

give names, just said 'the guys, the guys.' But he knew they was out to get him." Officer Martin Howley, who has been working in the police district that includes this neighborhood for 12 years, is talking: "We're just trying to keep a lid on it, keep these people from killing each other on a regular basis. . . . Most of the hoodlums live within four blocks of one another. . . . the 6000 blocks of Nassau, Oxford, Jefferson. This whole group of guys is responsible for a great deal of mayhem in the neighborhood. . . . Knowing and proving are entirely different. And the people won't talk. They're really scared. . . ." One lady said, 'You know the kid they locked up for burglarizing the house?' I said, 'Yeah.' She said, 'He was in jail for two days.' And they see this, they see them back out on the street, and they say, 'Why should I get involved, and he's back out?' One lady who testified is scared to death. " They can't get the hell out. They have to stay because they can't sell their own house and afford another place. They barricade themselves in the house and

somehow try to knock out an existence. . . .It's absurd. " Positively, there is a tremendous amount of unemployment in the area. It's not so bad when the kids are in school, but when (in summer) they get thrown in with those on unemployment, you've got a real mess on you hands. They've got nothing to occupy their minds, and you can't get them off the streets. The businessmen are saying, 'How are we going to get through the summer?' They're not talking about business. They're talking about, 'Am I going to be here at the end of September?' " Officer Jimmy Harris, who has been the daytime beat cop on Lansdowne Avenue between 58th and 63d Streets since January, was sitting in a high chair and looking out the window of the M.A.B. Rich-Lux Paints store, keeping an eye out on the street. He has been patrolling a larger area of West Philadelphia, including this neighborhood, for 7 1/2 years, and he says that the 11-year-olds he was locking up when he started are the ones " doing the shooting and drugs today. " He said he had locked up **Carmen Woods** several times when **Woods** was a youngster; he said that he had picked up Chet Laws once, too. The neighborhood's " really bad" in terms of crime, he said. " People around here are petrified," he said. " They fear calling the police

because of retaliation. They fear these kids will knock them off." 310 **Woods** appeared at his preliminary hearing June 1 attired in pin-striped pants, a silk shirt and ankle-high sneakers. He chatted occasionally with a sister and carried on a conversation over his shoulder with a young woman who wore a red headband. Tiger Laws sat several rows away, his eyes boring into the back of **Woods'** skull like laser beams. Lane was the only witness, and he testified for the prosecution. Sitting on a chair so high that his legs dangled, he told of how he had known **Carmen Woods** for " 14 years or something like that." Lane, **Woods** and young Laws had grown up in the same neighborhood. " What did you see (**Woods**) do?" Assistant District Attorney **Guy Sciolla** asked. " Shoot him (Chet Laws Jr.)," Lane replied. Then he gave the details of what he had seen the night of the slaying: Lane was about to go into his house on Felton Street, when he saw **Woods** and young Laws across the street, a few doors away in the 1500 block. They were underneath a street light. "I saw the defendant come out of the bushes," he said, adding that **Woods** was three or four feet behind Laws when **Woods** shot Laws in the head. "I looked, then went inside, hoping he wouldn't see me," said Lane. " When the police came, and neighbors started coming out, I went out, too." Asked why he had not told the police what he knew until several days had passed, he answered, " I didn't want to get involved." He told Laws' father, he testified, after he had been shot at by the defendant and by one of the defendant's companions, Michael Jones. He said he went to the police the next day, after he had " started taking matters into my own hands" - by shooting back at his alleged attackers. **Woods'** attorney, Morrison, argued that a reasonable bail be set so that his client could be free while he awaited trial. But Sciolla opposed it, saying that **Woods** had been arrested and judged delinquent numerous times as a juvenile on charges ranging from auto theft to robbery to possession of a weapon. Sciolla said **Woods** had outstanding charges against him as an adult - one related to a burglary, the other to drugs. Municipal Judge Charles J. Margiotti Jr. ruled that **Woods** should remain locked up and scheduled a formal arraignment for June 16. Then he admonished the families of the deceased and the defendant to " let the matter lie and let the law take the responsibility for finding where the fault lies." 359 Tiger Laws had been out of the hospital three days when he consented to an interview. His left cheek had several inches of stitching, and his golf shirt with an embroidered parrot on it puffed out from the bandages; but there was nothing in his direct and animated