wake of Reuter's death.

Each deputy is issued a bullet-proof vest, he said, but it is the officer's decision whether to wear it.

However, Runde acknowledges that few officers — even experienced ones — would have expected that stopping to help a tractor driver could lead to death.

"It wasn't as though we were dealing with a felon fleeing the scene," he said. "Reuter was an officer who has experience, and a reputation for being safety conscious. You don't expect something like this to happen in a situation like this."

Telegraph Herald
3-21-90

Dial 3-22

Manhunt leads to arrest of man charged with killing county deputy

The shooting death of a Grant County deputy shortly before midnight Sunday launched a massive manhunt and resulted in the capture of an 18-year-old former Cuba City man who has been charged with first degree murder.

Tom Reuter, 38, of Livingston, father of five, was gunned down at about 11:45 p.m. when he apparently stopped to question Gregory Coulthard, 18, a farm hired hand who was operating a tractor on New California Road 1-1/2 miles south of Livingston.

Reuter had radioed in to the dispatcher at Lancaster that he had stopped to talk to the tractor operator and when he failed to call back the dispatcher operated a device to blow the horn on Reuter's squad car. When there was no response, another officer, Robert Bloyer of Boscobel, was sent to the scene.

Reuter's body, with a shotgun slug through the chest area, was found by Bloyer lying beside the road. The officer was pronounced dead by Coroner Donovan Nelson of Boscobel. The tractor was still there but there was no sign of the operator, who was found to be Coulthard, who worked on a nearby farm.

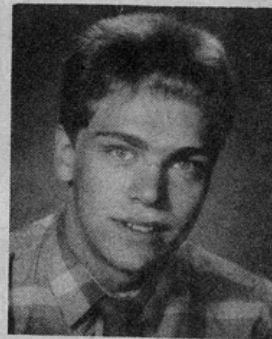
It was not known at that time whether Coulthard had escaped on foot or gotten a ride in an automobile. But a manhunt was immediately organized, with officers speeding to the scene from all surrounding counties, including Crawford, Richland, Iowa and Dane, as well as Grant. An estimated 60 to 70 lawmen took part in the search.

"When the dog went into the hay after him, he said 'I give up' and came out."

Dean Ward,
Boscobel police officer



TOM REUTER



GREGORY COULTHARD

Tracked by dogs

Vehicles were dispatched to all road intersections in the area and all moving vehicles were stopped in case Coulthard had ditched a ride. Tracking dogs were brought in from Spring Green and Dane County, a Rotweiler and a German Shepherd.

It was the German Shepherd that led officers to Coulthard's hiding place, a pole shed about six miles south of the shooting at around 4 a.m. He was reported to be hiding in the hay. Dean Ward, Boscobel police officer, said the dog picked up Coulthard's tracks in the light snow that had fallen and led he and other officers to the shed.

"He didn't come out immediately," said Ward, "and the dog went into the hay after him. Then he (Coulthard) said 'I give up, I give up', and came out." Coulthard was unarmed at the time.

Two other Boscobel police officers, Jim Reynolds and Todd Stenner, also participated in the manhunt, which included squad cars and lawmen from at least five area counties.

The shooting death of a law officer, believed to be the first ever to occur in Grant County, at least in recent memory, cast a pall over the sheriff's department, where Reuter was well liked.

Sheriff Herb Hottenstein, who had participated in the gruelling search all night, was almost in tears when he told a reporter that

(See SHOOTING, Pg. 2, Col. 8)

Reuter's two sons had just been to Hottenstein's home.

Remains mystery

The reason for shooting the officer remains unknown, and probably will be until details come out in a court hearing. Coulthard, who had attended Cuba City High School, had a previous record for offenses, including traffic and vandalism. He was without a driver's license after being convicted of drunk driving and hitting a parked car in Cuba City in December.

Officers have remained close-mouthed on details of the shooting, pending an investigation, in which the Division of Criminal Justice and state Crime Laboratory are participating. It was reported, however, that a shotgun believed to be the weapon used in the killing was found at the farm where Coulthard had worked for the last two months, said to be the Lindon Grove Farms operated by Keith and Ralph Bourret on Hwy. 80.

Coulthard, who went by the nickname "Goober," was lodged in the Richland County jail pending an initial court appearance Tuesday.

Only 3 miles from home

Tom Reuter was only three miles from his home and was soon to go off duty when he was shot. He had been a member of the Grant County Sheriff's Dept. since 1985. Prior to that he had been a technician for Tri-State Breeders. He was a graduate of Platteville High School.

Surviving are his wife, Diane; a daughter, Sherry; four sons, Dan, Doug, Tim and Andy; his parents, LaVerne and Frances Reuter of rural Platteville, and two sisters.

Funeral services, which will be attended by a host of law officers from the area, will be

parents, LaVerne and Frances Reuter of rural Platteville, and two sisters.

Funeral services, which will be attended by a host of law officers from the area, will be held today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Platteville, with burial to be made in Rock Church Cemetery, rural Livingston. The Soman Funeral Home of Montfort is in charge of arrangements.

Gregory Coulthard officially charged with Reuter murder

Gregory Coulthard, 18, rural Livingston farmhand, was charged with first-degree murder Tuesday in the shotgun death of Tom Reuter, 38, a Grant County sheriff's deputy.

Grant County Circuit Judge John Wagner set a preliminary hearing for March 28 and ordered Coulthard held in jail without bond as requested by Emil Everix, district attorney.

Coulthard will have a public defender, Seth Stoltz, who was with him in the Grant County Courthouse Tuesday.

Several incidents not previously brought out in the shooting case were revealed at Tuesday's court appearance. According to statements, Coulthard rushed back to the farm home where he worked and told a roommate "I just shot a cop." The roommate, Dale Soderstrom, said he had been awakened by Coulthard, and drove him to the shooting scene, where Reuter's squad car stood with its lights flashing.

The court complaint said Soderstrom had talked Coulthard into leaving the shotgun at the farmhouse. When Soderstrom and Coulthard drove up, Deputy Robert Bloyer of Boscobel was already at the scene. Soderstrom supposedly said to Bloyer "I've got your suspect right here." Bloyer said he saw a man matching Coulthard's description in the car, and as he approached the man jumped out and ran.

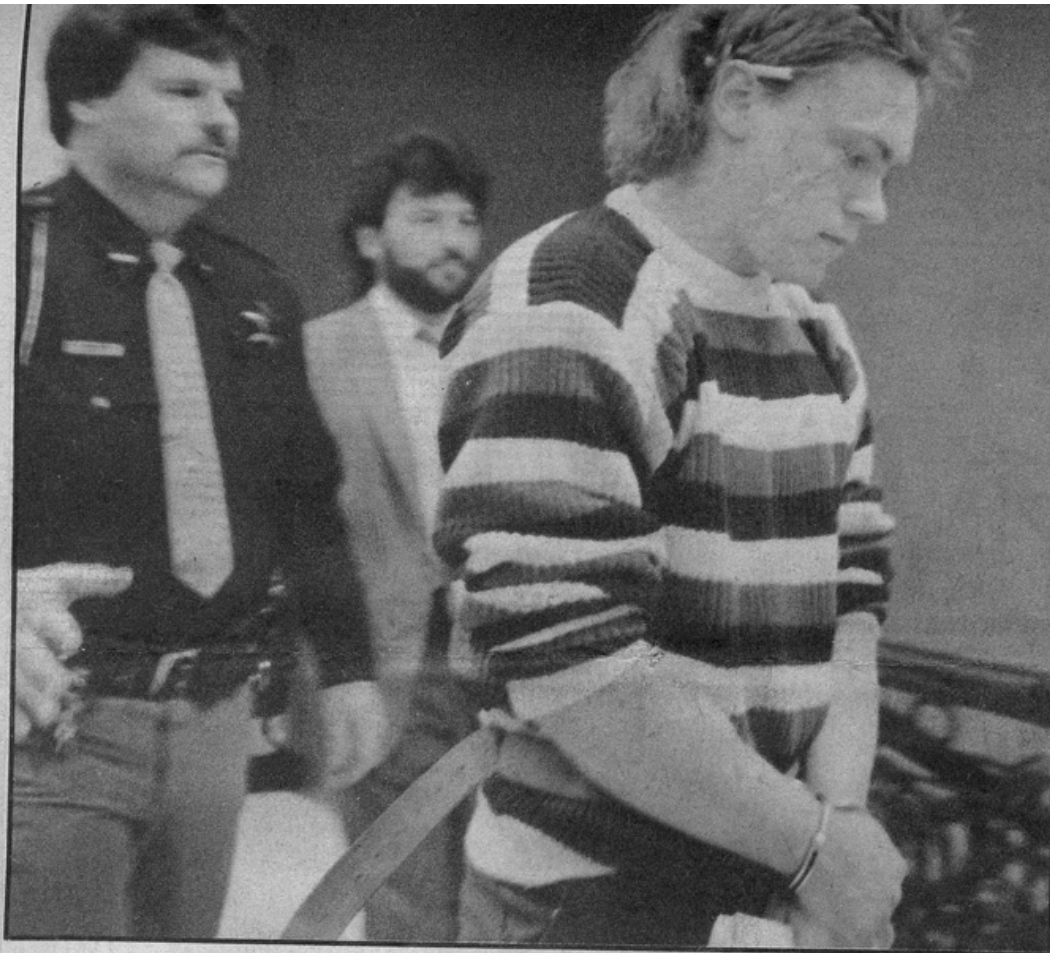
Bloyer said he tried to pursue on foot but the man got away, running west on New California Road. Deputy Bloyer returned and called for help and the manhunt (described in adjoining story) was on.

The initial appearance of the murder suspect revealed no motive for the slaying, but Dist. Atty. Everix said it was not necessary to prove motive. He said he had his own ideas about a motive.

Coulthard was returned to the Richland County jail.

Boscobel Dial

3-22-90



State Journal photo/JOSEPH W. JACKSON III

Gregory Coulthard, 18, accused of killing a sheriff's deputy, is led from Grant County Circuit Court Tuesday.

Suspect in deputy's death told roommate of shooting

By Richard W. Jaeger
Regional reporter

LANCASTER — "I just shot a cop," Gregory Coulthard told his roommate as he rushed into the farm home around the corner from where Grant County sheriff's Deputy Tom Reuter was found in a pool of blood, according to the criminal complaint in the murder case.

Coulthard, 18, a rural Livingston farmhand, was charged officially with first-degree murder Tuesday in the shotgun death of Reuter, 38, father of five.

Grant County Circuit Judge John Wagner set a preliminary hearing for March 28 and ordered Coulthard held in jail without bond as requested by Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix.

Coulthard sat next to his attorney, Public Defender Seth Stoltz,

and nervously chewed on his lip as Wagner read the details of the charge. He wore a striped sweater and jeans and was handcuffed at the brief hearing. Armed deputies stood at each exit.

The five-page criminal complaint, made public Tuesday, left questions about the shooting. The major question was the motive.

"We don't need to prove motive in the charges," Everix said. He said he had his own ideas about a motive, but wouldn't give them.

The most revealing parts of evidence in the complaint were statements by Dale Soderstrom, who shared quarters with Coulthard at the Lynden Grove farm on Highway 80.

Soderstrom, according to the complaint, said he was awakened by Coulthard at about 11:45 p.m. Sunday and that Coulthard told him, "I just shot a cop."

Soderstrom said he told Coulthard to "go to bed" because he had been drinking. "I thought he was joking," Soderstrom told investigators.

He said Coulthard repeated his remarks, saying, "I'm serious," and then showed him the 12-gauge shotgun he was holding.

An autopsy report showed that Reuter died from a single shot to the heart from a 12-gauge shotgun. The wound entered Reuter's chest at a downward angle.

A shotgun was recovered from a closet in the farm home where Coulthard lived.

Soderstrom said he told Coulthard not to worry, that he would take care of it. He drove Coul-

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■ Fund for family/2B

Wisconsin State Journal
3-21-90

Roommate drove to scene

WSJ 3-21

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thard to the New California Road shooting scene, where he said he saw a squad car with flashing lights and saw a body on the ground along the road.

Soderstrom said that before leaving the farm home, he talked Coulthard out of taking the shotgun but noted Coulthard packed a duffel bag, which Soderstrom tossed in the rear seat of his car.

Soderstrom told investigators he drove past the shooting scene with Coulthard in the car, turned around and drove back toward the scene. At that point, he said, another squad car had arrived.

Deputy Robert Bloyer said he went to the scene after dispatchers were unable to raise Reuter on the squad radio or by sounding a horn alarm on Reuter's squad car.

Bloyer told Special Agent Richard Luell of the state Division of Criminal Investigation, who signed the murder complaint, that as he was examining Reuter's body, a car pulled up and Soderstrom jumped out and shouted, "I've got your suspect right here."

Bloyer said he saw a man who matched Coulthard's description in the car and as he approached, the man jumped out of the car and ran.

The deputy said he attempted to pursue on foot, but the man got

away from him, running west on New California Road. Deputy Bloyer returned and called for help after Soderstrom identified the man as Coulthard.

Some 70 law officers were called to assist in the search for Coulthard. They sealed off an 8-square-mile area around the shooting site.

According to the complaint, Coulthard was found hiding under hay bales in a shed shortly after 4 a.m. by a canine unit under the handling of Dane County sheriff's Deputy Ron Mainguth.

Before he was slain, Reuter had radioed that he was making a traffic stop for a farm tractor. A tractor belonging to the Lynden Grove Farm was found at the scene. Inside its enclosed cab, officers found an empty plastic gun holster attached to the vehicle.

Everix asked that Coulthard be held without bail under a provision of state law that is used in unusual and violent cases.

"We felt this case met the criteria of the law because the defendant is accused of killing a police officer and because we feel the need for protection of our key witness," Everix said, referring to Soderstrom.

Stoltz argued it was moot because Coulthard "cannot post any amount of bail."

WSJ

3-21-90

Banks set up memorials for slain deputy

Two southwest Wisconsin banks are accepting memorial contributions for the family of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter who was shot to death Sunday.

Livingston State Bank in Livingston and Mound City Bank in Platteville have been receiving many phone calls and in-person

inquiries about donating money to Reuter's wife and five children, officials at both banks said this morning.

The memorial at Mound City Bank was set up by the Platteville Elks Lodge No. 1460, said John Meisel, senior vice president and cashier. Meisel said Reuter was a member of the lodge.

Checks may be made out to the Tom Reuter Memorial Fund and sent to Livingston State Bank, P.O. Box 99, Livingston, Wis., 53554 or to Mound City Bank, 25 East Pine St., Platteville, Wis., 53818.

Memorials may also be left at the Soman Funeral Home in Livingston.

Shooting

Coulthard charged with homicide

By Lyn Hanson
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard woke his roommate early Monday morning, told him, "I just shot a cop," then returned to the scene with the roommate, said a criminal complaint filed Tuesday in Grant County Circuit Court.

Coulthard, 18, of rural Livingston, was denied bond Tuesday in Grant County Circuit Court, where he was formally charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the shooting death Sunday of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston.

Judge John Wagner set Coulthard's preliminary hearing for 9 a.m., March 28. He remains in the Richland County Jail, Richland Center.

The criminal complaint said Coulthard returned to his home at Lynden Grove Farms in rural Livingston — where he worked as a farmhand — and awakened fellow farmhand and roommate Dale Soderstrom to say he had shot a police officer.

Soderstrom told police he thought Coulthard was joking, and told Coulthard that he had been drinking too much and should go to sleep. Coulthard then showed him a 12-gauge shotgun, the complaint said.

Shortly before midnight Sunday, Grant County Deputy Robert

Bloyer drove a squad car to New California Road two miles south of Livingston after Reuter — who had stopped there to aid a farm tractor driver — failed to respond to radio messages.

Bloyer found Reuter lying dead on his stomach in the ditch line on the road's south side, the complaint said.

Grant County Coroner Donovan Nelson pronounced Reuter dead of a single shotgun blast to the chest. Nelson said Reuter was shot by a "deer type slug" from a 12-gauge shotgun at a range of less than 10 feet.

A few minutes after Bloyer found Reuter's body, a car arrived

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Shooting

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at the scene, and a man later identified as Soderstrom stepped out.

Soderstrom said, "I've got your suspect right here" and pointed into the car, according to the complaint.

A man sitting in the car's passenger seat then got out and ran west, outrunning Bloyer and disregarding his command to stop, the complaint said.

Bloyer said Soderstrom told him the fleeing man was Coulthard.

Canine units from Spring Green and Dane County tracked Coulthard to a storage shed five miles from the scene of the shooting, where he was hiding under bales of hay, according to the complaint.

Coulthard had been drinking and a blood alcohol test was ad-

ministered, police said. Results were not available Tuesday.

Police, acting on a search warrant Monday, seized a 12-gauge shotgun from a closet at Coulthard's home. A farm tractor, a fired shotgun shell and an empty shotgun case were found at the scene, the complaint said.

If convicted of first-degree intentional homicide, Coulthard will face life in prison, plus five years for use of a dangerous weapon.

Court records show he is on probation for two convictions of misdemeanor criminal damage to property and one conviction of misdemeanor theft. This stems from a July 13, 1989, incident in Platteville in which car windows were broken and tires slashed on four cars, and audio equipment was stolen from one car.

In January, he was convicted of drunken driving stemming from a hit-and-run incident in December, court records show.

Reuter was not the arresting officer in either incident.

Slain deputy's family, colleagues remembered

By Richard W. Jaeger

Regional reporter

LIVINGSTON — Messages of sympathy poured in from throughout the state Tuesday to family members and comrades of slain Grant County sheriff's deputy Tom Reuter.

Reuter, 38, the father of five, was gunned down Sunday night. A Livingston-area farmhand who he had stopped on a tractor has been charged with murder in the case.

Along with the many messages, officials in Reuter's hometown of Livingston, have established a memorial fund for the officer's wife,

Diane, and their five children — Sherry, 10; Doug and Dan, both 15; Tim, 13; and Andrew, 6.

Contributions can be sent in care of the Livingston State Bank, P.O. Box 99, Livingston, Wis. 53554.

Meanwhile, law officials throughout the state wore black bands across their badges and flags at courthouses and city halls were flown at half staff in memory of the five-year veteran deputy.

"We plan to hold a debriefing session for all of our deputies and attempt to address any of their grief," said Grant County Sheriff Herbert Hottenstein.

Hottenstein said he has fielded numerous calls of sympathy, most of them from fellow law officials even from neighboring states.

"When one of our own is killed, there is a feeling that is felt throughout all law enforcement," the veteran sheriff said.

Hottenstein even received a poem written by neighboring Police Capt. James "Buck" Jones from the Platteville Police Department.

Reuter's funeral will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Platteville. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today at Soman Funeral Home in Montfort.

Wisconsin State Journal
3-21-90

No bail for man accused of killing deputy

By **TERRY BURT**
Tribune regional reporter

LANCASTER, Wis. — Hands shackled, 18-year-old Gregory A. Coulthard was led into the third-floor courtroom of the Grant County Courthouse where several armed police officers were stationed Tuesday.

The officers wore a sash of black over their badges, a sign of mourning for a fallen comrade.

The 1969 Cuba City, Wis., High School graduate, wearing a sweater and casual slacks, sat silently at the defendant's table with his lawyer, Public Defender Seth Stoltz of Dodgeville.

In a session that lasted less than 10 minutes, Coulthard was charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the Sunday night shotgun death of a Grant County Sheriff's deputy.

Deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, a husband and father of five, died as the result of a single slug from a 12-gauge shotgun that entered the left chest area at a downward angle, "striking the heart and lung," according to excerpts from an autopsy report contained in the criminal complaint filed in Grant County Circuit Court.

Coulthard, 18, a rural Livingston farmhand, was ordered held in jail without bail. He is in the Richland County Jail where he was taken shortly after his arrest early Monday.

The criminal complaint did not provide any motive for the shooting, but Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix said in an interview Tuesday night that the motive is "part

See **SUSPECT**, back page

↑
La Crosse →
Tribune
3-21-90

Continued from front page

of what's being investigated."

Everix said proving a motive is not required for him to prove his case. He said there's no question in his mind that Coulthard had a shotgun with him on the tractor which was stopped by Reuter shortly before the shooting, about 11:30 p.m.

"He had the gun in the tractor," Everix said. "The case was still there (on the tractor)."

The complaint says after the shooting Coulthard went to his home in the town of Clifton, which the complaint describes as being "just north" of where the shooting occurred. When he got home, the complaint continues, he woke his roommate, Dale Soderstrom, saying, "I just shot a cop."

Soderstrom told investigators that he didn't believe Coulthard, who he said had been drinking.

Coulthard, the complaint says, repeated to Soderstrom, "I'm serious, I shot an officer."

Soderstrom told investigators that Coulthard came home about 11:45 p.m., and, after telling him about the shooting, showed him a 12-gauge shotgun which police later confiscated from the home. Soderstrom said he went onto the porch of the house and saw a red and blue glow in the sky, presumably the flashing emergency lights of Reuter's squad car.

After driving Coulthard to the shooting scene, the complaint says Soderstrom stopped the car and told a deputy sheriff who had discovered the body by then, "I've got your suspect right here."

At that point, however, Coulthard took off running and eluded the deputy, Robert Bloyer.

About 4½ hours later, with the help of police dogs, Coulthard was



Gregory A. Coulthard

arrested in a haybarn about five miles away.

In the complaint, signed by Richard Luell, a special agent with the Wisconsin Department of

Justice, Deputy Bloyer went to where he believed Reuter was located after neither he nor the sheriff's dispatcher could contact Reuter by radio. Bloyer said in the complaint that he had heard Reuter say he, "was going to be out of the car with a farm tractor on New California Road."

Bloyer said in the complaint that as he turned onto New California he could see in the sky the reflection of the red and blue lights of Reuter's squad car. As he crested a knoll, Bloyer said he saw Reuter's parked squad car behind an orange tractor which had an enclosed cab.

As he got closer, the complaint states, Bloyer saw what appeared to be a body lying on the south side of the road. He said after determining no one else was around, he recognized the body, which was lying on its right side, as being Reuter.

Bloyer said he could find no pulse and Reuter "felt cold." He also said he saw blood on Reuter.

A short time later, a car carrying Soderstrom and the man who was later identified as Coulthard, arrived at the shooting scene.

Bloyer said Coulthard fled from the car and ran off into the night. Bloyer said he gave chase but could not apprehend the suspect.

Coulthard did no running Tuesday.

Grant County Circuit Judge John Wagner denied Stoltz's request that a cash bond be set.

In asking that Coulthard be held without bond, the district attorney said Coulthard was still on probation from a September 1989 case in which he pleaded guilty to one count of theft and two counts of criminal damage. The probation was for Coulthard's part in a tire-slashing and window-breaking spree in July in

Platteville. He was placed on two years probation and ordered to pay nearly \$3,000 in restitution.

Also, on Jan. 8, according to records in the clerk of courts office, Coulthard pleaded guilty to drunken driving and was fined \$586. He had his driver's license suspended and was ordered to have an alcohol assessment.

Everix said in the interview that a blood alcohol test was taken from Coulthard after his arrest but the results of that test are not yet available.

Contacted after the court appearance, Stoltz said he would not make a statement to the press nor divulge anything his client has said.

Wagner set 9 a.m. March 28 for a preliminary hearing. At that time, the judge will determine if there is probable cause that Coulthard committed the crime. If so, a trial would be ordered.



Cathy Acherman of the Tribune

THE SUSPECT: Gregory A. Coulthard, 18, is led from a Grant County courtroom by deputies after his initial appearance Tuesday.

'Murphy's Law' applies to police officers' training

By **TERRY RINDFLEISCH**
Of the Tribune staff

A person who trains future police officers says "there is no such thing as a routine stop."

The Grant County Sheriff's Department reports that deputy Thomas Reuter had stopped to help someone whose tractor had stalled south of Livingston about 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

Who would have expected a man on a tractor at nearly midnight on a Sunday to fatally shoot a police officer?

"I don't know what happened in this case, but you don't expect this to happen," said Mark Smick, chairman of public safety services at Western Wisconsin Technical College. "The bottom line is you have to be prepared for anything."

Smick said police officers receive extensive training in making traffic stops at the technical college.

WWTC has trained officers from more than 100 law enforcement agencies including many from the Grant County Sheriff's Department.

Smick said officers do not receive a "cookbook guaranteed recipe" on how to approach vehicles. But officers are expected to approach drivers wanted on a felony charge more cautiously than other stops, he said.

"We teach officers to deal with Murphy's Law and the worst case scenario and then decide how to tactically approach the vehicle," he said.

Reuter is the first officer in southwestern Wisconsin to be shot in the line of duty at least in a decade.

"I don't think we're so much isolated anymore from these types of things happening," Smick said. "All officers have had their scrapes and close calls, but we've just been extremely fortunate in the past."

FATAL STATISTICS

The Sunday slaying of a Grant County deputy was the first time since 1985 that an officer in Wisconsin has been fatally shot.

■ **TWO MILWAUKEE** police officers were killed in a drug-related case in March of '85 and an Iowa officer died after being shot in the back of the head in July of that year, according to Tom Everson of the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Office of Justice Assistance

■ **AN EAU CLAIRE** officer and two Milwaukee officers were killed in 1982 and two Milwaukee officers were killed in 1981.

■ **A WISCONSIN** State Patrol trooper, a Juneau County Sheriff's deputy and a Milwaukee police officer died in traffic accidents while on duty in 1989.

■ **THREE OFFICERS** in Wisconsin were killed in accidents in 1987 and another officer died in an accident in 1986.

TH 3-22

Dog key to tracing suspect

By Ross Bielema
of the Telegraph Herald

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — A tracking dog was instrumental in capturing a Livingston man charged with the shooting death of a Grant County sheriff's deputy, said the dog's handler.

Dane County sheriff's deputy Ron Mainguth on Wednesday described the end of the four-hour manhunt that involved 40 officers from more than a dozen southwest Wisconsin law enforcement agencies early Monday.

The trail led to the Dale Griffith farm seven miles south of Livingston along Wisconsin 80, where a German shepherd dog named Ivan found Gregory A. Coulthard, 18, hiding in a haymow inside a pole barn, Mainguth said.

Coulthard remains in Richland County Jail at Richland Center charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the Sunday night shooting

Dog/Turn to Page 3A

TH 3-22

Dog

Continued from Page 1A

death of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston. A preliminary hearing has been set for 9 a.m. March 28.

Grant County sheriff's deputy Robert Bloyer found Reuter's body about midnight Sunday along New California Road two miles south of Livingston, after Reuter failed to answer a dispatcher's calls.

Forensic pathologist Robert W. Huntington III of the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison, who conducted the autopsy, concluded that Reuter died of a single shotgun blast to the heart and lung.

The bullet which struck Reuter was identified as a rifled slug commonly used for deer hunting. Game warden Charles Horn of Fennimore confirmed that officials have ruled out the possibility that Coulthard was poaching deer the night of the shooting.

The chase to capture Coulthard, a farmhand at Lynden Grove Farms about two miles south of Livingston, began shortly after Bloyer found Reuter's body.

According to the criminal complaint, Coulthard and his roommate, fellow Lynden Grove Farms worker Dale Soderstrom drove up to the scene in a car.

Coulthard fled when Bloyer ordered Soderstrom to stop and Soderstrom said, "I've got your suspect right here."

Mainguth's dog and a dog from Spring Green followed Coulthard's trail.

When Ivan became excited, indicating that someone was in the pole barn, Mainguth called for Coulthard to surrender. When there was no response, he ordered Ivan to find the man. Ivan climbed more than a dozen hay bales to the top of the pile, then dug under the two bales Coulthard had pulled over his head.

The dog pulled Coulthard from the hay by his head, then later clamped onto his arm, the deputy explained. Coulthard required treatment for his bite wounds at Lancaster Memorial Hospital.

Several questions remain in the case, including a motive for the shooting and whether Reuter was able to fire his service revolver.

Meanwhile, mourning continues for the slain deputy.

About 300 officers from Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois covered their badges with black bands and paid their respects to Reuter during a special visitation at the Soman Funeral Home in Montfort Wednesday morning.

Residents planned to line the streets of Livingston to observe the funeral procession to Rock Church Cemetery, where the deputy was to be buried after services this afternoon.

Telegraph Herald

3-22-90

Shots by slain deputy enter investigation

By Richard W. Jaeger
Regional reporter

March 22, 1990

Authorities would neither confirm nor deny reports Wednesday that slain Grant County sheriff's Deputy Tom Reuter fired three and possibly five shots before being gunned down Sunday night.

Sheriff Herbert Hottenstein said further information on the shooting probably would come out at a preliminary hearing scheduled for Wednesday for Gregory Coulthard, 18, of rural Livingston, who faces a first-degree murder charge in Reuter's death.

Reports from officials close to the investigation, however, indicated three slugs from the deputy's gun were found in a tractor police said Coulthard was driving when stopped by Reuter on New California Road south of Livingston on Sunday night.

There was no indication whether the officer fired before he was hit in the chest and heart with a 12-gauge shotgun slug, or whether the officer fired the shots after he had been hit.

The criminal complaint filed against Coulthard indicates Deputy Robert Bloyer, who found Reuter's body on the roadside and took a pulse, said he was "unable at that time to find Tom Reuter's weapon."

Hottenstein did confirm that Reuter, like all other deputies on the Grant County Sheriff's Department, had been issued a bullet-proof chest protector but was not wearing it at the time of the shooting. The sheriff said whether to wear a vest is left up to the officer.

A roommate at the farm where Coulthard worked told state Division of Criminal Investigation agents that Coulthard came running into the farm about 11:30 p.m. Sunday saying, "I just shot a cop," and showed the roommate, Dale Soderstrom, a shotgun he said he used.

Soderstrom said he believed Coulthard was drunk at the time.

Hottenstein said a blood-alcohol test was taken of Coulthard but the results have not been received.

Such tests may not show any major results since Coulthard is said to have run and walked more than five miles from the shooting scene and was not captured by officers until four hours later, hiding in a hay shed south and west of the hamlet of Arthur.

Drinking and then driving without a license may have been one of the reasons Coulthard fled Reuter, who was reported to have been making a traffic stop.

Coulthard had a drunken-driving conviction that carried a heavy fine he had not paid. He was on probation on criminal charges from last summer and was making payments of about \$3,000 in restitution.

Area farmers said it is common for them to carry shotguns in their tractors because they may encounter fox, coyotes and rats while in the field.

Funeral services for the deputy will be 1 p.m. today at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Platteville.

Wisconsin State Journal

3-22-90

3-25-90

Slaying probe continues

By The Telegraph Herald

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — An investigation into the shooting death of a Grant County sheriff's deputy continues today as the rural Livingston man charged with the shooting awaits a Wednesday preliminary hearing.

Gregory A. Coulthard, 18, a Livingston farmhand, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the March 18 shooting death of Deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston on New California Road two miles south of Livingston.

Grant County Chief Deputy Lloyd Runde would not comment Saturday on published reports that on the night of the shooting Reuter may have fired his .357-caliber Magnum revolver three to five times, and that three slugs from the deputy's gun were found in the tractor that officials said Coulthard was driving when stopped by Reuter.

"His (Reuter's) gun was confiscated and taken to the (Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation) crime lab," Runde said, noting that Coulthard's shotgun also was recovered and sent to the lab.

The criminal complaint states that Reuter died of a single shotgun blast to the heart and lung, fired at a downward angle. The projectile was a rifled slug, commonly used for deer hunting, said Grant County Coroner Donovan Nelson.

When asked about the department's shooting policy, Runde said a deputy would only fire at a vehicle if the person driving was a fleeing felon or if the deputy believed his own life was in danger. He said warning shots are not permitted by department policy.

Telegraph Herald
3-25-90

9 shots fired at murder suspect

By TERRY BURT

Tribune regional reporter

LANCASTER, Wis. — Two deputies testified today that a total of nine shots were fired at a man accused of killing a Grant County sheriff's deputy.

In a preliminary hearing for Gregory Coulthard, 18, a rural Livingston farmhand, deputies said the left rear tire of the man's tractor was flat, possibly caused by a bullet, and the door and windows of the tractor cab had damage possibly caused by shots from Deputy Thomas Reuter's .357 magnum revolver.

Coulthard is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Reuter, 38, of Livingston, who was shot and killed Sunday night, March 18.

Reuter, 38, a husband and father of five, died as the result of a single slug from a 12-gauge shotgun that entered the left chest area at a downward angle, "striking the heart and lung," according to excerpts from an autopsy report contained in the complaint.

The deputy reportedly stopped to assist Coulthard on New California Road south of Livingston.

Coulthard is being held without bail in the Richland County Jail in Richland Center.

He was apprehended while hiding in a haybarn at 4:05 a.m. March 19, about 4½ hours after the shooting.

He was tracked to the barn by dogs brought in from Spring Green and the Dane County Sheriff's Department.

Deputy Robert Bloyer, who found Reuter's body in a ditch beside the road moments after the shooting, and Sgt. Charles Fralick, who arrived at the scene after Bloyer, testified this morning.

Fralick said one of six bullets in Reuter's gun remained in the chamber.

He said glass was found inside the cab and on the road near the tractor.

Bloyer testified he fired four times at Coulthard while chasing him on foot.

Coulthard had left the scene of the shooting but returned with his roommate, Dale Soderstrom, who told Bloyer "I've got your suspect right here," according to the complaint.

La Crosse Tribune
3-28-90

Testimony: Slain deputy fired 5 shots

By Lyn Hanson
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter apparently fired five shots from his police-issue weapon shortly before his death March 18.

In testimony at today's preliminary hearing for Gregory Coulthard, 18, who is charged with killing Reuter, Grant County deputy Charles Fralick testified that he examined Reuter's .357 Magnum revolver and found five spent cartridges and one unspent bullet.

Another Grant County deputy, Robert Bloyer, testified he fired his gun at Coulthard four times in an attempt to stop him from fleeing the scene on foot. Coulthard sustained no bullet wounds.

Reuter, 38, was killed with a single shotgun blast to the chest.

Coulthard, a rural Livingston farmhand, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

The preliminary hearing is being held to determine if there is enough evidence to put Coulthard on trial.

Fralick said there was one hole, apparently caused by a bullet, in a window of a tractor parked on New California Road near the scene of Reuter's death, and another in the tractor's windshield.

A tractor tire was also flattened, he said, and a dent in the tractor could have been caused by a bullet. There was also glass inside the tractor's cab, he said.

Fralick was not asked if Reuter might have fired the shots before or after sustaining his bullet wound.

A hard plastic gun case, used for a long weapon, was found in the tractor's cab, Fralick said.

Coulthard's roommate, Dale Soderstrom, testified that Coulthard woke him up at about 11:45 p.m. March 18 and said, "I just shot a cop."

Coulthard asked Soderstrom for the keys to Soderstrom's car or a farm truck, saying he wanted to escape to California, Soderstrom testified.

"He said he wasn't going to jail," Soderstrom said.

Soderstrom said he did not believe Coulthard had shot a police officer until he drove to the scene in his car with Coulthard.

He also refused to give Coulthard his keys, he said. At one point, he said, Coulthard took the keys from the car's ignition, but later gave them back.

Bloyer, the first officer to arrive at the scene, said he went to New California Road from Montfort after Reuter failed to respond to radio signals or his car horn.

He said he found Reuter lying face down in a ditch, and felt his neck to see if there was a pulse.

At about that time, Soderstrom drove to the scene with Coulthard, he said. Soderstrom identified himself at Bloyer's request, then said, "I've got your suspect right here," according to Bloyer.

Testimony was expected to continue this afternoon.

Telegraph Herald
3-28-90

NEWS RELEASE

GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
LANCASTER, WISCONSIN

NAME OF
VICTIM NOT TO BE
RELEASED UNTIL LATER

Title of Release or Incident: FATAL SHOOTING OF Deputy Sheriff

Location of Incident: CLIFTON TOWNSHIP - 2 miles South
OF LIVINGSTON ON NEW CALIFORNIA ROAD

Date of Incident: 3-18-90 Time: ABOUT 11:30 A.M. (P.M.)

Subjects Involved: Age Address

1. Deputy Thomas Reuter, 38 LIVINGSTON, WI

2. _____

3. _____

4. GREGORY COULTHARD 1015 HWY 80

5. LIVINGSTON, WI Age 18

6. _____

Owners: Property: Address

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Victims: Age Address Condition

1. Deputy Sheriff Reuter, 38, LIVINGSTON, WI

2. _____

3. *OFFICERS FROM NUMEROUS LAW ENFORCEMENT

4. AGENCIES IN SOUTHWEST, WAS RESPONDED IN THE

5. SEARCH AND MAINTAINING ROAD BLOCKS.

6. _____

Details of Incident if Authorized for Release: Deputy Thomas Reuter
while on routine TRAFFIC PATROL APPARENTLY
STOPPED MR. COULTHARD OPERATING A FARM
TRACTOR. Deputy Reuter WAS FOUND BY ANOTHER
Deputy Sheriff APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES
LATER. Deputy Reuter WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT
THE SCENE BY CORONER DONAVAN NELSON FROM

Arrested: Age Address Charge

A GUNSHOT. MR COULTHARD WAS ARRESTED APPROX.

5 miles FROM THE SCENE AT 4:05 AM. 3-19-90

THE ^{SPRING GREEN} DANE COUNTY K9 UNITS ARE CREDITED WITH

APPREHENDING COULTHARD IN A BARN.

News Released - Date - Time WDBQ _____ KDTH _____ WPRE _____ WDMP _____

Telegraph Herald: _____ ch. 2288 WRCO _____

Platteville Radio (WTOQ) _____ UP188 State Journal: _____ WGLR _____

Investigating Officers: GRANT CO. SHERIFF + STATE OF WIS.

Officer Authorizing News Release: L. Runkel, Chief Deputy, CRIMINAL INV.

Number: _____

WST 3-20

Killing baffles Grant County

Man, 18, held in deputy's death;
murder charges to be filed today

By Richard W. Jaeger

Regional reporter

LIVINGSTON — Tom Reuter was three miles from home and a few minutes from going off duty as a Grant County sheriff's deputy when he was shot to death shortly before midnight Sunday.

Reuter, 38, a father of five, reportedly stopped to assist a tractor that had broken down on New California Road, a 1½ miles south of Livingston, the small Grant County village he called home.

Stopping for a tractor wouldn't be unusual for Reuter. Five years ago, before he put on a badge and gun to become a lawman, he was a farmer. He often worked with farmers and knew their plight well.

What is unusual is why Gregory Coulthard, 18, the young man accused of opening fire on Reuter, would do that.

What was he doing on the roadway with a tractor at 11:25 p.m. in the middle of a snowstorm? What would he be doing with a 12-gauge shotgun on his tractor? Was it his tractor? Why would he shoot a police officer, if he did?

Local law officers and investigators from the state Division of Criminal Justice and state Crime Laboratory sifted through evidence Monday looking

Please turn to Page 2A, Col. 1



Tom Reuter was remembered Monday as a hard-working hometown boy. Story/1B.

Wisconsin State Journal
3-20-91