

April 22, 1999, Thursday

MURDER TRIAL POLICE OFFICER DENIES PERJURY

Iain Ferguson

A POLICEWOMAN went on trial at the High Court in Glasgow yesterday, charged with committing perjury during evidence she gave at a murder trial.

Shirley McKie, 36, who is known as Shirley Cardwell, denies the alleged offence said to have taken place during the trial of David Asbury.

Asbury was convicted of murdering 51 year-old Marion Ross at her home in Irvine Road, Kilmarnock, on January 8, 1997.

The charge against Cardwell, of Welbeck Crescent, Troon, Ayrshire, alleges she claimed in evidence at Asbury's trial that she had not been beyond the porch area of the murder victim's house when, the charge alleges, she had been inside the house, in the vicinity of the internal doorway between the downstairs hallway and the bathroom.

Asbury, 21, from Kilbirnie, Ayrshire was jailed for life in June, 1997.

The murder shocked the local community in Kilmarnock where Miss Ross, a former bank clerk, was well known. Yesterday, Detective Constable Douglas Wallace, 36, told advocate depute Sean Murphy, prosecuting, how he was called to the house.

He said Mrs Ross was lying dead in her bathroom and it was obvious it was a suspicious death.

He told Donald Findlay, QC, defending, the house was sealed off with a police officer at the door who kept a record of everyone who entered or left the house to prevent anything being touched.

The trial, which is expected to last two weeks, continues today.