

Armed Convoy Brings Joanne for Trial

By FRANK McKEOWN

In a caravan of eight cars bearing heavily armed state police and county officers, Joanne Chesimard, the reputed "soul" of the Black Liberation Army, was taken chained hand and foot from Riker's Island prison in New York City to the Middlesex County jail yesterday to await trial in the murder of a state trooper.

Sheriff Joseph De Marino said he was taking no chances while transporting his prisoner in the light of the recent Trenton State Prison break attempt which some linked to members of the BLA.

The 27-year-old black militant, acquitted in New York on bank robbery and kidnaping charges, is expected to go on trial the first week of March in the murder of Trooper Werner Foerster.

Searched Driver

Foerster was killed May 2, 1973 in a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike in East Brunswick after he and Trooper James Harper had begun an investigation of the passengers of a car involved in a traffic infraction.

Foerster had stopped the car and had taken the driver, Clark Squire, to the rear of the vehicle to examine his identification

while Harper questioned two passengers in the car.

While searching Squire, Foerster discovered the clip for an automatic pistol and alerted his partner.

Harper warned the passengers not to move, but they allegedly began firing at him.

Shot in Head

Harper was wounded and retreated behind his car to return fire. As he did so, Squire shot Foerster, then took his service revolver and fired two shots from it into the trooper's head.

In the shootout, the woman passenger in the car, later identified as Chesimard, was wounded, and a male companion, James Coston, was killed.

She was arrested at the scene but Squire was not caught until almost two days later hiding out in East Brunswick.

She was to stand trial with Squire in the trooper shooting but had her case severed after she became pregnant. At the time she was in the custody of federal marshals in Manhattan on another charge.

In March 1974, Squire was found guilty of the trooper's death, the attempted murder of Trooper Harper, illegal possession of a gun and stealing Foerster's pistol.

Found Maps

He was serving a life plus 65 years term in Trenton Jan. 19 when inmates seized part of the prison's maximum security wing and held it until early Jan. 20.

Roadmaps were reportedly found near Squire's cell, and a weapons-laden van was found outside the walls of the prison.

Some officials felt the at-



Werner Foerster
Slain on Turnpike

tempted breakout might have been a bid to free Squire and other BLA members and to seize hostages to hold in exchange for Chesimard.

(huge picture w/shackles on Assata not here)