

Turnbull gives evidence

Barb recalls moments of terror

By SUE BOCK
Staff Reporter

A calm, composed Barbara Turnbull told Ontario District Court this week that a man deliberately shot her in the neck as she stacked a cigarette shelf at a Benedet Dr. Becker's store on Sept. 23, 1983.

"I had both arms raised and I saw two people come into the store," she told Crown Attorney Leo McGuigan. "One came over to the pop cooler and the second person came in and he (the first person) raised his arm, bent it a little, came down to my level and fired."

"After the shot was fired, I ended up on the floor. I heard footsteps coming around (the counter) and two or three or four buttons were pushed on the cash register until the right one was hit and the drawer opened. The door opened. I heard some voices but didn't hear what they were saying," she said in a packed and hushed courtroom.

Turnbull, paralyzed from the neck down because of the shot, was wheeled into the courtroom by her mother, Iris. Mrs. Turnbull sat behind her daughter during the 50 minutes of testimony.

Sutcliffe Logan Jr., 19, Hugh Logan, 18, Warren Johnson, 22, and Clive Brown, 21, have all been charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and use of a firearm in the incident. The Crown is alleging Brown, Johnson, and Hugh Logan, the last of whom has been accused by pulling the trigger, were at the store that night and that it was masterminded by Sutcliffe Logan. All have pleaded not guilty.

Turnbull said her assailants "left quickly" and that she lay on the floor, conscious, for 10 minutes.

"I thought that I would be able to get up in about 15 minutes. I thought it was a tranquilizing bullet. My arms and legs felt like they were in the air. I went to look at my arms

and I saw the blood on the floor. I realized it was a real bullet and I just lay there."

Turnbull told court she normally worked a 4 to 9 p.m. shift at the store but that evening was scheduled to work until 11:30. It's alleged she was shot at 11:15 p.m.

She said her sister worked that late shift but had quit three weeks earlier. It was her sister's practice to lock the door early, only letting in customers "as she saw fit." Turnbull phoned her sister that night to find out what time the door got locked and was told "whenever I felt comfortable, around 9 or 10."

"I didn't think to do it. I just forgot."

She also testified her assailant was about her height, or 5-foot-10, and the second man was shorter.

Under cross-examination she said the manner in which the gun was aimed "looked to me like he deliberately shot me."



BARBARA TURNBULL

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