

Bond set at \$125,000...

Youth's killer jailed

By Ghayth Nur Kashif
Editor

Simon Dawydenko, 26, the subject of an extensive manhunt for the slaying of a Chicago Muslim youth has now been jailed.

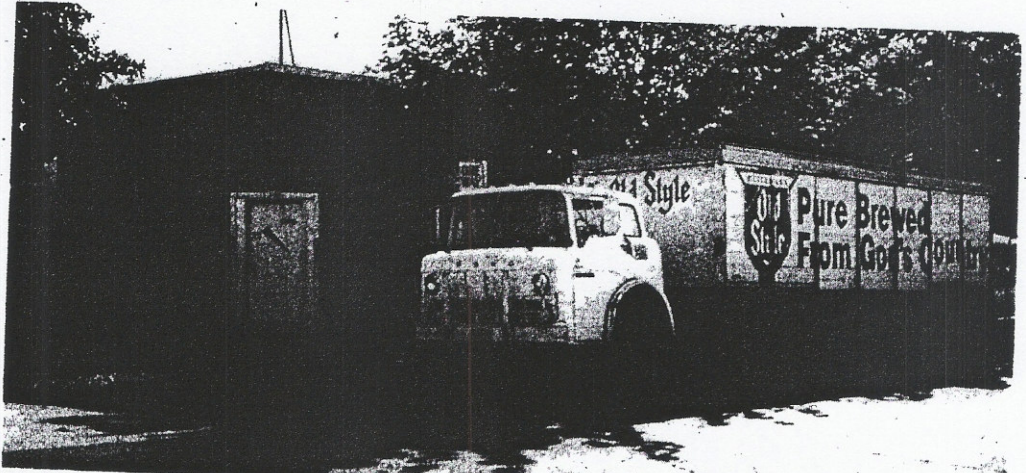
Against the backdrop of an aroused Chicago community demanding his capture and the rapid amassing of pertinent leads to his whereabouts by "Area 2" detectives Victor Tosello and John Sullivan, Dawydenko's attorney surrendered him to police authorities on September 11, one week after witnesses had described him as the man who gunned down 19-year-old Aazim Qaiyim, a member of the World Community of Al-Islam in the West, in cold blood.

Standing before Circuit Court Judge Maurice D. Pompey at the bail hearing, Dawydenko—a heavy set, Son-of-Sam look-alike—shifted nervously about, keeping his head hung down and avoiding any eye contact with the judge. According to witnesses, his court room demeanor was in stark contrast to his violent, blustering attitude on the night of the slaying.

According to police records, Dawydenko is no stranger to the criminal courts. His arrest record follows a curious pattern of crimes during the month of March. The records show that on March 13, 1970 he was arrested for theft; on March 11, 1971 he was arrested for burglary; and on March 13, 1972 he was arrested for conspiracy to commit theft. He was arrested on similar counts in August of 1970 and in August 1978.

More curiously however, in each case, his charges were reduced to either criminal damage to property or criminal trespass to vehicles. His probation and suspensions all total 3 years and 3 months and his total fines come to only \$233.00 for restitution.

In an apparent attempt to prevent the setting of a high bail, Dawydenko's attorney entered a plea of self-defense



HUGE BEER VAN arrives on schedule at controversial "exclusive" club on day following slaying of Muslim youth. Club is situated in heart of predominantly Bilalian community.



and requested reduction of the charge to homicide instead of first degree murder. Judge Pompey noted however the seriousness of the crime and the criminal history of defendant. He set bail at \$125,000.

A request for continuance by the defense was honored by Judge Pompey who set September 26 for the beginning trial date. For Chicago Bilalian communities the outcome of the trial is expected to bear great significance. Although there have been many community demands for swift justice upon the perpetrators of violent crimes, the circumstances surrounding the killing of Qaiyim, a Marine veteran, has presented a vital test for city authorities and the Bilalian and Caucasian communities alike.

At the center of focus is a racially exclusive club located on the south side, in the heart of a predominantly Bilalian neighborhood. The Qaiyim family lives just one-half block from the club which witnesses say has been a source of racial unrest for a number of

years. Dawydenko, purportedly a member of the club, was said to have left the club rowdy and drunk on September 4, and after shouting racial slurs at several Bilalian women, drove his car along side Qaiyim, who was walking quietly with a friend. Dawydenko reportedly spurted out insults and violent challenges to the young men.

Following his insults, Dawydenko is said to have aimed his gun at Qaiyim who scurried for safety—only to be shot point blank in the neck as he crouched in a garage driveway. The killing has led to community demands that the club be closed permanently. Among those calling for curbs on the club is Alderwoman Margaret Hume. Petitions are now being circulated among neighbors in the area who fear that continued operation of the club could lead to further incidents of this sort. Homicide "Area 2" officers informed Bilalian News that the area district commander also favors the closing of the club.

What can be sighted as a tribute to the community is the manner in which friends and neighbors calmly rallied to comfort and assist the family while at the same time effectively serving notice

that justice must be done. Such an incident could have easily led to a racial conflagration had not reason and restraint held sway. The decision of Dawydenko's attorney to surrender him promptly to the courts also spared the community some additional stress. The court now is expected to follow suit.

Mrs. Shahidah Qaiyim, Aazim's mother, said that she looks forward to justice by the courts. "I feel that he should not have received any bail," she said. "They have enough information on him; they had two eye witnesses. So why give him any kind of bond? I'm speaking about how I feel. Anybody that vicious, who already has a long record, shouldn't be turned loose."

A sampling of the community expressions revealed similar sentiment. It was learned the Dawydenko's lawyer had entered Judge Pompey's court prepared to pay \$5,000 for the suspect's release on an anticipated \$50,000 bond. Some members of the community said that they now believe that members of the exclusive club will readily put up the additional \$7,000. Further they question the slap-on-the-wrist treatment of the slayer in regards to his prior arrest cases.

Editor's note: Following news of the murder of Brother Aazim Qaiyim, Chief Imam Wallace Deen Muhammad suggested the following prayer be said after each of our daily prayers.

"Oh Allah, come to our rescue, and give us justice. Oh Allah, make the courts execute swift justice on this murderer. Oh Allah, please make an example out of this particular murderer so that future murderers will not be so bold. Amen."

