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## **Suicide victim 'was wrongly charged'**

A woman who killed herself while awaiting trial for the murder of a Skid Road drug dealer was innocent, according to another woman charged in the same case, as Supreme Court was told Tuesday.

Constable John Hosak, of the Prince Albert, Sask, city police testified that Connie Myrna Chartrand, 20, told him it was her and not Louise Ann Lewicki who stabbed Art Garceau to death in a Powell Street rooming house last May 30.

Mrs. Lewicki was charged with the murder and strangled herself to death in her cell at Oakalla Prison on Sept. 2, nearly two months before Miss Chartrand was arrested in Prince Albert.

"They got the wrong girl because I was the one who killed this man," Hosak said Miss Chartrand told him.

The trial before Mr. Justice Henry E. Hutcheon was also told that Garceau's body was found with 186 stab wounds in it, although only one, which severed an aorta in his neck, had killed him. Garceau was found nude beneath a sheet in his bed, his ankles tied together with a length of electrical appliance cord.

Vancouver police detectives found four knives a jackknife, a sharpened kitchen knife, a fish filleting knife and a knife with broken blade at the murder scene.

Miss Chartrand was arrested in Prince Albert on Oct 24 after she allegedly spoketo Const. Hosak about the killing.

"I stabbed him 56 or 57 times with four different knives," Hosak said she told him. Hosak said he had found Miss Chartrand walking in the 100 block on Prince Albert's First Street East after the police had been called because a woman was banging on doors asking for help just before dawn last Oct. 24.

The woman flagged down his patrol car as he approached and he opened the door for her, he said. She got in, but refused to close the door, saying she couldn't because there was no feeling in her fingers, the constable added.

Hosak said it was "quite cold, about zero degrees Fahrenheit" and Miss Chartrand was wearing only a light jacket over her blue jeans and blouse.

He said Miss Chartrand told him she was from Montreal and had been living in Vancouver. She also said she had been hitch-hiking with two men in a white Camaro car and had a fight with one of them, he testified.

"She didn't seem to know where Prince Albert was. She was just hitch-hiking and found herself there," the policeman said.

While in the police are, the woman began to cry then stopped, he testified, and as they were approaching the City's police station; Miss Chartrand abruptly said to him: "There's something that I'll tell you that I wouldn't tell anyone else. You know, I killed a man in Vancouver." "I said, "killed a man?" Hosak said. "And, she said, "Yeah, or murder him or whatever you call it." I said, "you're only telling stories." She said, "No, I'm telling the truth. How much would a person get for killing someone?" I said, "I don't know... You're only telling me this to get a free trip back to Vancouver."

She said "No."

Hosak said Miss Chartrand didn't know the name of the man she had claimed to kill, only that his first name was Art or Ray and that he was about 63

years old. She also claimed to have bought drugs from the man and to have used heroin and amphetamines.

“She said that one night he was high on drugs and that she tied his feet and hands with an electrical cord,” Hosak said.

The trial, with John Rowan and Mark Krotter acting for the Crown and A.P. Serka for the defence, continues.