

# Pepples Asks Lower Bond; Authorities Mum

James Pepples, 24, rural Melbourne, charged with the murder of Tom Kooiker, Osceola, early Saturday morning, remains in the Marshall County jail under \$100,000 cash bond although a hearing was held Monday morning seeking reduction of the bond.

Judge Roger Halleck, in Associate District Court, took under advisement the bond review.

Pepples was taken into custody at his home two miles northeast of Melbourne between 3 and 4 a.m. Saturday after the shooting with little resistance, say

authorities. Kooiker, who was shot in the head, died enroute to a Des Moines hospital after treatment at Marshalltown Community Hospital East.

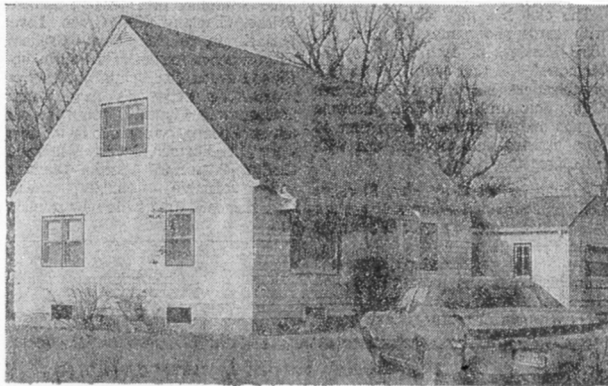
According to Carl Baker Marshall County Attorney, the pistol used in the incident has been recovered and taken to the BCI lab in Des Moines. He also says he has received a report from the BCI, called in to aid in the investigation with the sheriff's department, and he says he may release some of the information later after he has gone

over the report.

The county attorney, when asked, said he doesn't know the motive for the shooting, or if Kooiker was living at the Pepples home. There has been no confession by Pepples, says the county attorney, nor has Pepples made any statement as to what happened.

According to authorities all Pepples would say at the scene was that someone was shot and then refused to talk. Also present at the time of the arrest was Pepples' wife, Karen Pepples. Earlier in the evening she attended a recognition dinner at the Thunderbird Restaurant in Marshalltown for Mrs. Bethel Tribby, health service supervisor at the Marshall County Care Facility, who has retired. Mrs. Pepples is activities director at the Care Facility. It has been learned the dinner was over by 9:30 p.m.

It has also been learned that Kooiker was employed in the maintenance department at the Care Facility from June 1975 to Dec. 12, 1975. He was listed as a parttime student and lived-in at the Care Facility



THE SCENE of the shooting which resulted in the death of Tom Kooiker, former area resident, was this house, north of Melbourne, just off County Road S-62. It is the residence of James Pepples, who is charged with the death, and Pepples' wife, Karen. The shooting occurred in a southwest bedroom

(shown here on the left, with shades drawn), according to a source. The car pictured, parked throughout the day Saturday, and remaining Saturday night on the lawn near the house, is registered to Karen Pepples. It is not known who parked the car there. (Staff Photo)

January 2, 1976