

# Coulthard to stand trial for homicide

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

and Don Schultz

Telegraph Herald correspondent

LANCASTER, Wis. — Rural Livingston farmhand Gregory Coulthard was ordered Wednesday to stand trial on first-degree intentional homicide for the March 18 shooting death of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter.

Judge John Wagner also denied a defense motion to set bail for Coulthard, 18, who remains in the Richland County Jail, Richland Center. He will be arraigned at 1 p.m. April 6 in Grant County Circuit Court.

The decision came after a 2½-hour preliminary hearing in Grant County Circuit Court.

A forensic pathologist testified during the hearing that Reuter, 38, may not have died immediately after sustaining a shotgun wound in his chest.

But Dr. Robert Huntington III, forensic pathologist at University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, declined to speculate on whether Reuter could have crawled — or fired his gun — after he was shot.

Defense attorney Seth Stoltz called no witnesses, and Coulthard did not testify.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix called several sheriff's deputies, as well as Huntington, Grant County coroner Donovan Nelson and Coulthard's roommate, Dale Soderstrom.

Sheriff's deputy Charles Fralick testified that he examined Reuter's gun and found five spent cartridges and one unused bullet.

Reuter's .357 Magnum revolver was found near his body, which was lying face down in a ditch at New California Road south of Livingston, Fralick said.

However, Fralick was not asked about when the gun might have been fired, or whether any tests were performed to determine whether Reuter was the person who discharged the weapon.

Huntington said he performed an autopsy on Reuter's body March 19 at the University Hospitals pathology department, and determined that Reuter died of a wound from a 12-gauge shotgun.

The bullet, he said, entered Reuter's body in the chest area, traveled through his body in a downward motion and exited at his back near the beltline.

The autopsy also showed fresh abrasions on Reuter's knuckles and knees, which Huntington said could have been caused by movement after he was shot.

However, he refused to speculate on how long Reuter might have lived after he was shot, or on what actions he could have taken before he died. Such information, he said, cannot be conclusively



Coulthard



Reuter

# Coulthard

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determined from the autopsy.

"What he did do (before he died), I don't know," he said. "What he could do, I don't know."

Soderstrom, the first witness to testify, said Coulthard woke him about 11:45 p.m. March 18 and said, "I shot a cop." Coulthard asked for keys to a vehicle so he could escape to California, Soderstrom testified.

He said he smelled alcohol on Coulthard's breath, and did not believe his story until he drove a short distance to the scene with Coulthard and saw Reuter's body.

Coulthard had packed a duffel bag and put it in the back of the car, Soderstrom said.

Under cross examination by Stoltz, Soderstrom said Coulthard told him nothing about the circumstances of the shooting, nor

why he shot a police officer.

Soderstrom said he refused to help Coulthard escape. When they left the house, he said, he had intended to take him to the Platteville home of a friend of Coulthard's, because he did not want to be involved.

When Soderstrom drove near the scene with Coulthard, sheriff's deputy Robert Bloyer asked him to identify himself, Bloyer testified. When Soderstrom replied, "I have your suspect right here," he said, Coulthard fled on foot.

Bloyer said he fired his gun four times at Coulthard in an attempt to stop him, but no bullets struck him. Coulthard was found four hours later by a police dog in a pole shed five miles away.

Wagner said he continued to deny Coulthard bail because of Soderstrom's testimony that he planned to escape to California after the shooting, and because of concern that Coulthard might attempt to intimidate witnesses.

Telegraph Herald

3-29-90

# Slain deputy fired five shots

**By Richard W. Jaeger**  
Regional reporter

LANCASTER — Grant County sheriff's deputy Tom Reuter fired his revolver five times at a tractor he had stopped before he died in a roadside ditch from a gunshot wound to the chest, testimony during a preliminary hearing disclosed Wednesday.

The question is: Did Reuter fire the shots before or after he was struck in the heart by a 12-gauge shotgun slug.

State pathologist Robert Huntington testified it was possible the deputy did not die immediately. But, Huntington said he could not say with scientific certainty how long the officer would have lived or "what he could do" after being shot.

Huntington did say there were scrapes on Reuter's knees, knuckles and hip, indicating he "attempted to move himself."

Tractor driver Gregory Coulthard, 18, of rural Livingston, is charged with firing the fatal shot on March 18. He was ordered Wednesday to stand trial on murder charges in the deputy's death.

Coulthard is scheduled to appear in court April 6 to enter a plea to a charge of first-degree murder. He remained jailed in Richland County without bail.

Further testimony during the nearly three-hour hearing showed that at least four of Reuter's shots hit the tractor. One shot hit a tire, flattening it and leaving the tractor disabled along New California Road south of Livingston.

Sheriff's Sgt. Charles Fralick testified he checked Reuter's .357-caliber Magnum service revolver and found it had been fired five times, with one unspent bullet remaining.

Fralick said he saw one bullet hole through the cab window, one through the windshield, one through the tire and an apparent bullet "ding" in the cab's door.

Grant County sheriff's Deputy Robert Bloyer testified that when he arrived at the scene he saw Reuter's body in a ditch across the road from the tractor and the dead officer's squad car.

Bloyer said he was checking Reuter's pulse when a car pulled up and the driver jumped out, saying, "I have your suspect here."

At that point, a second person

left the car and ran in the opposite direction, the deputy said.

Bloyer said he chased the person and, about 100 yards down the road, stopped, pulled his own revolver and shouted at the fleeing person to halt. He said he fired four shots. When it was apparent he had missed, he returned to the scene.

The driver of the car, Dale Soderstrom, identified the fleeing man as Coulthard, Bloyer said.

Soderstrom, a farmhand on the Lynden Grove Farm where Coulthard worked, testified that he drove Coulthard to the shooting scene.

Soderstrom said Coulthard had wanted the keys to his car or to a farm truck, saying he was going to go to California. "I refused to



**Gregory Coulthard**

give them to him and said I would help. . . . I planned to take him to a friend of his in Platteville," he added.

Soderstrom was asked if Coulthard ever said why he shot the officer. "No," the farmhand responded.

The question of motive remains a mystery.

Wisconsin State Journal

3-29-90



# Slain deputy didn't die instantly

## Pathologist says 'he survived for awhile

By **TERRY BURT**  
Tribune regional reporter

LANCASTER, Wis. — Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter did not die immediately despite a massive chest wound from a 12-gauge shotgun, a State Crime Lab pathologist testified Wednesday.

Dr. Robert Huntington III said Reuter's March 18 death was the result of the gunshot, but there is evidence the deputy "survived for some period of time after being

wounded."

Huntington's testimony keeps alive the possibility that Reuter may have fired shots after being struck by the shotgun blast, although no direct testimony was given by Gregory Coulthard, the man accused of the shooting and the only one still alive who knows the sequence of events.

A total of 18 shots were fired,

nine from police handguns and the one fatal shotgun blast, according to other testimony at Coulthard's preliminary hearing.

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

Grant County Circuit Judge John Wagner found probable

cause to believe Coulthard was responsible for the deputy's death and scheduled another court appearance for 1 p.m. Friday, April 6. At that time Coulthard, a 1989 graduate of Cuba City High School, will enter a plea. He is being held without bail in the Richland County Jail.

Under questioning by defense lawyer Seth Stoltz, Huntington

said you can't predict "how long an individual can last," after sustaining an apparently lethal gunshot wound. "They'll fool you both ways," he said.

Huntington said fresh abrasions on Reuter's knees and knuckles indicated, "he survived for awhile." The veteran pathologist would not speculate on what Reuter may have, or could have,

done under the circumstances.

Huntington said he has completed a rough draft of his autopsy report. When pressed for a time frame for submission of the final report, Huntington told Stoltz, "It depends on how much mayhem the state of Wisconsin sends me to study ... I'm way behind."

In addition to Huntington, three sheriff's deputies, Grant County Coroner Donovan Nelson and Coulthard's roommate, Dale So-

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# ■ Suspect was drinking, roommate testifies

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derstrom, testified to events surrounding the shooting about 11:30 p.m. that cold Sunday night.

Reuter, who was on patrol at the time, radioed that he was "away from his car with a tractor," on New California Road in the town of Clifton, near Livingston.

Deputy Robert Bloyer, the first officer on the scene after the shooting, testified he found Reuter's apparently lifeless body and a few minutes later fired four shots at Coulthard after the 18-year-old jumped out of Soderstrom's car and ran away.

Bloyer said the suspect was about 50 yards away when he started firing. Light snow was falling at the time, he said.

Soderstrom testified that Coulthard awakened him about 11:45 p.m. and said he had "shot a

cop," but didn't say why. Soderstrom said he didn't believe his roommate because Coulthard had been drinking.

However, Coulthard was carrying a shotgun at the time and, after repeating that he had shot a police officer, Soderstrom decided to drive the short distance to New California Road to see what had really happened.

He said Coulthard put the shotgun in a closet and asked for the keys to Soderstrom's car, or the keys to a truck that belonged to the owner of the farm on which they worked. Soderstrom refused the demands. He said Coulthard was "shaking ... scared."

Coulthard was obviously intoxicated, said Soderstrom, who testified that he doesn't drink alcohol. Coulthard "wanted to go to California," Soderstrom said. "He said he wasn't going to jail."

Soderstrom and Coulthard drove past the parked farm tractor and Reuter's squad car, and on down the road about two miles when suddenly, "Greg shut the car off ... reached over and turned off the key." Soderstrom said he had considered taking Coulthard to Platteville to a friend's house.

Coulthard's Platteville friend, reasoned Soderstrom, "is nothing but trouble. They're a good pair, let him take him."

Soderstrom said he didn't want to be a part of "this mess."

After regaining his keys and driving back to the site of the tractor and squad car, Soderstrom stopped and told Bloyer that Coulthard had shot Reuter.

At that point, he said, Coulthard jumped out of the car and started running. Soderstrom said he thinks the deputy may have shot

six times, but Bloyer testified he fired four shots after ordering the fleeing man to halt.

Bloyer and another Grant County sheriff's deputy, Sgt. Charles Fralick, testified to the gunshot damage to the tractor.

Fralick, who arrived at the shooting scene at 12:26 a.m., said there was a hole in the side door window of the cab of the Allis-Chalmers tractor and a hole in the front windshield, as well as a flat tire, the probable result of bullet strikes. He said there was also a "dimple" on the tractor's door, possibly from a bullet.

Fralick said his inspection determined that five of the six bullets in Reuter's .357-caliber Magnum Smith & Wesson stainless steel revolver had been fired.

Reuter's pistol was found underneath his body.

Grant County Sgt. Robert

Floerke testified to his part in the capture of Coulthard, about 4:05 a.m. in a haybarn about five miles from the shooting scene. The deputy said he felt the barn was "the most logical" hiding place because of the direction of Coulthard's footprints and the fact that he had searched several other buildings without success.

He took up a position that gave him a view of the exits from the barn and in about 15 minutes a police dog and handler arrived.

Floerke said there was no response from the barn when the dog's handler, Dane County Deputy Sheriff Ron Mainguth, ordered whoever was hiding to come out.

The dog made a search of its own, "wanted to get in there ... went after whatever happened to be there, and it was Greg Coulthard," Floerke said.

The dog, he said, pulled Coulthard from his hiding place in a stack of hay bales. "He (Coulthard) was saying he was 'giving up,'" the deputy testified.

Floerke said the dog inflicted injuries to Coulthard's right arm and there was some blood.

During the ride to the law enforcement center in Lancaster, Floerke indicated Coulthard was in some pain from the dog bites and said news of what had happened "is going to kill my dad."

The deputy testified he could smell alcohol on Coulthard, but that he didn't appear intoxicated.

Courtroom spectators included at least a dozen law enforcement officers, Reuter's widow, Diane, and the couple's three oldest sons.

"They're hanging in there, but it's been hard," The Rev. Harold Zimmick, a personal friend of the Reuter family, said afterwards.

# A parent's worst nightmare

## Murder suspect's family left confused, reeling

By **TERRY BURT**  
Tribune regional reporter

CUBA CITY, Wis. — On April 24, Greg Coulthard will turn 19. In jail.

It had been a day his mother was looking forward to. For months now Gayle Coulthard has been knitting a four-color afghan, including the black and gold colors of Cuba City High.

She wanted to present it to her oldest son and start a family tradition — something she'd do for all the kids on their 19th birthdays.

But it won't happen now. Greg is

charged with killing a Grant County sheriff's deputy.

"I know I'm not going to be able to give it to him ... every Sunday I sat and worked on it ... I wanted it to be something just from me."

Tears flow down a mother's face. Her husband, Harland, gives her a hug and tries without success to make the hurt go away.

They are living a parent's worst nightmare: Having a son who has committed a crime that could lead to life in prison. They love a son who somehow went wrong.

Greg Coulthard, 18, a Livingston, Wis., farmhand is charged with first-degree murder in the shotgun shooting of deputy Tom Reuter.

Coulthard is being held several miles away without bail in the Richland County Jail "in the best interests of everybody," as one Grant County deputy expressed it.

Visiting a son in jail isn't remotely like visiting him anywhere else.

"I wanted so bad to hug him ... to hold him and let him know how much I

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Gregory A. Coulthard is facing a first-degree murder charge.

## Family left wondering

Continued from front page

love him," said a tearful Gayle Coulthard in an exclusive interview Thursday night — just hours after Reuter was buried near Livingston, about 25 miles north of here.

"He's one scared boy," said his father.

The parents talked of the son they want to remember: "A farmboy at heart," who reads Louis L'Amour western novels and runs errands for his ailing grandmother. They say he loves to work and help out so as not to be a financial burden on the family.

Coulthard was charged Tuesday afternoon in Grant County Circuit Court in Lancaster. It was a media event. A circus. TV cameras and reporters thronged the picturesque three-story courthouse to give the public a first-hand view of the man accused of the first police officer slaying ever in this normally quiet community where placid milk cows seem-

### GREGORY A. COULTHARD

- **BORN:** April 24, 1971.
- **SCHOOL:** Attended St. Rose Catholic Church, Cuba City; graduated from Cuba City High School in 1989.
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Farmhand, Lynden Grove Farm, rural Livingston.
- **PRIOR CONVICTIONS:** Theft, criminal damage to property, drunken driving; two years probation, ordered to pay nearly \$3,000 in restitution; driver's license suspended.

Coulthard was not hit by any bullets.

About four hours later he was captured five miles away in a haybarn where he was tracked by police dogs.

Sheriff's department spokesmen will neither confirm nor deny that any shots were fired by Reuter or Bloyer.

Ahnen won't even say what type handgun Reuter was carry-

ing. A 12-gauge shotgun that entered the left chest area at a downward angle, "striking the heart and lung."

One western Wisconsin physician said he'd have to actually see Reuter's heart before he could tell for sure if death came instantaneously.

If the shotgun slug pierced the

According to the complaint, Soderstrom said Coulthard rushed into the house after the shooting and announced that he had "shot a cop." Soderstrom said Coulthard had been drinking.

Soderstrom could not be reached for comment, and a co-owner of the farm would only say, "we don't want to do anything to jeopardize the case ... perhaps after the trial is over we'll make a statement."

The farm on which Coulthard worked for the past couple of months is a dairy operation owned by Keith and Ralph Bourret of Livingston.

The Wisconsin State Journal reported Thursday that area farmers say it's common for them to carry shotguns in their tractors "because they may encounter fox, coyotes and rats while in the field."

### Families torn apart

Who fired the first shot — or maybe the only shot — is a point of great interest to the media and the court. But the sad fact remains, two families are torn apart.

Deputy Tom Reuter forever will be away from his large and lov-



...and help out so as not to be a financial burden on the family.

Coulthard was charged Tuesday afternoon in Grant County Circuit Court in Lancaster. It was a media event. A circus. TV cameras and reporters thronged the picturesque three-story courthouse to give the public a first-hand view of the man accused of the first police officer slaying ever in this normally quiet community where placid milk cows seemingly outnumber people.

### Why did it happen?

There's little doubt in Harland and Gayle Coulthard's minds that their son shot Reuter, but the whole scenario is still incomprehensible.

Why did it happen? Something happened that they don't know about, they say.

No one in authority has answered that question publicly. Maybe only Greg Coulthard knows. Maybe he doesn't even know.

"All we know is what we read in the paper or see on TV," Harland Coulthard said.

However, Harland Coulthard said he was told by Lt. Perry Ahnen of the Grant County Sheriff's Department that seven shots were fired by police — five by Reuter and two by deputy Robert Bloyer.

Police say Coulthard was driving a farm tractor about 11:30 p.m. Sunday when the vehicle was stopped by Reuter.

Bloyer found his comrade's dead body moments later and tried but failed to apprehend Coulthard, who had returned to the scene, was ordered to halt, then ran away across the snow-covered fields.

Coulthard was not hit by any bullets.

About four hours later he was captured five miles away in a haybarn where he was tracked by police dogs.

Sheriff's department spokesmen will neither confirm nor deny that any shots were fired by Reuter or Bloyer.

Ahnen won't even say what type handgun Reuter was carrying that night, much less whether any shots were fired by his fellow officers.

"We're not answering anything that's not on the news release," he said Friday afternoon. There was no news release Friday afternoon.

"We're under strict orders by the DA," Ahnen said, "not to divulge information ..."

He indicated that unauthorized pre-trial information could lead to a request for a change of location of the trial.

Routinely, in cases covered extensively by the media, a judge will be asked to have the trial changed to another jurisdiction in order to find unbiased jurors. In some cases, a jury panel from outside the local jurisdiction is brought in to hear the case.

Grant County Sheriff Herbert Hottenstein reportedly said further information on the shooting probably would come out Wednesday at Coulthard's preliminary hearing.

### How did it happen?

According to an excerpt of a coroner's report contained in the criminal complaint, Reuter was killed by a single slug from a 12-

gauge shotgun that entered the left chest area at a downward angle, "striking the heart and lung."

One western Wisconsin physician said he'd have to actually see Reuter's heart before he could tell for sure if death came instantaneously.

If the shotgun slug pierced the heart, "there's no way he'd get five shots off," said the doctor, who asked that his name not be used. However, if the slug only grazed the heart it would be possible for the deputy to have fired his gun after being struck by the shotgun blast.

"I'm more apt to think he couldn't get any shots off," the physician said. A shot that pierces the heart, he said, "is pretty close to instant death." Under those circumstances, he said, someone holding a gun might get off one shot, "maybe two at the most."

The criminal complaint notes that Bloyer found one "green-colored fired shotgun shell near the tractor," and an empty plastic-sided weapon case in the cab of the tractor.

The complaint also states that after the shooting Coulthard went to the farmhouse where he lived with at least one other hired hand, Dale Soderstrom, "and ejected some shells onto the kitchen floor and placed the shotgun into a closet in the kitchen."

This information was based on Soderstrom's statement to investigators.

ers say it's common for them to carry shotguns in their tractors "because they may encounter fox, coyotes and rats while in the field."

### Families torn apart

Who fired the first shot — or maybe the only shot — is a point of great interest to the media and the court. But the sad fact remains, two families are torn apart.

Deputy Tom Reuter forever will be away from his large and loving family, including parents, a wife and five children. If Coulthard is convicted of murder, he'll go to prison for a very long time and leave behind a large and loving family, including parents, grandparents and a brother and sister.

"Our heart goes out to that family (the Reuters)," said Harland Coulthard. "We don't know them."

The nucleus of the Coulthard family lives about 25 miles south of Livingston where the Reuters live, where Coulthard worked and where the shooting occurred.

Reuter taught hunter safety and loved firearms, according to

those who eulogized him at his funeral Thursday.

Coulthard frequently went hunting with his father and brother and sister.

"If ever there was a conscientious person about guns, it's Greg. It did happen, but this is not my son," Harland said. "Whether his mind snapped ... evidently he had been drinking."

La Crosse Tribune (Continued →)



Gayle said she doesn't know how much her son had been drinking that night, but he spent several hours that afternoon in the family home reading. In the early evening, his sister Candi, 17, drove him to the farm where he showed her a newborn calf. "He really likes farming," the father said.

Coulthard can't legally drive. His license was suspended in January for drunken driving.

As a juvenile, the parents say, Coulthard's only official contact with police was a speeding ticket shortly after he got his driver's license.

But Cuba City police won't comment on that.

Coulthard's parents said he was on the high school honor roll his senior year after getting relatively low marks through much of high school. He graduated in 1989.

High School Principal John Doyle won't confirm anything. "No comment," he said.

### **Neighbors help out**

"No comment," he said.

## Neighbors help out

Cuba City officials, neither city nor school, aren't saying much. And they don't say why.

But some neighbors are more neighborly than others.

"What a shame," said Norm Richardson, proprietor of a Main Street barbershop. "They're one of the nicest families you ever seen ... His grandfather and great-grandfather were farmers around here for 100 years or more."

Coulthard's parents couldn't drive him back to the farm after his Sunday visit, because they were "on call," as members of the local rescue squad.

They're community-minded people and Harland says the family was always taught to help others.

The Coulthards are long-time residents of the Cuba City area.

The food, flowers and balloons that were in evidence in the Clouthards dining room Thursday night were both a tribute to Gayle's 42nd birthday that day, and the fact that friends and neighbors were rallying to the aid of a Cuba City family that was hurting.

"Cuba City is a sweetheart of a town," said Harland.

"They're so supportive, it's unbelievable," said Gayle.

The Coulthards' youngest son, Pat, 15, a freshman at Cuba City High School, said most of the kids have been nice to him since the news of his brother's arrest, "but a few have been jerks."

"Kids can be real mean," said a friend of Pat's who was visiting Thursday.

Candi, a high school junior, was two years behind Coulthard in school. "He was liked by all the kids," she said, "but he's not an athlete."

Being an athlete is usually a big deal in a small high school.

"Greg was no outcast," his father said. "He wasn't a troublemaker."

# Coulthard trial to begin here Friday a.m.

## Intent is question; plea changed again

by Herald Independent staff

Gregory Coulthard, the Cuba City man accused of shooting a Grant County sheriff's deputy March 18, changed his plea for the second time on his first-degree intentional homicide charge last Tuesday.

Coulthard, 18, originally had pleaded not guilty to the charge, then changed his plea to not guilty by mental disease or defect in May.

In Grant County Circuit Court last Tuesday, Coulthard changed his plea back to not guilty.

Coulthard is accused of having shot to death Grant County Deputy Sheriff Tom Reuter on New California Road in Clifton March 18.

Jurors were to have been selected in Waukesha Wednesday. The jurors will be driven to the scene of the shooting this afternoon, then will be sequestered in Platteville for the length of the trial. Opening arguments before Iowa County Circuit Judge James Fiedler are scheduled for Friday morning.

Coulthard is expected to testify that he did shoot Reuter, but that the shooting was reckless, not intentional. He is being defended by public defenders Seth Stoltz of Lancaster and Dale Pasell of La Crosse.

The prosecution team of Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix and Assistant District Attorney Anthony Pozorski is expected to try to prove that Coulthard shot Reuter because he feared going back to jail.

Jurors will not hear evidence of Coulthard's previous criminal record or the fact he is on probation. However, they will be able to hear testimony from Coulthard's probation officer, Ed Ross, on statements Coulthard allegedly made at the scene or on the way to the Grant County Law Enforcement Center.

# Attorneys: Coulthard will confess

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard will admit shooting a Grant County sheriff's deputy to death when his trial begins next week, his attorneys said Tuesday.

However, the defense will try to show the shooting was an unintentional, reckless act, attorneys said in a motions hearing Tuesday.

The prosecution will contend Coulthard shot Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter because he feared returning to jail.

Coulthard's intent will be the key issue in his first-degree intentional homicide trial, the prosecution and defense said Tuesday.

Jury selection in the trial of Coulthard, 19, of Livingston is to start July 11 in Waukesha. A jury composed of Waukesha County residents will then hear the case in Lancaster, where opening arguments are scheduled for July 12.

Coulthard is accused of the March 18 killing of sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston after Reuter encountered Coulthard driving a tractor on New California Road two miles south of Livingston.

Assistant State Public Defender Dale Pasell of La Crosse said Coulthard will admit that he shot Reuter.

The defense will also concede that Coulthard shot Reuter before the deputy fired five rounds from his .357 magnum police-issue weapon, he said.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix said the prosecution contends Coulthard shot Reuter because he was afraid he was going back to jail.

"The state intends to show that he did not wish to go to jail, and was faced with that prospect when the officer came on the scene," Everix said.

Wearing a light blue shirt and blue jeans, Coulthard made his final court appearance prior to trial Tuesday.

After consulting with his client in the courtroom, Public Defender Seth Stoltz said Coulthard continues to plead innocent to the charges, but he intends to dismiss his plea of innocent by reason of mental disease or defect.

At the defense's request, Judge James Fiedler ruled out testimony on Coulthard's prior arrests and convictions.

"To cloud this incident with incidents of drunk driving and vandalism is prejudicial," Fiedler said.

However, Fiedler said he will allow testimony that Coulthard disliked jail, and that he had suggested he might commit suicide if he were incarcerated again.

■ Jurors to visit crime scene

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Herald Independent  
7-12-90

# Accused killer to get new judge

By Richard W. Jaeger  
Regional reporter

LANCASTER — Gregory Coulthard, the young man charged with killing a Grant County sheriff's deputy, will get a new judge and has asked to have his murder trial moved out of Grant County.

Coulthard, 18, of rural Livingston, stood mute Friday during a brief hearing while Grant County Circuit Judge John Wagner entered an innocent plea for him on charges of first-degree murder in the March 18 death of deputy Tom Reuter, 38, of Livingston, the father of five.

No trial date has been set. Coulthard remains in the Richland County Jail without bail.

The young farmhand's attorney, Seth Stoltz, an assistant state public defender, asked that a new judge be named to replace Wagner. The replacement will be named by Iowa County Circuit Judge James Fiedler, chief judge of the 7th District that includes Grant County. The new judge will more than likely be from outside of Grant County.

Stoltz, citing publicity about the deputy's shooting and the fact Reuter was well-known and liked in Grant County, has asked that Coulthard's trial be moved to another venue.

"We expect to file additional motions at a later date, after a new judge is appointed," the veteran defense attorney said.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix, along with filing murder charges against Coulthard, added the element of use of a firearm to the charge, which could result in an additional five years imprisonment.

Coulthard is accused of killing Reuter with a 12-gauge shotgun when the deputy stopped his tractor on New California Road near the farm where he worked south of Livingston. Reuter died from a single shotgun slug shot to the chest that pierced his heart.

According to a search warrant on file in Grant County, investigators retrieved a 12-gauge shotgun from the farm home owned by Ralph Bourret, where Coulthard

lived.

The search warrant also reveals that authorities took the young man's black duffel bag into custody. It contained a change of clothing along with a Pink Floyd movie video.

The court documents shed little new light on any motive for the killing.

Reports indicate Coulthard's blood alcohol concentration was 0.06 about six hours after the shooting and two hours after Coulthard was captured hiding in a haystack about five miles from the murder scene. Coulthard's blood also reportedly showed traces of marijuana.

State Journal

4-7-90



# Waukesha jury pool mostly suburb residents

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Who are the people who will decide Gregory Coulthard's fate?

The Waukesha County jury pool includes mainly suburban people who will try to determine if Coulthard, a farmhand, is guilty of murdering a sheriff's deputy on a country road in Grant County.

Sue Van Able, Waukesha County deputy clerk, said the 100 people in the jury pool include many who work in and around Milwaukee, 20 miles east of Waukesha.

Fourteen of them will be selected

Wednesday as the 12 jurors and two alternates who will hear the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Coulthard, 19, of rural Livingston.

Waukesha County prospective jurors are chosen at random from drivers' license and voter registration lists. Anyone age 18 or older is eligible to serve.

The prospective Coulthard jurors do not know what case they are being called for, nor that it will involve a 150-mile bus trip and hotel stay for the duration of the trial. They only know, Van Able said, that they're required to show up Wednesday at the courthouse for selection.

Van Able said she recalls that local news media have given scant coverage to the March 18 slaying of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter. Coulthard is accused of killing Reuter with a single shotgun blast after Reuter stopped to investigate a tractor on New California Road south of Livingston.

Among Waukesha County residents, Milwaukee's numerous gang-related murders have overshadowed the story of Reuter's death, she said.

That, of course, is why Coulthard's lawyers sought to move the trial outside of Grant County. Judge James Fiedler offered

a compromise commonly used in Wisconsin — pick the jury in another county and move them to Grant County for the trial.

Numerous occupations are represented on the jury list — a banker, a day care provider, an airline pilot, a Salvation Army minister, to name a few.

Many of the prospective jurors live in Milwaukee suburbs like Menomonee Falls, Brookfield, New Berlin and Muskego. Much of the eastern part of the county is considered suburban Milwaukee; the western part, including the city of Oconomowoc, is not.

Telegraph Herald  
7-8-90

# Jurors to visit Grant County

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Jurors will see where Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter was shot to death, Judge James Fiedler ruled Tuesday.

The visit to the scene at New California Road two miles south of Livingston will take place before opening arguments July 12 in the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Livingston, who is accused of killing Reuter.

The only purpose of the visit to the scene, Fiedler said, is to familiarize the Waukesha County jury with the area's topography.

However, Fiedler denied a prosecution request to have jurors view the scene at night and to recreate the scene with a tractor, squad car, flashlight and spent shotgun shell.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix said a night tour of the scene would give jurors a

more accurate sense of the area's condition on the night of March 18.

But Fiedler said a nighttime visit may make it difficult to ensure safety for the jurors.

Also, he said, any attempt to recreate the scene with exhibits would be unreliable and possibly prejudicial to Coulthard.

The criminal complaint accuses Coulthard of killing Reuter shortly before midnight March 18, with a single shotgun blast fired from a tractor Coulthard was driving.

Reuter's body was found lying face down in a ditch off New California Road, with his dropped flashlight and a spent cartridge near his body, according to the criminal complaint.

Fiedler also ruled that:

- The prosecution may not use Coulthard's conversations with a court-appointed psychiatrist to impeach him, except in relation to Coulthard's mental condition.

- Both the prosecution and defense may show exhibits to the jury during opening statements.

- All witnesses will be excluded from the courtroom before testimony, except investigators working for the prosecution and defense.



Coulthard

7-  
Telegraph  
Herald  
7-4-90

# Coulthard jurors face sequestering

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Fourteen Waukesha County residents will embark this week on a most-unusual bus trip.

Among the scheduled stops is a rural Grant County road, where sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter was shot to death March 18.



Coulthard

The travelers will be jurors, who will decide whether Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Livingston is guilty or innocent of the shooting death of Reuter.

Coulthard's first-degree intentional homicide trial will begin Wednesday with jury selection in the Waukesha County Courthouse at Waukesha near Milwaukee.

Twelve jurors and two alternates will be chosen from a panel of Waukesha County residents. Selection is expected to be completed Wednesday — or by Thursday

The issue, prosecutors and defense attorneys say, is Coulthard's intent. The prosecution will argue he shot Reuter because he feared going to jail. The defense will argue that the killing was a result of recklessness.

On Friday morning, the jurors will travel — by Platteville school bus — to the shooting scene on New California Road south of Livingston.

The criminal complaint, filed in Grant County Circuit Court, said Reuter radioed to the sheriff's department dispatcher about 11:45 p.m. on March 18 that he was stopping because of a tractor on the road. When he failed to respond to radio signals, another deputy went to the scene and found Reuter's body lying face down in a ditch.

Fiedler said during the motions hearing that the sole reason for the visit to the crime scene is to familiarize jurors with the area's topography, not to present either the defense's or prosecution's version of what might have occurred there. That's why no exhibits — including the tractor, Reuter's dropped flashlight or a squad car

## Jury pool makeup

— Page 3A

morning at the latest.

After that, said Grant County Circuit Clerk Diane Schroeder, the jurors will be sent home to pack a suitcase. They'll board a bus Thursday afternoon at the Waukesha County Courthouse for the trip to Platteville, where they'll stay at the Governor Dodge Best Western Inn.

Grant County Sheriff Herb Hottenstein said Judge James Fiedler chose the motel because it has a nearby restaurant and an indoor swimming pool — where the jurors may swim if no other motel guests are present.

But jury service in the Coulthard trial will be anything but a pleasure trip.

In a motions hearing Tuesday, Coulthard's attorneys said their client admits firing the single shotgun blast that killed Reuter, and doing so before Reuter shot five rounds from his .357 Magnum.

— will be taken to the scene.

Opening statements will be delivered in the courthouse at Lancaster after the visit to the scene.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix said Tuesday his witnesses will likely include friends of Coulthard, who will testify that Coulthard feared going to jail.

However, Fiedler has excluded testimony about Coulthard's past convictions for criminal damage to property and drunken driving, and about Coulthard being on probation at the time of Reuter's death.

Defense attorney Seth Stoltz indicated Coulthard will take the stand in his own defense and will testify, among other things, that he never encountered Reuter before the night of the shooting.

The jury, however, will hear none of this until it is brought out in court.

Schroeder said two Grant County bailiffs, a man and a woman, will be with the jury at all times, and will stand guard outside their motel rooms while they sleep.

When the jurors eat, swim or watch TV in a motel room set aside for that purpose,

Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A

# Coulthard

Continued from Page 1A

the deputies will always be with them, Schroeder said.

The television sets in the jurors' rooms will be disconnected, as will the phones. Jurors will be allowed to make phone calls only in the presence of the bailiffs — who will also turn off all TV news programs and clip stories about the trial from newspapers before giving them to jurors.

Schroeder said the jury was also sequestered, as required by state law, in Grant County's last murder trial in 1983, even though those jurors came from Grant County.

Boscobel dairy farmer William Wagner was acquitted Dec. 14, 1983, in the beating death of his

partner, Conrad Molldrem, 35. Wagner was accused of beating Molldrem to death with an iron bar, but the defense claimed the death was caused by a cow kicking Molldrem in the head.

Hottenstein isn't drawing comparisons between the two cases. As far as the sheriff's department is concerned, he said, the Coulthard trial is just another case, even though the victim was a sheriff's deputy.

Coulthard has been held without bond in the Richland County Jail, Richland Center, since his March 19 arrest. At \$50 a day, Coulthard's 112-day incarceration has cost Grant County \$5,600 so far.

Coulthard will be housed in the Grant County Jail at Lancaster during the trial to make it easier for him to meet with his lawyers, Hottenstein said.



## Deputy case to get Iowa Co. judge, Waukesha Co. jurors

LANCASTER (AP) — The jury in the trial of an 18-year-old farmhand charged with killing a Grant County sheriff's deputy will be selected in Waukesha County, officials said Wednesday.

Jury selection in Gregory Coulthard's trial will begin June 1 in Waukesha and the trial will start June 4 in Lancaster before Circuit Judge James Fiedler of Iowa County, Grant County clerk of court Diane Perkins said.

The trial is expected to last about two weeks, Perkins said.

Coulthard, of rural Livingston, is charged with first-degree murder in the March 18 shooting death of Deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, whose body was found alongside a rural road near Livingston.

According to the criminal complaint, Reuter was shot while on routine patrol about 11:30 p.m. after he left his squad car to assist a man on a tractor.

Coulthard is being held without bond in the Richland County Jail.

State Journal  
4-12-90



**GREGORY COULTHARD IS LED** out of the Grant County courthouse following his arraignment on a first degree murder charge. A "Not Guilty" plea was entered on Coulthard's behalf.

## Murder case jury to be picked in Waukesha Co.

Gregory Coulthard stood mute in response to a charge of first degree murder at his arraignment Friday afternoon in Grant County Circuit Court. Judge John Wagner directed the clerk to enter a "Not Guilty" plea on his behalf.

Coulthard, 18, rural Livingston, is charged with having shot and killed Grant County Deputy Sheriff Thomas Reuter at approximately 11:30 p.m. March 18 along New California Road about two miles southwest of Livingston after Reuter stopped to investigate a tractor Coulthard was allegedly driving.

Coulthard entered the courthouse in handcuffs, flanked by police officers, five minutes before his hearing. Officers also stood at each door of the third floor courtroom, filled to capacity. Reuter's widow, Diane was among those attending the proceeding.

Judge Wagner also reviewed

and approved a request for substitution of judge filed with the court Friday by Coulthard's attorney, State Public Defender Seth Stolz. In Wisconsin, one substitution of judge is granted upon timely request. No cause is needed. Stolz also filed a motion for a change of venue on the grounds that "media coverage has so permeated the people of Grant County that it would be impossible to select an impartial jury."

Iowa County Circuit Judge James P. Fiedler has since been appointed to the case by the district court administrator. According to the Grant County Clerk of Court's office, a jury will be selected in Waukesha County June 8. The trial is scheduled to begin June 11 in Lancaster.

Coulthard faces life imprisonment plus five years on the charge of first degree murder involving use of a deadly weapon.

# Coulthard jury selection begins

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Ninety-seven Waukesha County residents gathered today at the county courthouse and learned that 14 of them will soon have to pack a suitcase and board a bus to Grant County.

Jury selection began this morning in the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Living-

ston. Coulthard is accused of killing Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter with a single shotgun blast March 18.

Coulthard's jurors are being chosen from residents of Waukesha County because of pretrial publicity in Grant County.

The 12 jurors and two alternates will board a bus Thursday afternoon for the

**Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A**

150-mile trip west to Grant County, where they will hear the case in Lancaster and be sequestered in a Platteville motel.

Coulthard, wearing a white dress shirt and tie and grey dress pants — and a new short haircut, in contrast with the shoulder-length style he has worn in previous court appearances — sat silently with his attorneys as prospective jurors were questioned.

Also in the courtroom was Reuter's widow, Diane of Livingston.

Fifty of the 97 members of the jury pool were brought into the courtroom for initial questioning. The first 28 jurors to be questioned were chosen by drawing their names out of a revolving drum.

Judge James Fiedler told the prospective jurors that Coulthard admits firing the shot that killed Reuter, but that he claims he did not intend to do so. The jury has the option of finding Coulthard guilty of a lesser offense.

Fiedler acknowledged that a sequestered trial in a county 150 miles from home is an inconvenience, but said it is also an opportunity to perform public service.

"We hope you take this opportunity and don't seek to escape from jury service simply because of inconvenience," Fiedler said.

The trial will start Friday with the jury viewing the shooting scene on New California Road two miles south of Livingston. Opening statements will follow at the Grant County Courthouse.

Telegraph  
7-11-

# Coulthard jurors

## Grant County bound

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Seven women and seven men from Waukesha County will spend the rest of this week and most of next week hearing a recounting of a Grant County sheriff's deputy's March 18 shooting death.

Then they will decide whether Livingston farmhand Gregory Coulthard intended to kill deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston, or whether the shooting was a result of Coulthard's recklessness.

The 12 jurors and two alternates were chosen Wednesday for the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Coulthard, 19, of Livingston. Because of pre-trial publicity,

Judge James Fiedler granted a defense motion to choose the jury outside Grant County. The trial is to start Friday morning in the Grant County Courthouse at Lancaster.

It took about three hours for prosecutors and defense attorneys to select the jurors. Ninety-seven Waukesha County residents were summoned for jury duty, but only 50 were called into the courtroom for the proceedings, and only 36 of those were questioned.

Grant County Circuit Clerk Diane Perkins chose prospective jurors for questioning by randomly drawing their names — typed on cards and concealed in envelopes — from a revolving drum in open court.

The prospective jurors were queried about such things as whether they believe a defendant should testify in his or her own behalf, whether they are members of anti-gun or anti-drunken driving organizations, and whether they have bumper stickers on their cars.

Among those selected for the jury panel are a homemaker, a former military police officer, a social worker and a Marine Corps veteran who said he once worked as a bodyguard.

Prospective jurors who were not chosen included a pastor, a former police officer and a woman who said her grandfather lives in Cuba City, where Coulthard grew up and where his family now lives.

Fiedler sent the 12 jurors and two alternates home to pack a suitcase, and instructed them to return to the Waukesha County Courthouse this afternoon for a bus trip to Platteville, where they'll be sequestered in the Governor Dodge Motor Inn for the duration of Coulthard's trial.

Wisconsin law requires jury sequestering in a first-degree intentional homicide trial. Fiedler told the jurors the trial is expected to be completed by July 20.

Until then, he said, each juror will stay in Platteville, where two Grant County bailiffs will be posted when the jurors aren't in court. They will be transported to and

Jurors/Turn to Page 3A

### Jurors

Continued from Page 1A

from Lancaster by bus.

Everything jurors want to do — calling home, swimming at the motel or jogging in the morning — must be arranged by the bailiffs, Fiedler said.

Each juror will have his or her own motel room, and the television sets will remain in the rooms.

"I'm going to put you on your honor," he said. "If a local news report of the trial comes on, please turn off the set. We don't want you listening to an outsid-

er's report of what happened in the courtroom."

Jurors will also be given a Milwaukee newspaper. They may buy local newspapers in Grant County, Fiedler said, but may not read them until the trial is completed.

The jurors will hear testimony every day except Sunday — when a bus tour of the area has been arranged for them by the Grant County Sheriff's Department.

Friday's proceedings will begin with a view of the shooting scene on New California Road near Livingston, followed by opening statements at the courthouse.



# Jurors view

# shooting scene

## Trial begins for Coulthard

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — A rural Grant County hillside became a courtroom today as jurors viewed the scene of Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter's March 18 shooting death.

The first-degree intentional homicide trial of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Livingston opened this morning with a visit to New California Road south of Livingston, where Coulthard is accused of killing Reuter with a single shotgun blast.

Coulthard waived his right to accompany the jury, judge, prosecutors and defense attorneys to the scene, and he remained in the Grant County Jail at Lancaster.

The sunny, breezy morning bore little resemblance to the cold, snowy night when Reuter was killed.

None of the items at the scene the night of the shooting was brought to New California Road today.

However, painted lines on the blacktop road showed jurors the locations of Reuter's body, Reuter's squad car, the tractor Coulthard was accused of driving, the squad car of another Grant County deputy dispatched to the scene and a spent shotgun shell.

### ■ Photo at Livingston area site

— Page 3C

Before the jury arrived by school bus, Judge James Fiedler agreed with Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix and defense attorney Seth Stoltz what the jurors could be told about the scene.

In a pretrial motions hearing, Fiedler ruled that the view of the scene could not include presentation of evidence, only show jurors what the area's topography looks like.

Jurors were instructed not to make any comments at the scene.

The 14 Waukesha County jurors, select-

ed in Waukesha on Wednesday, are hearing opening arguments this morning. They are being sequestered in the Governor Dodge Motor Inn at Platteville for the duration of the trial, which is expected to extend into most of next week.

Coulthard's attorneys have said Coulthard will admit shooting Reuter, but they will attempt to prove to the jury that the shooting was an unintentional, reckless act.

The prosecution will contend that Coulthard shot Reuter because he feared returning to jail.

The jurors are to hear testimony every day except Sunday, when a bus tour of the area has been arranged for them by the Grant County Sheriff's Department.

Telegraph  
Herald  
7-13

# Grant County officers recall night Reuter died

**By Lyn Hanson**  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Diane Reuter dabbed her eyes Friday as a Grant County Sheriff's Department dispatcher played a recording in Grant County Circuit Court of the last known words of her husband, Deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston.

The recording of the police radio transmission — unintelligible in places because of static — indicated Reuter informed dispatcher Sherry Paulus at 11:24 p.m. March 18 that he was out

of his squad car with a farm tractor on New California Road.

Reuter's body was found in the road's south ditch shortly before midnight. He had been shot once in the chest.

The tape was among the first evidence heard in the trial of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Livingston, who is charged with first degree intentional homicide in connection with Reuter's death.

Grant County deputies also recalled how Reuter's body was found, and how Coulthard was captured in a pole barn four hours later.

Deputy Charles Fralick said he was patrolling about 35 miles from the shooting scene on New California Road two miles south

of Livingston when he was dispatched to the scene because Reuter had not answered radio or horn signals. The dispatcher can signal an officer by sounding the horn in the officer's squad car.

A distraught Deputy Robert Boyer was already there, Fralick said, and told him Reuter was dead.

"I checked Tom's vital signs, and asked him (Boyer) if he was all right, then tried to secure the scene as best I could," he said.

Fralick showed the jury a diagram he drew of the scene, indicating the location of an orange farm tractor, Reuter's squad car behind it, a spent shotgun shell and Reuter's body.

Sgt. Robert Floerke of the Grant County Sheriff's Department said he arrived at New California Road at about 1 a.m., and spent a short time there before joining in the pursuit of Reuter's assailant.

The search started in the unincorporated community of Arthur, where footprints were spotted in the fresh snow.

Grant County Deputy Perry Ahnen and Dane County Sheriff's Deputy Ron Mainguth — who had a specially trained tracking dog — followed the trail while Floerke drove ahead on Mockingbird Road, Floerke testified.

Floerke said he spotted footprints near a pole shed about five miles from the scene. He said he summoned Ahnen and Mainguth, who shouted "come out" before sending the dog in. The dog found Coulthard among the hay bales.



**Coulthard**



Candi Coulthard, sister of homicide trial defendant Gregory Coulthard, identifies a shotgun held by Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix, as a weapon her brother liked to use for hunting. The gun was seized March 19 from a rural Livingston farm, where Coulthard worked as a farmhand. (TH photo by Patti Carr)

# Defense claims Coulthard fired without intent

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard took a shot in the dark March 18 with no intention of killing Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter, Coulthard's attorney contended Friday.

The prosecution told the jury, however, that Coulthard deliberately shot Reuter to death because he feared Reuter would arrest him and send him back to jail.

Friday's opening statements in Coulthard's first degree intentional homicide trial in Grant County Circuit Court offered differing versions of what happened on the snowy March night Reuter was killed with a single shotgun blast.

The families of both the victim and defendant — including Reuter's widow, Diane Reuter of Livingston, and Coulthard's parents, Harlan and Gayle Coulthard of Cuba City — heard the opening statements and prosecution testimony.

Coulthard, dressed in navy blue

slacks, a light blue shirt and striped tie, spoke with his parents during recesses.

In his opening statement, Dale Pasell, one of Coulthard's attorneys, acknowledged to the 14 Waukesha County jurors that Coulthard killed Reuter.

But he said the shooting was a careless act of a frightened teenager, and he asked the jury to return a verdict on a lesser charge, reckless homicide.

"He shot in the dark of night, in the direction of a flashlight," Pasell said. "He didn't see a human form."

Pasell promised the jurors Coulthard would take the stand in his own defense.

Prosecution witnesses offered the trial's first testimony Friday afternoon.

Candi Coulthard, 17, of Cuba City, Coulthard's sister, identified a shotgun as "the one he usually uses" for hunting.

Grant County deputies executed a search warrant March 19 and seized the shotgun — which belongs to Coulthard's uncle, Scott Werner — from Lynden Grove Farm near Livingston, where Coulthard lived and worked as a farmhand.

Candi Coulthard also said she drove

Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A

■ Officers recall shooting night

— Page 3A

## Coulthard

Continued from Page 1A

her brother from the family home in Cuba City to Lynden Grove Farm the night of the shooting. She said she telephoned him a short time later to remind him of their mother's upcoming birthday, and he told her he was bored.

Dorothy Soderstrom of Platteville, mother of Coulthard's roommate Dale Soderstrom, testified that Coulthard called her at about 9:50 p.m. and asked her for a ride to Platteville that night. When she refused, he said he might take the farm tractor to Platteville, about 15 miles away.

Several people who live or work near Wisconsin 80 and Mockingbird Road near the unincorporated community of Arthur testified they saw a large tractor traveling in the vicinity. Some identified the tractor as an orange Allis Chalmers with a cab and chains on the tires, and said there was one person in the tractor. No one, however, identified the driv-

er.

Susan Pagnucci, who lives on Mockingbird Road, said she saw the tractor from her window going south on Mockingbird Road. She noticed it, she said, because it was going fast and because farmers don't usually use tractors in mid-March.

Jerry Roh, owner of Roh's Auto Mart in Platteville, said he learned a few days after Reuter's death that a sign located at Wisconsin 80 and Mockingbird Road, which advertises his business, had apparently been shot at. His employee, Tim Fidler, testified he found four spent shells near the sign.

Pasell said in his opening statement that Coulthard had shot at a sign the night of March 18, and that he had open containers of beer in the tractor.

When he saw the flashing lights of Reuter's squad car, Coulthard "freaked" and fired in panic, Pasell said.

"He (Coulthard) will tell you that all he wanted to do was scare the officer away and run," he said.



7-14

# Coulthard just 'got scared'

By Richard W. Jaeger

Regional reporter

LANCASTER — Gregory Coulthard wrote two friends from jail telling them he "freaked out" and shot Grant County deputy Thomas Reuter, and "regrets" it, testimony here Saturday revealed.

Richard Rutherford of Cuba City, and James Jansen, of Madison, told of the letters they received from Coulthard as they took the stand in the second day of the young farmhand's trial on first-degree intentional homicide.

Coulthard, 19, of Cuba City, is charged in the March 19 shooting death of Reuter, 38, the father of five and a veteran sheriff's deputy.

Rutherford, who said he considered Coulthard his best friend, read aloud the letter he received from his former classmate who was in the Richland County Jail awaiting trial.

In that letter, Coulthard wrote that when Reuter's squad car pulled up behind him on that cold, snowy night on New California Road south of Livingston, he "got scared and freaked out."

"I know I did it and I regret it," he wrote Rutherford.

Jansen, another classmate of the Cuba City youth, said Coulthard wrote him a couple of weeks after the shooting and told him he didn't remember what happened and that he "blanked and freaked out" and shot the officer.

Jansen also said Coulthard, in several conversations early this year, talked about his fear of jail.

He said Coulthard told him he "hated" jail and "wouldn't like them controlling his life."

Another friend, Ellen Mezera, 21, also told of Coulthard's dislike for jail after spending some time incarcerated for misdemeanor charges and once on drunken driving charges. "He didn't like it when he was there and he told me he didn't want to go back. . . . He would try to get out of going back," Mezera said.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix called Coulthard's friends to the stand in an attempt to show the young man's intent in

Please turn to Page 2B, Col. 4

# Intent key to murder trial

*Continued from Page 1B*

shooting Reuter — to avoid jail.

Coulthard's lawyers, Seth Stoltz of Dodgeville, and Dale Pasell of La Crosse, are hoping for a verdict on a lesser charge of reckless homicide for their client.

Pasell, in his opening statement to the jury, selected in Waukesha because of pre-trial publicity about the shooting, said Coulthard will testify that he shot at the officer but did not intend to kill the deputy.

If Coulthard had intended to kill Reuter, Pasell told the jury, he would have fired more than one shot at the deputy. Pasell said the youth instead "hunkered down" inside the tractor he was driving as the officer returned gunfire.

The question of Reuter firing at the tractor was earlier expected to become a point of contention in

Coulthard's defense, with the implication being the deputy shot first and Coulthard returned fire. That argument was dropped after a pathologist said it was possible for the deputy to have fired his revolver after being hit once in the chest with a rifle slug from a .12-gauge shotgun.

Stoltz did, however, raise questions about the shots when he cross-examined deputy Charles Fralick, who examined the shooting scene on the night Reuter was killed. Fralick counted off four bullet holes or bullet strikes that he found in the tractor.

Among the state's witnesses Saturday was Dale Soderstrom, Coulthard's roommate at the Lynden Grove Farms south of Livingston, where the two worked as hired hands.

Soderstrom told of Coulthard

waking him up and telling him "I shot a cop" and asking for his car to flee to California.

Soderstrom also testified about driving to the New California Road site where he saw Reuter in a ditch and the officer's squad parked behind the tractor Coulthard had been driving.

At that point, Coulthard fled on foot when Soderstrom stopped his car when another deputy arrived at the shooting scene and pointed out Coulthard as the suspect.

Deputy Robert Bloyer testified that he chased Coulthard on foot for about 100 yards as the youth fled and opened fire, shooting five rounds but missing Coulthard.

Coulthard was caught by lawmen using a search dog about four hours later hiding in a pole shed some five miles away.

Testimony ended early Saturday and will resume at 8:30 Monday morning when the state is expected to call crime laboratory experts to testify.

State Journal  
7-14-90

## Grant County Defendant's letter says he 'freaked'

Lancaster, Wis. —AP— A man accused of killing a Grant County sheriff's deputy told a friend in a letter from jail that he "freaked out" when the deputy approached, according to evidence introduced Saturday.

Defense attorney Seth Stoltz presented a letter written to Richard Rutherford, of Cuba City, a friend of the defendant, Gregory Coulthard, 19. Coulthard is standing trial for the fatal shooting of Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter, who investigators said had paused beside a rural road March 18 to help Coulthard with what looked to be a disabled tractor.

The letter to Rutherford also said Coulthard didn't remember much else about it.

Dist. Atty. Emil Everix called several witnesses Saturday who testified about Coulthard's aversion to jail, where he had spent time after an earlier conviction.

Jim Jansen, another of Coulthard's friends, said the two had talked about jail two or three times during the months preceding the shooting.

"He said he didn't like it and he didn't want to go there," Jansen said. "He had been there one time previously and he didn't want to go back. He said he wouldn't like it and he didn't want anyone controlling his life."

Testimony on Saturday also included an account from a witness who drove past the scene of the shooting before a second officer arrived.

Robert Parrish, of rural Livingston, told the court he saw someone other than Reuter in Reuter's patrol car after the shooting, but couldn't identify the person as Coulthard.

Sheriff's Deputy Robert Bloyer's testimony supported the idea that someone else was in the car. Photographs of the scene showed that the side alley lights on Reuter's car had been turned on. Bloyer said the alley lights usually were not turned on during a routine traffic stop.

The prosecution is expected to wrap up its case Monday morning when Robert Huntington, the forensic scientist who performed the autopsy on Reuter's body, is scheduled to testify.

*Mil Journal*  
7/15/90

# Pathologist: Single shot killed Reuter

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Wisconsin State pathologist Dr. Robert Huntington testified today that Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter died of a single shotgun blast to the chest.

However, Huntington said an autopsy of Reuter's body offered no firm conclusions about the angle of the shot.

Wisconsin State Crime technicians took the stand today in the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Livingston in Grant County Circuit Court.

Coulthard is accused of shooting Reuter to death March 18 on New California Road two miles south of Livingston.

Asked how Reuter died, Huntington replied "he got shot with a shotgun slug and it killed him."

However, he said he could not determine the angle of the shot accurately based on the physical evidence.

Judge James Fiedler sustained an objection from defense attorney Seth Stoltz to any further testimony about the angle.

Defense attorneys did not cross examine Huntington.

Ronald Diederichs, state crime lab firearms expert, said firing tests conducted on a 12-gauge shotgun seized from Coulthard's rural Livingston home — compared to a hole in Reuter's jacket — show Reuter was shot from 2 to 8 feet away.

Huntington said the autopsy showed fresh abrasions on the back of Reuter's

hands and on his knees.

A wound, about 2 inches square, was located in Reuter's chest area, he said.

The jacket and shirt Reuter was wearing had a smaller hole, he said.

Brian Werner, state crime lab photographer, showed photos of the knees of Reuter's body. The photos could be seen from the audience as well as the jury box.

Anthony Spadafora, state crime lab expert on fingerprints and palm prints, testified that prints found on the rifle seized from Coulthard's rural Livingston home matched samples that Coulthard provided.

Under cross examination by defense attorney Dale Pasell, Spadafora said Coulthard's finger prints or palm prints were not found in Reuter's squad car.

Earlier testimony included an account from a witness who drove past the scene of the shooting before the second officer arrived.

Robert Parrish of rural Livingston told the court he saw someone in the driver's seat of Reuter's squad car, but he couldn't identify the man as Reuter.

Today's testimony was presented to only 13 Waukesha County jurors. The 14th, Norbert Dzioba, became ill this morning and was taken to Southwest Health Center in Platteville, where he was released this morning.

Because Dzioba is excused from further jury service, only one alternate juror will be chosen by random drawing at the conclusion of the trial, which is expected Tuesday. The remaining 12 will deliberate on the verdict.



# Youth 'got scared, grabbed shotgun'

By Richard W. Jaeger

Regional reporter

LANCASTER — Gregory Coulthard testified Monday that he wanted to scare Deputy Tom Reuter when he pulled his loaded 12-gauge shotgun on Reuter and fired the blast that killed him.

Coulthard, who nervously answered questions for more than an hour Monday afternoon, first said he fired the shotgun at the Grant County deputy's flashlight. Under cross-examination, Coulthard said he shot him "when I saw him."

That point could determine whether the Waukesha County jury hearing testimony in the first-degree murder trial of the 19-year-old Livingston farmhand convicts him of intentional homicide or a lesser charge

of reckless homicide.

The jury will begin deliberating today after closing statements by the attorneys.

Coulthard did not give a motive for shooting Reuter, 38, other than he "got scared. I couldn't understand why he was pulling me over."

"... things were whizzing through my head. I grabbed the shotgun" from the cab of the tractor he was driving, Coulthard said. He said he thought if he jumped out of the tractor with the shotgun in his hand, the officer would see it and run for cover and he could run away.

However, Coulthard said that as he was about to leave the tractor Reuter shined his flashlight.

"It startled me and I fired," Coulthard

said, wringing his hands. "I just sat there, and there were shots being fired at me..."

Coulthard said he heard three shots as he ducked down in the tractor cab. Coulthard said he then fled to the nearby farm where he worked.

Before the shooting, Coulthard said he had been drinking at the farm and decided to take the tractor to Platteville to see his girlfriend.

He admitted stopping along the road south of the farm and shooting out a light on a billboard, then emptying the shotgun into the sign "in frustration and anger."

Under questioning by Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix, Coulthard acknowledged he had been drinking underage and that he was driving the tractor after

his license had been revoked.

"Did you intend to kill officer Reuter?" Stoltz asked. "No," Coulthard responded, "I had no intention to shoot him."

The state is trying to prove that Coulthard intended to shoot Reuter because he was afraid of going to jail.

Coulthard had told friends he hated being in jail and would do anything to keep from going back. He had spent 30 days behind bars on misdemeanor property damage and theft charges and a drunken-driving count.

Everix also noted Coulthard did not attempt to help Reuter or call for help when he returned to the farm or later when he and his roommate, Dale Soderstrom, returned to the scene of the shooting.

State Journal  
7-17-90

# Roommate recalls

## day of shooting

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard's roommate recounted Saturday how Coulthard woke him late March 18 and said, "I just shot a cop."

Dale Soderstrom said he drove Coulthard to the place where Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, was shot to death, then told officers at the scene that Coulthard was the one who killed Reuter.



**Coulthard**  
one who killed Reuter.

But Soderstrom's contradictory testimony about his criminal record, elicited during cross-examination, took Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix by surprise.

Soderstrom, 28, testified Saturday, the second day of the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Coulthard, 19, in Grant County Circuit Court. Coulthard is accused of killing Reuter with a single shotgun blast.

On direct examination, Soderstrom said he had twice been convicted for drunken driving.

When defense attorney Seth Stoltz asked him if he had also been convicted of burglary and theft, Soderstrom said he had not.

After a recess, however, Stoltz

produced a court record showing Soderstrom's 1980 burglary and theft convictions, and Soderstrom then admitted the convictions.

Everix said Soderstrom was confused by Stoltz's question about his other convictions, which he said took both him and Soderstrom by surprise.

However, Everix said he thinks the Waukesha County jury will believe Soderstrom's account of the events of late March 18 and early March 19.

Soderstrom testified he and Coulthard shared a room at Lynden Grove Farm, rural Livingston, where both worked as farmhands for farm owner Ralph Bourret. Soderstrom said he had worked there about two years,

and Coulthard had worked there about two months, at the time of the shooting.

At about 11:45 p.m., March 18, Soderstrom said Coulthard woke him.

"He told me he shot a cop and had to get out of town," Soderstrom said. "He wanted my car and the keys, to go to California."

Soderstrom said he did not believe Coulthard at first, and smelled liquor on him. When Coulthard insisted he was serious, Soderstrom said, he looked out the window and saw the red and blue flashing lights of a squad car.

Soderstrom said he told Coulthard he would drive him to the scene, so he could verify Coulthard's story for himself.

Before they left in Soderstrom's car, Coulthard got a duffel bag, he said. Soderstrom said he dissuaded Coulthard from taking along a shotgun, and insisted he unload it.

Soderstrom said he drove Coulthard a short distance to the scene on New California Road, where both saw a body lying in the south ditch.

They traveled past the scene, Soderstrom said, and Coulthard turned off the car, took the keys, and asked Soderstrom to "wait an hour or two," then report the car stolen.

Soderstrom said he persuaded Coulthard to give the keys back, and he drove back to the scene.

**Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A**

Tel



## Coulthard

Continued from Page 1A

By this time, he said, another Grant County squad car had arrived, and Soderstrom said Coulthard remarked, in effect, that he would probably be caught.

When Deputy Robert Bloyer — whom Soderstrom said he knew — asked Soderstrom to stop, he said he did so, identified himself, and said, "Here's the one that shot the cop."

Bloyer testified Saturday that Soderstrom said, "I've got your suspect right here."

Bloyer said Coulthard jumped out of the car and ran down New California Road. He said he shot at Coulthard four times in an attempt to stop him. Bloyer then questioned Soderstrom about Coulthard's identity, he said.

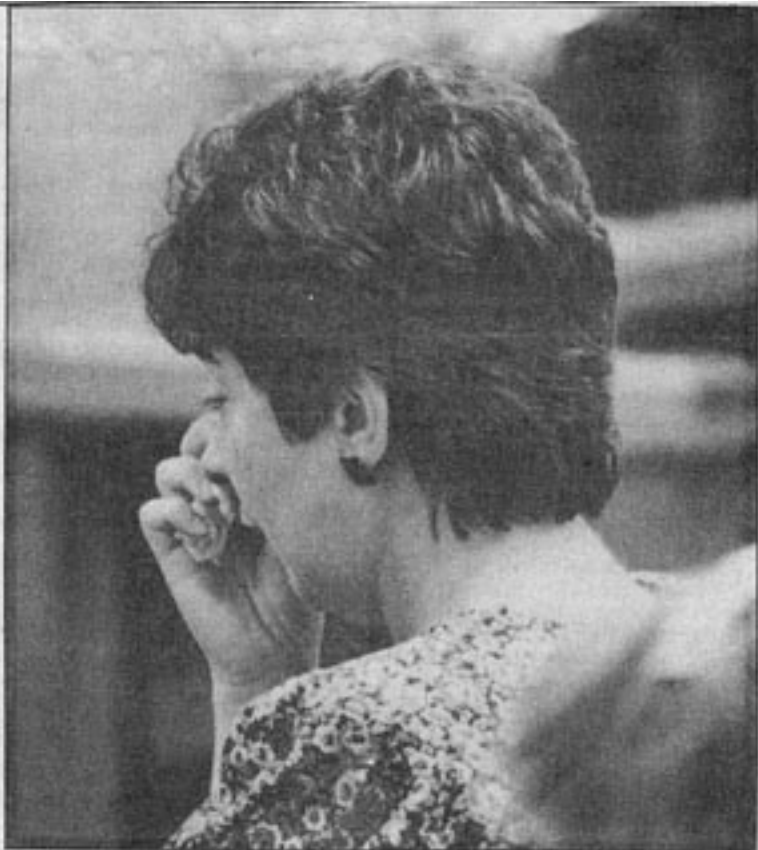
In other prosecution testimony Saturday, Richard Rutherford of Cuba City — who described Coulthard as his best friend — read a letter he said Coulthard wrote him from the Richland County Jail in Richland Center after his arrest for Reuter's death.

Rutherford said the letter indicated Coulthard was frightened "because I may never see freedom again."

Coulthard wrote that he remembered little about the incident and regrets it, Rutherford said.

"You may be wondering why I did it and I'm not sure myself," the letter said. "When I saw a cop car behind me, I got scared and freaked."

James Jansen of Madison and



Diane Reuter, widow of slain Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, 38, of Livingston, Wis., dabs her eyes during prosecution testimony in the first-degree intentional homicide trial of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Livingston. (TH photo by Patti Carr)

Ellen Mezera of Platteville, friends of Coulthard, testified that he feared jail.

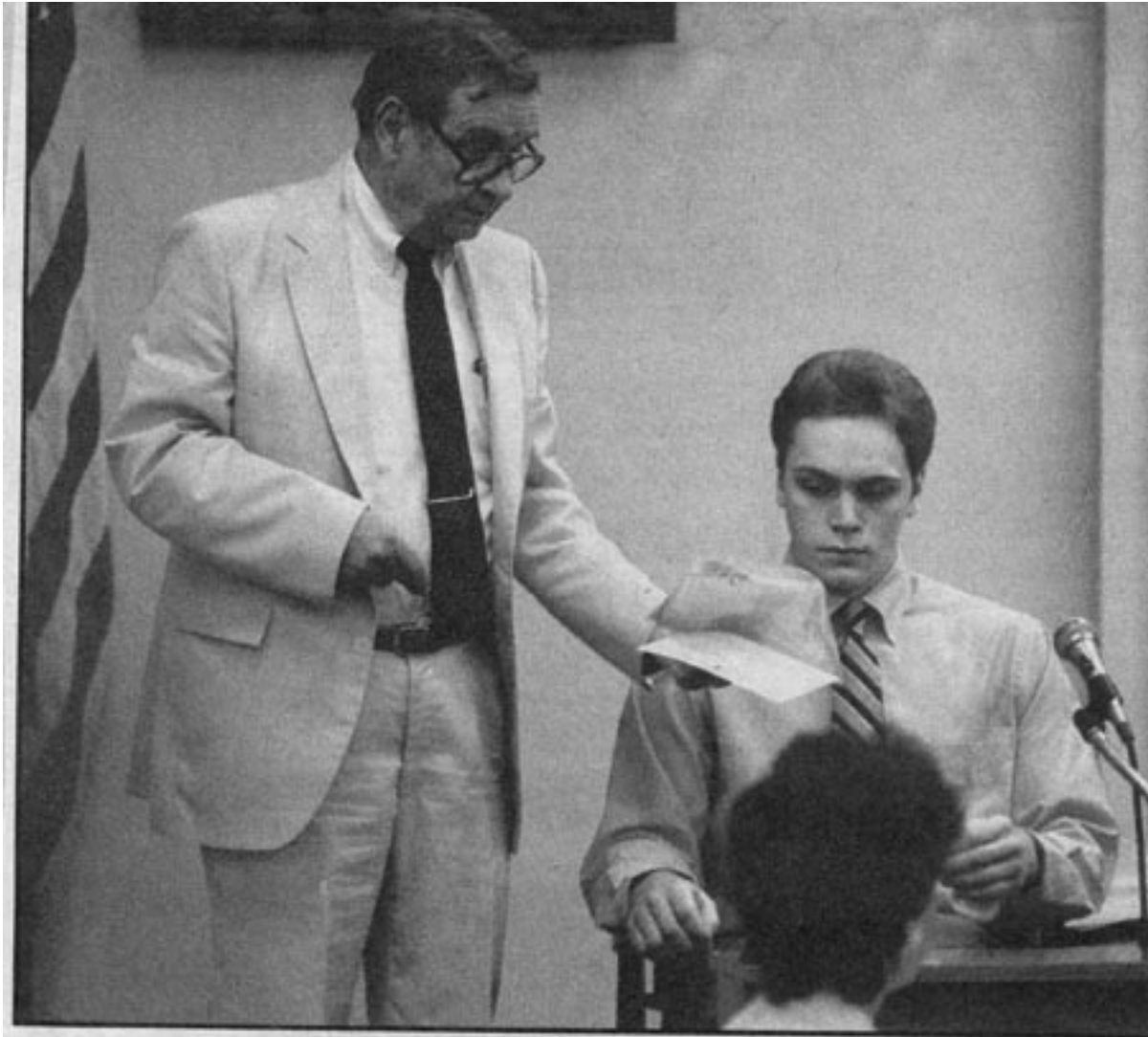
"He often told me he didn't like it when he was in there," Mezera said. "He told me he didn't want to go back."

Coulthard had previously been

jailed for drunken driving and criminal damage to property.

The trial will resume Monday with testimony from Wisconsin state crime laboratory experts.

Judge James Fiedler said he expects the case to go to the jury by Tuesday.



Seth Stoltz (left) shows Gregory Coulthard an exhibit as Coulthard testifies during his trial on charge of first degree intentional homicide. Coulthard is accused of the fatal shooting of sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter near Livingston, Wis., on March 18. (TH photo by Mark Hirsch)



# Coulthard says he didn't mean to kill Reuter

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard testified Monday he never intended to kill Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter or even to shoot him.

Coulthard, 19, a Livingston farmhand, spent one hour on the witness stand Monday afternoon during his first-degree intentional homicide trial in Grant County Circuit Court.

The prosecution rested its case late Monday morning, and the defense rested Monday afternoon following Coulthard's testimony.

Closing arguments are scheduled for today, and the case should go to the Waukesha County jury by this afternoon.

In an often inaudible voice, Coulthard said he was driving a farm tractor in rural Livingston late March 18 when he saw a police car behind him.

He said he had taken a loaded .12 gauge shotgun with him, but did not know why.

As he turned from Wisconsin 80 to New California Road, he said, the squad car turned on its red

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## ■ Closing arguments

— Page 3A

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and blue lights.

"I got very scared," he said. "My heart started racing and my hand was shaking. I didn't understand why I was being pulled over."

Coulthard said he planned to show the officer the shotgun to frighten him, then run away.

"I suddenly decided I was going to take the shotgun, and I was going to jump out of the tractor," he said.

Instead, Coulthard said in a breaking voice, he saw a flashlight and panicked.

From the witness stand, Coulthard showed how he sat sideways in the drivers' seat, with the gun pointed out the tractor door, when he shot Reuter.

"As soon as I saw the flashlight, it startled me and I fired," he said.

Reuter, 38, of Livingston was killed with a single shotgun blast

Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A

# Coulthard

Continued from Page 1A  
to the chest.

On cross examination, Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix asked Coulthard, "When the officer came around, that's when you shot him, is that correct?"

Coulthard replied, "I shot him when I saw him."

Coulthard's attorney, Seth Stoltz, then asked if he actually saw the officer, and Coulthard said he saw only a flashlight, not a person.

On the night of March 18, Coulthard said he had consumed "nine, maybe 10" beers since supertime at the Cuba City home of his parents, Harlan and Gayle Coulthard. He said he took 10 cans of beer with him in the tractor; investigators testified they recovered three unopened beer cans from the tractor.

His sister, Candi Coulthard, 17, drove him back to Lynden Grove Farm south of Livingston about 9 p.m., he said. Coulthard said he had worked for farm owner Ralph Bourret as a farmhand since January.

Less than an hour later, Coulthard said, his sister phoned him, and he told her he wanted to go to

Platteville to visit a friend.

After failing to find anyone to take him to Platteville, Coulthard said he decided to drive the tractor for the 15-mile trip.

When he decided he could not get to Platteville in the tractor, Coulthard said he shot out a light over an advertising sign at Mockingbird Lane and Wisconsin 80, then fired four shots into the sign.

On cross examination, Coulthard said he was frustrated because the Platteville trip didn't work out, but "I took most of my aggression out on the sign."

When Everix asked Coulthard why he reloaded the gun after shooting at the sign, Coulthard said he was preparing the gun for "target practice."

Everix also asked, "Isn't it a fact that the reason you took a shotgun out that night was in case anyone stopped you?"

Coulthard replied, "No."

Coulthard testified he had spent 30 days in jail for misdemeanor charges of criminal damage to property and theft, and two more days for drunken driving. Fear of returning to jail caused him to panic when he saw the squad car's lights, he said.

"Jail is a very scary place," he said. "It's the worst experience of my life until now."

Everix asked Coulthard if he

had any idea why the officer pulled him over.

"Isn't it a fact that when you saw the officer approach you were concerned about going to jail because of shooting the sign?" he asked.

"I didn't see the officer approach me," Coulthard said. He testified that he realized a police car was following him only after he turned from Wisconsin 80 to New California Road.

After the shooting, Coulthard said Reuter shot at him. After the shooting stopped, he said, he waited 10 to 15 seconds, then ran across a field to the farmhouse he shared with another farmhand, Dale Soderstrom, 28.

Asked on cross examination if he ever entered Reuter's squad car, Coulthard said he did not.

He said Soderstrom drove him, in Soderstrom's car, to the scene, then he tried to take Soderstrom's keys away and take the car.

When they drove back to the scene, a Grant County deputy was there, and Coulthard said Soderstrom told the deputy, "The man you're looking for is right here."

Coulthard said he ran down the road with the deputy shooting at him, and hid in a pole shed. He was asleep, he said, when a police dog pulled him by the arm out of a hay bale.

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Telegraph-Herald  
7-17-90

Telegraph-Herald  
7-17-90

# Coulthard trial lawyers deliver closing arguments

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard ambushed Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter March 18, intending to kill the officer from the moment he turned his employer's tractor onto New California Road, Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix argued today.

Coulthard, 19, was drinking and had shot at an advertising sign that night, and was driving the tractor although he had been told not to do so, Everix contended in Grant County Circuit Court.

When Coulthard saw the flashing lights of a police car, Everix said, the only way he could prevent the officer from identifying him or arresting him was to kill him.

Today's closing arguments end the four-day trial of Coulthard, a Livingston farm hand charged

with first-degree intentional homicide in the shooting death of Reuter, 38, of Livingston. The case went to the jury about 10:40 a.m. today.

Coulthard's attorney, Seth Stoltz, characterized his client as "a scared 18-year-old boy" whose acts were reckless but not those of a "cold-hearted criminal." Coulthard was 18 at the time of the incident.

Stoltz asked the Waukesha County jury to find Coulthard guilty not of first-degree intentional homicide but of first-degree reckless homicide, a lesser charge.

Stoltz said he challenged few prosecution witnesses during the trial because their testimony doesn't matter. The reason, he said, is Coulthard admits to shooting Reuter.

Everix emphasized Coulthard's own testimony: "I shot him when I saw him."

Stoltz characterized that as a "slick lawyer's trick" to coerce Coulthard to say something he did not intend. Everix disagreed.

"That was not a slip of the tongue," Everix said. "That was the truth finally coming from the defendant's mouth."

Stoltz said Coulthard did not exhibit intent to kill Reuter because he did not fire more than once, and because he did not take the car keys of his roommate, Dale Soderstrom, 28, at gunpoint when he returned to the house they shared.

Everix said Coulthard intended to kill Reuter and return home — and would have done so if Reuter had not disabled the tractor by firing his revolver five times.

Everix contended Coulthard had gotten into Reuter's squad car intending to flee the scene but did not do so because Coulthard believed too many passing motorists saw him.



# Farmhand guilty of murder

By Richard W. Jaeger  
Regional reporter

LANCASTER — Greg Coulthard sat frozen to his chair, hanged his head and sobbed after a jury found him guilty Tuesday of first-degree intentional homicide in the shotgun slaying of Grant County sheriff's Deputy Thomas Reuter.

The silence of the packed courtroom also was broken by other sobs. Some were sobs of sorrow as members of Coulthard's family cried and hugged each other for comfort.

Others were sobs of joy as Reuter's co-workers let loose their feelings about the killer of the veteran lawman and father of five.

## Jury: Deputy's slaying intentional

"Tom was a lawman and believed in the justice system. I believe justice was served here today. I am very glad our court system was able to do what it was meant to do," said Reuter's widow, Diane, as she clutched the hands of her two youngest children and was surrounded by friends in the front of the courtroom.

"I have sympathy for their (Coulthards') family as they did for me when Tom was killed," she added.

Both families sat in the front row of the court throughout the four days of trial here, but never acknowledged the other ex-

cept for a casual nod.

It took the jury of six women and six men about two hours to reach its verdict. Jurors were selected in Waukesha County last week and brought to Lancaster to hear the testimony because of pre-trial publicity.

Circuit Judge James Fiedler of Dodgeville, who presided over the trial, set a sentencing date for Aug. 16 for the 19-year-old rural Livingston farmhand, being held in the Richland County Jail.

Coulthard was charged under a new classification of first-degree intentional homicide, which went into effect just one

month before the March 18 shooting. So Fiedler will make the decision whether the man will be eligible for parole at any time during his life sentence.

Under the old classification of first-degree murder, an inmate serving a mandatory life sentence was eligible for parole in about 13 years.

Fiedler can now take into account a number of factors, including the crime's impact on the family of the victim. Family members will be allowed to make their recommendations during a pre-sentence investigation.

Although Coulthard, who was 18 at the

*Please turn to Page 2A, Col. 3*

### *Continued from Page 1A*

time of the shooting, admitted to shooting Reuter, 38, he contended he did not intend to kill the officer when he was stopped on a deserted country road while driving a farm tractor.

His lawyers, public defenders Dale Pasell of La Crosse and Seth Stoltz of Dodgeville, argued for a conviction on a lesser charge of first-degree reckless homicide, which would have carried a prison term of 20 years or less. Neither would comment on Tuesday's verdict and quickly left the courtroom.

Stoltz in his closing statement earlier Tuesday pleaded with the jury to "look at the real Greg Coulthard and believe in him.

"What he did was the foolish, thoughtless act of an 18-year-old boy. Taking a shotgun with him

didn't want to go to jail. He noted that the youth had just shot up a highway billboard before being stopped and was driving while his license was suspended and while intoxicated and drinking while underage. Records indicate Coulthard had a blood alcohol content of .12 to .16 percent at the time of the shooting.

"He intended to shoot the officer and make his getaway, but was foiled on several counts," Everix said.

"First, he couldn't make his getaway in the tractor because Tom Reuter did as he was supposed to do when being fired upon: he returned the fire and disabled the tractor," the prosecutor said.

Everix repeated to the jury remarks Coulthard made Monday on the witness stand. "He told you in his own words yesterday, 'I shot



month before the March 18 shooting. So Fiedler will make the decision whether the man will be eligible for parole at any time during his life sentence.

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*Please turn to Page 2A, Col. 3*

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Stoltz in his closing statement earlier Tuesday pleaded with the jury to "look at the real Greg Coulthard and believe in him.

"What he did was the foolish, thoughtless act of an 18-year-old boy ... Taking a shotgun with him — that's foolish, that's a thoughtless act. Drinking eight or nine beers — that's a foolish act.

"Greg Coulthard was a scared 18-year-old boy who acted recklessly. When he was startled by the officer he shot; he shot at the officer's light and not at him," Stoltz continued.

He argued that, if Coulthard had wanted to kill Reuter, he would have fired all five rounds in his 12-gauge shotgun at the officer. "He only shot once and he ran."

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix saw the incident differently.

"I don't think the jury believed his story about turning off of Highway 80 to allow the police car behind him to pass, especially when he was less than 200 yards from the driveway to the farm where he worked," Everix said.

"I think they believed that at that point he had formed his intent to kill the officer for any number of things."

Everix had contended Coulthard

highway billboard before being stopped and was driving while his license was suspended and while intoxicated and drinking while underage. Records indicate Coulthard had a blood alcohol content of .12 to .16 percent at the time of the shooting.

"He intended to shoot the officer and make his getaway, but was foiled on several counts," Everix said.

"First, he couldn't make his getaway in the tractor because Tom Reuter did as he was supposed to do when being fired upon: he returned the fire and disabled the tractor," the prosecutor said.

Everix repeated to the jury remarks Coulthard made Monday on the witness stand. "He told you in his own words yesterday, 'I shot him when I saw him.' It is clear by that statement alone that he formed and acted with intent to kill when he saw the officer."

Stoltz called the remark an answer "to a trick question" and said Coulthard had earlier said he shot at the officer's flashlight which he said had startled him.

Everix made his strongest argument for a verdict of intentional homicide, calling the shooting "an ambush ... when he turned off Highway 80 onto New California Road he knew that he then had Thomas Reuter in an ambush situation ... he took him down that little-traveled road, stopped his tractor and when the officer approached, he shot him."

*State Journal*

*7-18-90*

# Coulthard convicted of murder

## Faces mandatory life in prison

by Steve Prestegard

Gregory A. Coulthard was found guilty of first-degree intentional homicide in Grant County Circuit Court Tuesday afternoon.

The Waukesha County jury deliberated less than two hours before convicting Coulthard, 19, Livingston, of killing Grant County Deputy Sheriff Tom Reuter in Clifton March 18.

Some of the spectators in the packed third-floor courtroom burst into tears after the verdict was read by Iowa County Circuit Judge James Fiedler. Friends of Reuter and law enforcement officers appeared to be reacting out of relief, while friends of the Coulthard family wept with sorrow.

Coulthard, with tears streaming down his face, was taken back to the Richland County Jail, where he will remain until he is sentenced Aug. 16 at 9 a.m. He faces a life sentence plus five years imprisonment for using a dangerous weapon. Fiedler has the option of setting a parole date at sentencing.

The jury of six men and six women chose intentional homicide over two alternatives—finding him guilty of first-degree reckless homicide, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, or acquitting him of a homicide charge.

Diane Reuter, the deputy's widow, said afterward she was thankful of the support from friends and relieved in the verdict.

"I'm just very glad our court systems can do what they're meant to do," she said. "Tom was a law enforcement officer, and he be-

**"I'm just very glad our court systems can do what they're meant to do. Tom was a law enforcement officer, and he believed in justice."**

—Diane Reuter

lieved in justice, and we went through" the trial process.

District Attorney Emil Everix also was relieved afterward.

"I'm happy with it," he said. "It's been a long time since March 18, and I think the time taken by the jury indicates they were sure it was first-degree intentional homicide.

The main issue of the trial was not whether Coulthard shot Reuter—Coulthard's attorneys, Seth Stoltz and Dale Pasell, admitted he had from opening arguments Friday.

Everix said he still went through the process of calling witnesses to pinpoint Coulthard's movements because "I wasn't going to allow [Coulthard's attorneys] to tell the jury that they had conceded anything."

The issue the jury had to decide was whether Coulthard intended to

kill Reuter when he fired the gun.

The key statement of the entire trial may have come at the end of Everix' cross-examination of Coulthard Monday afternoon, when he asked, "When the officer came around, that's when you shot him, is that correct?" Coulthard replied, "I shot him when I saw him."

Stoltz quickly asked if Coulthard had seen the deputy, and Coulthard replied that he had not seen the deputy, he had fired at the flashlight—a statement he had made during direct examination.

During closing arguments Tuesday morning, Stoltz dismissed Coulthard's contradictory statement as induced by a "slick lawyer's trick." Everix, however, said, "That was not a slip of the tongue, that was the truth finally coming out of his mouth."

Stoltz refused comment after the verdict.

**The main issue the jury had to decide was Coulthard's intent when he pulled the trigger.**

3A

# Deputy's widow:

# Justice served



Diane Reuter (left), widow of slain Grant County (Wis.) sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, hugs a well-wisher Tuesday in a Grant County courtroom after Gregory Coulthard was found guilty of first-degree intentional homicide. In the foreground is Reuter's friend, Mary Kay Alexander of Potosi, Wis. (Photo by Colleen Schultz)

By Lyn Hanson

of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Sobs erupted throughout a Grant County courtroom Tuesday as a jury declared Gregory Coulthard guilty of first-degree intentional homicide in the shooting death of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter.

The six men and six women on the Waukesha County jury entered the courtroom, many with heads bowed, about 1 p.m. They began deliberations about 10:40 a.m.

Coulthard, 19, of Livingston remained expressionless as Judge James Fiedler read the verdict.

Coulthard burst into tears, however, as police officers led him away in chains past his sobbing parents, relatives and friends.

There were also plenty of tears on the other side of the courtroom, where Reuter's relatives and friends sat.

Reuter's widow, Diane Reuter of Livingston, said the verdict was just.

"I'm just very glad that our court system can do what it is meant to do," she said. "Tom was a law enforcement officer. He believed in justice, and I'm glad justice can happen."

Reuter said she feels sympathy for the Coulthard family, and

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**"Tom (Reuter) was a law enforcement officer. He believed in justice, and I'm glad justice can happen."**

**— Diane Reuter**

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senses that it feels sympathy for her.

Fiedler set sentencing for 9 a.m. Aug. 16 in Grant County Circuit Court. Coulthard will remain in the Richland County Jail until sentencing.

Wisconsin law mandates life imprisonment for first-degree intentional homicide. Prosecutors will ask for an additional five years because Coulthard used a firearm in the killing.

Fiedler will be allowed to set Coulthard's earliest possible parole eligibility date under Wisconsin's "life-means-life" law. Coulthard will serve his sentence in a Wisconsin state prison.

Grant County Sheriff Herb Hottenstein said he believes the jury made a "proper verdict."

The department's deputies — some of whom attended the trial in plain clothes due to a pre-trial ruling against uniformed off-duty

officers in the courtroom — are still affected by Reuter's death in the line of duty, Hottenstein said.

He noted that Wisconsin law does not call for stiffer penalties for killing a police officer, and said he believes that is as it should be.

"Those people (officers) are out there at their risk to protect the people," Hottenstein said. "But the law should not be lenient against killers, no matter who the victim is."

A standing-room-only crowd witnessed the proceedings throughout the four-day trial.

Generally, Coulthard's family and friends sat on the right side of the courtroom while Reuter's family and friends were on the left.

On the trial's closing day, all five Reuter children — twins Doug and Dan, 15; Tim, who turned 14 today; Sherry, 10; and Andrew, 6 — were in the courtroom.

Present throughout the trial were Coulthard's parents, Harlan and Gayle Coulthard of Cuba City, and other family members.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix said he believes he convinced jurors that Coulthard deliberately killed Reuter.

"Everything was a conscious,

**Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A**



# Coulthard gets life sentence

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

LANCASTER, Wis. — Gregory Coulthard will spend his life, plus five years, in a Wisconsin prison with no chance of parole for 25 years, a judge decided today.

Coulthard, 19, was sentenced for the March 18 shooting death of Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter.

Judge James Fiedler said Coulthard can seek parole no earlier than March 19, 2015 — the 25th anniversary of his arrest for Reuter's murder.

Fiedler imposed sentence after hearing all 12 Waukesha County jurors swear to their July 17 guilty verdict for first-degree intentional homicide.

The jurors were brought back by bus today for the polling.

Coulthard wore a white dress shirt, gray dress pants and a tie. His parents, Harlan and Gayle Coulthard of Cuba City, were in the courtroom, as were his sister, Candi, and brother, Pat.

Reuter's widow, Diane, was also in the courtroom with her three oldest sons, Dan, Doug and Tim. Tom and Diane Reuter are the parents of five child-

Coulthard/Turn to Page 3A

## Coulthard

Continued from Page 1A

ren.

Wisconsin law requires life in prison for first-degree intentional homicide, and allows an additional five years for use of a dangerous weapon.

In imposing sentence, Fiedler said society must realize the need to protect police officers in the line of duty. He said he also considered the Reuter family's loss of a son, a husband and a father.

Letters stating support for Coulthard's character — and a letter from Coulthard himself — were also considered, Fiedler said.

In a sobbing voice, Coulthard

read his letter expressing regret for shooting Reuter and a desire to continue his education and become a teacher.

"I know the pain I caused her (Diane Reuter) and I feel really sorry for her and her family for what I have done to them," Coulthard read. "To the children, I know I have taken away their father.

"I only wish I could turn back the hands of time so I could give their father back to them and ease their pain," Coulthard continued.

Coulthard's attorney, Seth Stoltz, asked that Coulthard's earliest parole hearing be in 13 years.

"If we're going to rehabilitate him, we have to let him out in the streets to show he's rehabilitat-

ed," Stoltz said.

Grant County District Attorney Emil Everix argued for a parole hearing no sooner than 40 years from now.

"This particular act shook the consciences of the people of Grant County and surrounding counties," Everix said. "If a police officer can be killed in a traffic type of stop, people feel their security has been breached."

Fiedler rejected arguments from Stoltz that the Wisconsin law allowing judges to set parole dates in sentencing is unconstitutional.

Coulthard was taken to the Grant County Jail, from where he will be taken to prison. The location will be determined later.

Telegraph Herald  
9-6-90

# Officer's killer sentenced

## For Coulthard, life means at least 25 years

By Richard W. Jaeger

Regional reporter

LANCASTER — Tom Reuter's youngest son, Andy, will be 32 when the killer of the Grant County sheriff's deputy becomes eligible for parole.

That observation was made Thursday by Reuter's widow, Diane, as she left the courtroom following the sentencing of Gregory Coulthard, 19, of Cuba City, on charges of first-degree intentional homicide in the March 18 shotgun slaying of her husband.

Andy, one of five Reuter children, is 7 years old. He was not in court Thursday to watch the man who killed his father say he was sorry and plead for forgiveness.

Three of the Reuter sons were there to give their mother support. They sat expressionless, staring at Coulthard.

Iowa County Circuit Judge James Fiedler said he believed in Coulthard's sorrow and that the rural Livingston farmhand was remorseful.

However, Fiedler said he felt the mandatory life sentence he gave Coulthard "has to serve as a warning to others" and that it must demonstrate that society will not tolerate "the act of killing a law enforcement officer and another human being."

"The Reuters have been given a life sentence, a life without husband and father," the judge said.

Fiedler, using his discretion under the state's new "life means life" sentencing law, set Coulthard's parole eligibility for March 19, 2015 — in 25 years.

Reuter was gunned down along a rural Livingston

road after stopping Coulthard, who was driving a farm tractor.

Coulthard sobbed from time to time as he read aloud a letter he had written to Fiedler from his jail cell in Richland County.

It read in part: "I only wish I could turn back the hands of time and give them back their father. . . . I regret the pain I have caused my father and my family, and the Reuters."

"I think he feels bad because he is going to jail, but I don't really know what he feels about us," Diane Reuter said after listening to Coulthard.

When asked if she agreed with the sentence and 25-year parole eligibility, she said, "I hope I won't have to think about it when that time comes."

She said she wrote Fiedler a letter telling him what it is like "being without a husband and father for my children."

District Attorney Emil Everix recommended parole eligibility be set at 40 years.

Coulthard's lawyers, Seth Stoltz, of Lancaster, and Dale Pasell, of La Crosse, asked for the minimum parole eligibility of 13 years and four months.

In a strange twist of events, jurors who convicted Coulthard were returned to the courtroom Thursday to be polled individually about their verdict. Their guilty verdict was unanimous.

A request had been made to poll the jurors at the end of the trial seven weeks ago, but an individual poll was not taken in confusion following the reading of the verdict.

Defense attorneys opposed Thursday's action, saying a mistrial instead should be declared. The matter is expected to be raised on appeal.



Coulthard

State Journal  
9-7-90

# 'I can't say I hate him'

## Grant County deputy's widow struggles for new life as murderer goes to prison



Terry Burt of the Tribune staff

Diane Reuter kneels at her husband's grave.

By **TERRY BURT**  
Of the Tribune staff

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — Diane Reuter received a life sentence of her own when her police officer husband was gunned down in March by a teen-age farmhand on a borrowed tractor.

With one blast of a shotgun her life changed forever.

"I never worried about Tom ... it just doesn't happen in Grant County," she said of the murder that left her alone to raise the couple's five children.

Gregory Coulthard, 19, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison for the slaying of 38-year-old Thomas Reuter of

At 38, you don't think you'd have to pick out a husband's casket.' — **Diane Reuter**

Livingston, a Grant County sheriff's deputy. He will be eligible to apply for parole in 25 years.

"I can't say I hate him," the widow said of the convicted murderer who worked on a farm a few miles from the little village where the Reuter family lives.

"But during the trial when I

realized he did mean to shoot a cop — it just happened to be Tom — I got more angry ... I have a life sentence too ...

"Tom was a farm boy," she said of her husband of 17 years. "Who's going to expect to get shot from a tractor?"

The deputy had stopped his squad car along a rural road to assist an apparently disabled tractor, driven by Coulthard.

Diane attended nearly all the court sessions, including the July trial. "I had to live it," she said.

She has a scrapbook of the many newspaper stories about the events surrounding her husband's death. She even has a

See **WIDOW**, back page →

La Crosse  
Tribune 9-9-90

# WIDOW

Continued from front page

videotape of the funeral and some related TV news broadcasts.

"Some of the times you watch it and cry ... feel sorry for you, but it's part of the grieving process. It's reality orientation," she said.

The Reuter children were allowed to help with the funeral arrangements.

It was a tough time, she said of the days immediately after the death.

"At 38," she said, "you don't think you'd have to pick out a husband's casket."

A nursing supervisor at Southwest Health Center in Platteville, Diane said she and the children and some other relatives went on a camping trip this summer, but it just wasn't the same without her husband.

"It used to be a shared experience," she said, "but if I didn't do it, would I ever do it? I'm not going to get cheated out of what I have left in life."

Some days, she said, there's not enough of her to go around. "I'm learning nursing management," she said. And when she gets home from work, "with it only being me, I have to go to everything ... if any parent is to go."

At this time of year there are a couple of givens. For example, Friday nights are for football games. Twins Dan and Doug, 16, play for Iowa-Grant High School. One other night a week she attends a junior varsity football game to watch 14-year-old Tim, a high school freshman.

And of course there are the periodic activities involving daughter Sherry, 11, and the youngest child, Andy, 7, both students at Livingston Elementary School.

"It's tough," she said. "Work is extremely busy and home is so busy."

Summer seems to be the worst, she said, with the children "going in five different directions."

Most of her friends at work don't see her lonely suffering, she said. "I do good at work. Generally I buck up and don't take problems to work. But if they'd see me at home ... it's not so good."

Loneliness is the hardest part, she said, recalling the dreams she and Tom had of a future that will never be.

They had talked about someday retiring to a cottage in northern Wisconsin.

"All that stuff's changed," she said. "I really liked being married and I miss the relationship so much. We're not going to retire to Hayward ..."

The worst loneliness, she said, is at night after work — not having an adult to talk with.

There is "no one there for you," she said. "Sometimes I sit there with tears running down my face."

She misses the companionship and telling Tom "how awful" her day may have been.

"He may not have heard it," she said of those shared times, "but he listened and there was support. He made a lot of the decisions and we backed each other."

(A camping trip) used to be a shared experience. But if I didn't do it, would I ever do it? I'm not going to get cheated out of what I have left in life.

Now, when she tells the kids "No," she has to stick with it and enforce the tough decisions alone.

The children seem to be doing a good job of handling the death of their father, she said.

"I figure as long as we're all talking they're not just letting it build inside."

Andy, the youngest, talks about his dad the most, she said, relating a story about the family being at a county fair this summer when the 7-year-old made the observation that it would have been more fun "if dad could have come."

Another time, she said, Andy told her: "If you die — if somebody comes and kills you — I'll be an orphan."

"He thinks the stars are angels and dad's up there winking at him," she said. "He's missed his dad."

The children all liked being with their father, she said. "He was a good role model."

"I can take them hunting," she said of one of the family's favorite hobbies. "I can do it, but Tom planned the trips...."

Diane said her husband was "a real people person and good at what he did." He liked law enforcement, she said, and his 4 p.m. to midnight shift meant there was at least one of them home with the children nearly all the time.

The last time she saw her husband alive was early on the Sunday evening of March 18, a few hours before he was shot while on patrol just a few miles from home.

He had stopped home that night, she said, "to make sure we were all OK. He was always a worry wart."

An impressive funeral service was held four days later in Grant County's largest church. It was attended by an estimated 700 law enforcement officers from at least four states and by a host of officials, including Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson.

Diane addressed the overflow crowd briefly at that time, calling Tom "my very best friend."

It was a way of saying good-bye, she said later.

"It was totally crazy," she said of the 14-mile procession of about 300 police cars between the church in Platteville and the rural cemetery where her husband and best friend was buried on a cold, windy March afternoon.

"Tom would have been so impressed, but he would be almost embarrassed that they were doing that for him," she said.



STATE OF WISCONSIN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL COMPLAINT  
BRANCH 2GREGORY A. COULTHARD,  
10157 Highway 80 South  
Livingston, Wisconsin  
D.O.B. 4/24/71

FILED

Case No. 90 CR 0082

MARCH 1990

Defendant  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
GRANT COUNTY, WIS.**90-CR-0082**

Richard Luell, being first duly sworn, on oath, says that as he is informed and verily believes that on the 18th day of March, 1990, in the Township of Clifton, in said County, the defendant did feloniously cause the death of another human being with intent to kill that person, to-wit: the defendant shot Thomas Reuter with a .12 gauge shotgun causing the death of Thomas Reuter, which upon a finding of guilt shall subject the defendant to a term of life imprisonment, and because of the use of a dangerous weapon further increases the penalty by an additional five (5) years, contrary to Sections 940.01 (1), 939.50 (3)(a) and 939.63 (1)(a)2., Wisconsin Statutes, and prays that said defendant be dealt with according to law; and that the basis for the complainant's charge of such offense is:

Complainant is a Special Agent with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. Complainant became involved in the shooting death to Deputy Thomas Reuter on the morning of March 19, 1990. Sherry Paulus informed the complainant that she was working as a dispatcher for the Grant County Sheriff's Department from 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 p.m. on March 18, 1990. Sherry Paulus informed the complainant that as dispatcher she received a radio message from Car 13 of the Grant County Sheriff's Department at 11:24 p.m. that Deputy Thomas Reuter was 10-6 at New California Road. Complainant knows that 10-6 merely means that the officer was out of the car and out of communication at that point in time. Maurice Krohn, Captain with the Grant County Sheriff's Department, informed the complainant that Car 13 with the Grant County Sheriff's Department is assigned to Deputy Thomas Reuter. Jeffrey Rewey informed the complainant that he is also a dispatcher for the Grant County Sheriff's Department and that he had radio communication with Deputy Robert Bloyer at 11:52 p.m. on March 18, 1990, when Officer Bloyer stated that he was 10-6 with 13 off of 80 and needing assistance. Maurice Krohn informed the complainant that Car 8 with the Grant County Sheriff's Department is assigned to Deputy Robert Bloyer. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he heard Officer Thomas Reuter saying that he was going to

be out of the car with a farm tractor on New California Road. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that at that time he was on County Trunk G in the Castle Rock area southbound. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he then started toward Montfort and when he got to Montfort he called Deputy Reuter and still did not receive an answer. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that a short time later he heard a double beep on the radio and was asked by Dispatcher Sherry Paulus for his location and at that time he was north of Livingston. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that Sherry Paulus had advised him that she had just blown Deputy Reuter's horn and received no reply at which time Deputy Bloyer activated his red and blue emergency lights and accelerated going to New California Road. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that as he turned on to New California Road he could see the reflection of Deputy Reuter's red and blue lights in the sky and that as he crested the knoll just east of the scene he could see Deputy Reuter's squad car parked in the westbound lane of New California Road and that an orange tractor with a cab on it was in front of the squad car. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that as he got closer he observed Deputy Reuter's car in the westbound lane and observed a flashlight in the eastbound lane pointing toward the tractor. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he pulled up to the left and behind Deputy Reuter's car and parked in the eastbound lane. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he then saw what appeared to be a body laying on the south side of the road and at that time used his flashlight and saw that it was Deputy Reuter. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he called to Deputy Reuter and saw no movement and heard nothing and that he then used his flashlight to make a quick view of the area and could see no one in the area and that he checked the squad car and tractor and saw no one else around. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he then went to the body and observed Deputy Reuter laying on his stomach slightly rolled onto his right side, that there was no movement, and that he could not find a pulse when he checked the neck area. Robert Bloyer further informed the complainant that Deputy Reuter felt cold, there was no pulse, and that his glasses were broken but still on his head. Robert Bloyer further informed the complainant that he saw blood on Tom Reuter's left hand and was unable at that time to find Tom Reuter's weapon. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he then contacted Dispatcher Jeff Rewey and told him he needed help right away that an officer was down. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that a short time later a gray Chevrolet Citation with Wisconsin license number FHR617 approached from the west while he was standing behind his squad car and that the driver's door opened and a male person stepped out. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he shouted stop, who is it, and that he then recognized the person as Dale Soderstrom. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that Dale Soderstrom then responded, Dale Soderstrom and I've got your suspect right here,

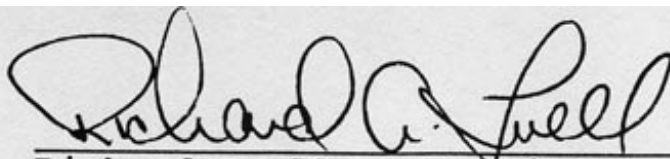
at which time Soderstrom pointed into the car so that he then saw a brown-haired male subject sitting in the passenger seat of Soderstrom's car. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that the male got out of the vehicle and ran west with him pursuing, that he yelled stop, halt, and the individual continued to run faster than he was going westbound on New California Road. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he was unable to catch the individual who was running faster than he was and that he then returned to the area where the squad cars were and inquired of Dale Soderstrom who the individual was that had ran away. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that Dale Soderstrom advised it was Greg Coulthard and that he was unsure of the spelling but that both he and Greg worked at Lynden Grove Farm just north of the location. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that in talking with Dale Soderstrom he was advised by Dale Soderstrom that he was home asleep when Greg came in the house and woke him up and at that time Greg told him I just shot a cop. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that Dale Soderstrom thought it was a joke at which time Greg again repeated that he had just shot a cop. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that Dale Soderstrom advised him that since he didn't believe him he came over here to see what had happened and that they drove past and were coming back when they observed Deputy Bloyer's squad car at which time the defendant said oh no we're fucked. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that after talking to Dale Soderstrom he got out of the car and noticed a green-colored fired shotgun shell near the tractor and that upon looking in the tractor he saw a hard plastic sided shoulder weapon case that was empty. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that Dale Soderstrom advised that the shotgun was home in the closet. Perry Ahnen informed the complainant that approximately 12:30 a.m. on March 19, 1990, he was contacted at his home by Ron Sturmer, a City of Lancaster police officer, to report to the Sheriff's Department. Perry Ahnen informed the complainant that he is a Lieutenant with the Grant County Sheriff's Department and that upon arriving at the Sheriff's Department on the morning of March 19, 1990, began calling surrounding counties to request assistance in finding the male individual that had ran from Deputy Robert Bloyer. Perry Ahnen informed the complainant that he was provided the name of Greg Coulthard and that he then examined the booking records at the Grant County Sheriff's Department and received the name of Gregory A. Coulthard and that a photograph was also available and proceeded to run off photocopies so that other officers would be able to identify the individual. Complainant proceeded to the area where he observed Deputy Thomas Reuter's body laying in the ditch line on the south side of New California Road which is located at the place alleged in this complaint, specifically Clifton Township, Grant County, Wisconsin. Perry Ahnen informed the complainant that he became involved in the search for Gregory A. Coulthard together with numerous other officers. Perry Ahnen



informed the complainant that at one point he became connected with Deputy Ron Mainguth, a deputy sheriff for Dane County, Wisconsin, who was handling a canine unit. Perry Ahnen informed the complainant that at 4:07 a.m. on March 19, 1990, they had the defendant in custody as a result of the canine unit going into a storage shed and found the defendant hiding under bales of hay. Perry Ahnen observed that the same individual that they took into custody at 4:07 a.m. on March 19, 1990, was the same individual depicted on the Grant County Jail booking slip and photographs as being the defendant referred to in this complaint. Perry Ahnen informed the complainant that prior to finding the defendant at 4:07 a.m. on March 19, 1990, that he had followed tracks at different locations indicating a southerly direction of travel by the defendant. Perry Ahnen further informed the complainant that where the defendant was found was approximately five road miles from where Deputy Reuter's body was found on New California Road. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that he had returned home to the Lynden Grove Farm in Livingston and went to bed at about 10:20 p.m. on March 18, 1990. Dale Soderstrom further informed the complainant that he was awakened at approximately 11:45 p.m. on March 18, 1990, by the defendant who was living at the Lynden Grove Farm with him. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that when he was awakened by the defendant, the defendant said I shot an officer. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that he told the defendant just to go to bed since he had been drinking and at that time the defendant repeated, Dale I'm serious, I shot an officer. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that he then got up and at that time the defendant showed him the gun which he was holding and recognized the gun to be a .12 gauge shotgun. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that they then went out onto a porch area and at that time he could see the red and blue glow in the sky. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that the defendant wanted to take the .12 gauge shotgun with him but he said no, at which time the defendant ejected some shells onto the kitchen floor and placed the shotgun into a closet in the kitchen. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that they then went to his car and that the defendant then went back into the house and came out carrying a duffel bag which the defendant placed in the back seat of his car. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that he then drove to New California Road where he observed the red and blue lights of a squad car on as well as a tractor which was in front of the squad car. Dale Soderstrom further informed the complainant that he observed a flashlight in the roadway and that he then observed the body of an officer in the ditch across from where the officer's car was located and that he then drove past the area approximately two miles, talked, and returned to where the tractor and squad car were located. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that upon returning back to the tractor and squad car that he observed a second squad car at which time the defendant stated oh fuck, we're screwed. Dale Soderstrom informed the

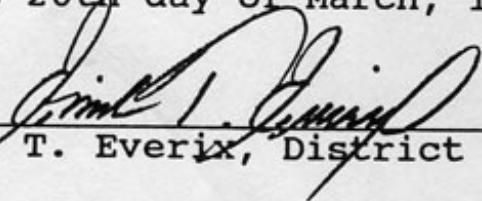


complainant that he told the defendant don't worry about it, I'll take care of it, at which time he got out of his car and shouted to the officer here's the one who shot him, and pointed to the defendant sitting in his car. Dale Soderstrom informed the complainant that it was at that time that the defendant got out of his car and began running westbound on New California Road with the officer chasing him. Donovan Nelson informed the complainant that he is the coroner for Grant County, Wisconsin, and that he was at the crime scene on New California Road on the morning of March 19, 1990, when he took custody of the body of Deputy Thomas Reuter. Donovan Nelson informed the complainant that he followed Soman Funeral Home's transportation of the body from the scene to Soman Funeral Home in Montfort and was present when the body was taken into the funeral home whereupon he placed the body of Thomas Reuter into a body bag and sealed it. Donovan Nelson informed the complainant that the body remained in a cool room at Soman Funeral Home and locked in that room. Donovan Nelson informed the complainant that later that morning he returned to Soman Funeral Home where the body was removed from the cool room and he then observed that the seals were intact and he then transported the body to Madison where Doctor Robert W. Huntington III performed an autopsy. Donovan Nelson was present for the autopsy which was conducted by Doctor Huntington and knows that the autopsy was performed on the body of Thomas Reuter, whom he knows personally. Robert W. Huntington III informed the complainant that he is a forensic pathologist with the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics and that he performed an autopsy on the morning of March 19, 1990, in the presence of Coroner Donovan Nelson. Robert W. Huntington III informed the complainant that after conducting the autopsy he concluded that death was caused by a single shotgun blast that entered the left chest area at a downward angle striking the heart and lung causing death. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that after he returned to the Grant County Jail following apprehension of a person identified as Gregory A. Coulthard that he had an opportunity to observe that individual in custody through a one-way mirror. Robert Bloyer informed the complainant that he identified the person in custody at the Grant County Sheriff's Department as the same individual that ran from him after getting out of Dale Soderstrom's car running westbound on New California Road at the scene where Deputy Reuter's body was found. Robert Bloyer further informed the complainant that he examined the mug shot in custody of the Grant County Sheriff's Department and knows that person is the same person that he identified at the Grant County Jail on the morning of March 19, 1990, and that is the same individual that ran from him at the scene of the crime. Maurice Krohn informed the complainant that upon executing a Search Warrant at the defendant's and Dale Soderstrom's home on March 19, 1990, found a .12 gauge shotgun in a closet in the kitchen.



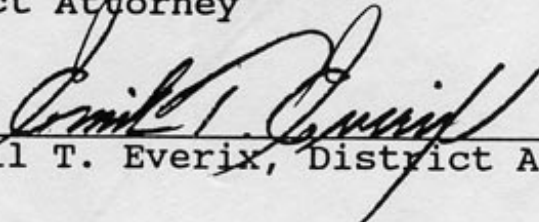
Richard Luell, Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 20th day of March, 1990.



Emil T. Everix, District Attorney

Approved for filing



Emil T. Everix, District Attorney

jr

# Behind bars, Coulthard looks at life

T.H  
6-27-92

By Kathy Bergstrom  
of the Telegraph Herald

Nearly two years after he was sentenced to life in prison, 21-year-old Gregory Coulthard says he's stepped back and taken a look at his life.

In September 1990, Coulthard was sentenced to life in prison

## CHECKBACK

with no chance of parole for 25 years for the March 1990 shooting death of Thomas Reuter, a Grant County Deputy Sheriff.

Coulthard was working as a farmhand at the time on a Livingston, Wis., farm. During the trial, he admitted he shot Reuter, who had flashed his lights and pulled him over for driving a farm tractor on a rural road south of Livingston at night.



Coulthard

He said he had been drinking and panicked when he saw the lights because he had been shooting his shotgun at signs along the road and had previously spent time in jail on misdemeanor charges. He said he never intended to kill or shoot Reuter.

Reuter, 38, was a four-year veteran of the sheriff's department and was survived by his wife and five children.

Coulthard was found guilty of first degree intentional homicide. In 1991 he filed an appeal of the guilty verdict asking for a new trial.

Because his appeal is pending, Coulthard refused to discuss any matters relating to the case or

Coulthard/Turn to Page 2A

# Coulthard

his feelings about it.

He now spends his days at the maximum security Green Bay Correctional Facility, Green Bay, Wis., home to about 840 inmates, working in the kitchen as a cook.

He works eight to nine hours a day, seven days a week, for 47 cents an hour.

After finishing work for the day, Coulthard said he is allowed anywhere 45 minutes to an hour of recreation before he returns to his 5-by-10-foot single cell for the night.

When Coulthard was sentenced, he read a letter expressing his regret for Reuter's death. He also said he wanted to continue his education and someday become a teacher.

"I'd still like to be a teacher, but the college program is full, and it's possible that it may not be around any longer," Coulthard said in a telephone interview from Green Bay.

He said it was rumored the program might be cut, but if not he may be able to enter it within the next year. He has already taken entrance tests and only needs to apply for and receive financial aid to enter.

The facility offers a two-year associate degree program through the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a capacity of about 40 men, said Ralph Larson, social service supervisor at the Green Bay Correctional Facility.

The program is filled every semester, and he said there was some concern recently about allowing prisoners to secure financial aid, but those concerns appear to have dissipated, he said.

Coulthard spends his time alone reading, watching television or writing an occasional letter.

Because of its educational programs, Green Bay Correctional Facility houses many younger inmates, Larson said.

Coulthard said many inmates

are younger than he is. "People know each other, but you can't really consider them friends, because people come and go so fast."

"People in prison aren't what you expect them to be," he said describing them as normal people who have had problems in their lives.

The thought of having no freedom is one that he said he tries not to let invade his every day thoughts. "If I was to wake up every morning and worry about where I'm at, the time is going to end up doing me," he said. "It's just a matter of mind over matter."

As for outside contact, he said he can write as many letters as he wants and is allowed one 15-minute phone call per recreation period as well as visiting hours. Coulthard would not elaborate on his contact with family and friends but said he does keep in touch.

"I'm just taking this as it comes along. As far as planning for my future, I don't know what my future holds, so I really can't comment on my future."

Life hasn't changed for his family, he said. "They've gotten a lot of support from friends in the area, and I'd like to thank everybody who has shown my family support."

"In my opinion it's made me a better person as a whole," he said of his prison experience. "You have to stand back and take a look at yourself. I had nothing else to do. I believe that's just a part of the prison system. Everybody stands back and looks at their life."

*Checkback is a feature that appears periodically in the Telegraph Herald in which issues or events from the past are re-examined and updated. If you have suggestions for the feature, please send them to Checkback, Telegraph Herald City Desk, P.O. Box 688, Dubuque, Iowa 52004-0688.*



Office of the Clerk  
**SUPREME COURT**

231 E. STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 1688  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

TELEPHONE 608-266-1880

RECEIVED  
JAN 13 1993

To:

January 12, 1993

Hon. James P. Fiedler  
Iowa County Circuit Court  
222 N. Iowa Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

David E. Lehmann  
Lehmann Law Office  
315 W. Gorham St.  
Madison, WI 53703

Maureen McGlynn Flanagan  
Asst. Attorney General  
P.O. Box 7857  
Madison, WI 53707-7857

Emil T. Everix  
District Attorney  
Grant County Courthouse  
Lancaster, WI 53813

You are hereby notified that the Court has entered the following order:

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No. 91-1388-CR State v. Coulthard L.C.#90CR82

A petition for review pursuant to sec. 808.10, Stats., having been filed on behalf of defendant-appellant-petitioner Gregory A. Coulthard, and considered by the court,

IT IS ORDERED that the petition for review is denied, without costs.

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Marilyn L. Graves  
Clerk of Supreme Court