

## Chesimard jury told of physical evidence

By LAWRENCE NAGY

The slow process of identifying physical evidence in the Joanne Chesimard murder trial continued in New Brunswick yesterday, as prosecutors began what they hope is the last week in their case against the 29-year-old black activist.

Two State Police detectives told the jury how they recovered bullet fragments imbedded in cars that were involved in a fatal Turnpike shootout on May 2, 1973.

Chesimard is accused of starting the shootout in which one of her companions and Trooper Werner Foerster were killed and she and Trooper James Harper were wounded.

Detective Sgt. Norman Demeter identified two bullet fragments he removed from Harper's unmarked patrol car. Harper had testified he took cover behind the patrol car as he traded shots with Chesimard and James Costan, who was fatally wounded.

Under questioning by Assistant Prosecutor Nicholas Stroumtsos Jr., Demeter also testified a mechanic recovered two bullet fragments from the inner roof panel of the patrol car a month later.

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Demeter also identified a passport in the name of James Henry Walker and a page from a telephone directory with several entries in the name of Gibson marked in pencil.

He testified the items were recovered from a suitcase found in the 1965 Pontiac in which Chesimard and her companions were riding. The driver of the car, Clark Squire, had given the false name of Archie Gibson when he was arrested on an assault charge in New York the day before the shootout on the Turnpike, testimony has revealed.

Detectives were unable to find

recognizable fingerprints on three automatic ammunition clips recovered from a red handbag in the Pontiac, Demeter testified under cross examination by defense attorney Stuart Ball. The detective conceded under questioning by Ball that he made no mention of the clips in a report on the shootout investigation.

Ball pressed Demeter on whether it was standard State Police practice to indicate the precise location of physical evidence on the labels which are affixed to such items. Defense attorneys had hinted in questioning of previous prosecution witnesses that other State Police detectives ignored accepted investigation techniques by failing to mark on labels the exact locations where automatic weapons and spent and live bullets were discovered.

Prosecutors objected to Ball's questions about State Police procedures, but the defense attorney finally asked Demeter if there was "anything unusual" in the way he labeled the bullet fragments he found with precise locations. Demeter replied there was not.

State Police Detective Lt. Vincent Peterson testified he collected fragments of the shattered rear window of the Pontiac to determine whether it had been knocked out by bullets in the gun-battle. He said he found a bullet hole and bullet fragment in the bottom of the window channel.

Peterson said he did not recall recovering any glass fragments from the front seat of the Pontiac. But after Ball showed him a photo of the car, he conceded glass fragments might have been in the front of the vehicle.

Superior Court Judge Theodore Appleby overruled objections by defense attorney William Kunstler on the expertise of George Hickman, a State Police forensic chemist. Hickman will testify today as an expert on blood analysis and bullet holes in fabrics and metals.