

Cops make changes, move on

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the trigger.
A jury found Madeley guilty of first-degree murder on March 12 following a two-month trial that started nearly three years after the slaying.

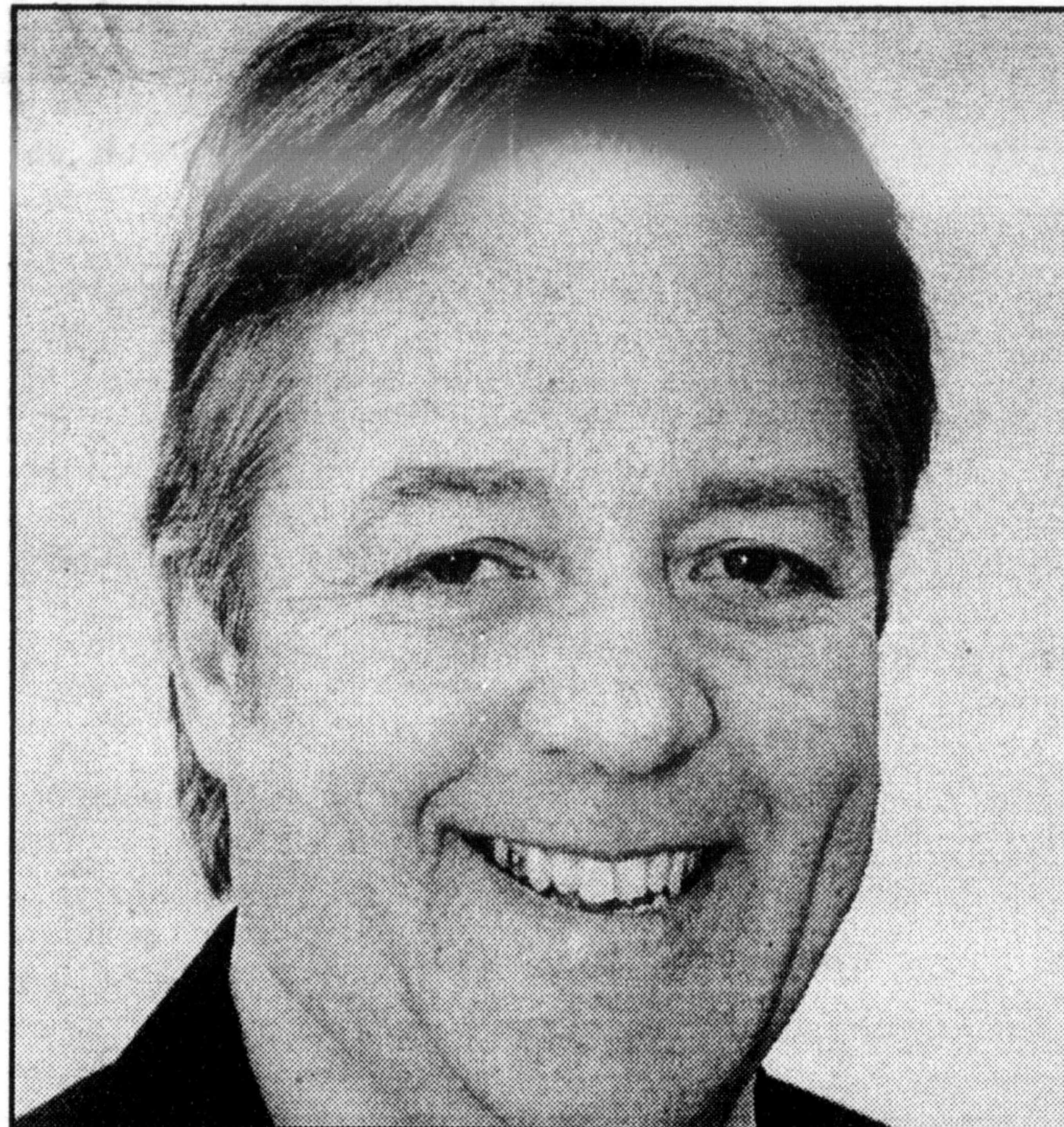
"I was confident we would get a conviction in court based on the information we had April 7 (1995)," Det. Woudstra said.

Madeley had bought a .22-calibre rifle on Nov. 17, 1994, and .22-calibre shell casings found at the scene were similar to those found at his Ranger Lake campground in Sault Ste. Marie.

Police also had a jacket with a drop of Mr. Sheppard's blood on the sleeve. The jacket belonged to Lori, but Madeley wore it often.

And a jailhouse snitch testified Madeley gave him a map and a handwritten script detailing a fake alibi.

As many as 30 officers had a hand in the investigation, which Det. Woudstra said involved countless hours of slogging police work.



Detective Keith Woudstra

Don't judge all

"The conviction was a direct reflection on the officers involved. The public shouldn't judge all of us on the behaviour of a few."

Investigators theorize that a gun-toting Madeley cowardly shot the elderly Steeles Avenue man several times through the back of his outhouse and then confronted him, putting a last bullet in his head.

Police believe Madeley then shoved Mr. Sheppard's body back into the outhouse, which wasn't visible from the road, and locked it from the outside.

The gun was recovered in about a foot-and-a-half of water in a rural Milton stream by identification officer Det. Len Shaw, with information provided by Madeley in his confession.

Police were on their way to look for the weapon in another nearby waterway, but Det. Shaw stopped as he drove by a stream at Britannia Road, east of Hwy. 25, and spotted the sawed-off rifle.

Det. Woudstra described Madeley, now 25, as domineering in his relationships. He had a history of dating young girls and told police he went everywhere Lori went.

"He styled himself as a ninja fighter," Det. Woudstra said.

Motive a mystery

The motive for the murder remains unknown to police, he said.

Madeley told the jailhouse snitch he killed Mr. Sheppard because he had sexually assaulted Lori, but there was no evidence to substantiate the claim.

Det. Woudstra said it could have had something to do with Madeley stealing money from Mr. Sheppard with his bank card.

"Only Keith Madeley knows for sure why he did it. We were never able to establish that."

Another unanswered question centres around how gun parts, a file, a knife and part of Mr. Sheppard's bank card mysteriously appeared on the property of the elderly man's daughter Susan Gagnon after Madeley was arrested.

Madeley lived at the Gagnon house and shared a room with Lori, Susan's daughter.

Det. Woudstra said police let it be known that they were looking for certain tools and he believes the ones found were purposely placed by someone to draw suspicion away from Madeley.

Madeley plans to launch an appeal of the conviction, defence lawyer Dirk Derstine said. The appeal, which if granted would mean a new trial, would be based on several points of law, he said.

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