

Duddie Ford, Former Salesman Convicted

A Superior Court jury, which heard two weeks of testimony, yesterday convicted Duddie Ford Inc. of Westboro and former salesman Thomas Nedder of Dedham of defrauding the Coolidge Bank & Trust Co. of Watertown in connection with car loans in 1984.

The jury, which deliberated part of Tuesday and most of yesterday, convicted each defendant of 23 counts of larceny by false pretenses or falsely representing the means or ability to pay in order to obtain credit. There were no verdicts of not guilty but one charge of fraudulent inducement to part with property against each defendant was voided by the prosecution and did not reach the jury. Nedder is no longer a car salesman for Duddie Ford Inc., according to testimony.

Judge William C. O'Neil Jr. revoked Nedder's bail and scheduled a bail

hearing for this morning. A specific date for sentencing was not set because Nedder's lawyer is vacationing in Florida and Judge O'Neil will not be available next week, court aides said. Nedder's lawyer, Alan J. Pransky of Dedham, was allowed by O'Neil to join his family in Florida after the case went to the jury Tuesday. Worcester lawyer David J. Cataldo stood in for Pransky yesterday. Duddie Ford Inc. is represented by Brian J. McMenimen of Boston.

Frances L. Robinson, special assistant attorney general, argued to the jury Tuesday that customers provided accurate information on their ability to repay loans but that Nedder gave false data to the bank to "induce" approval of the loans. Miss Robinson argued that Nedder generated the false data and that Duddie Ford Inc. was responsible for Nedder.

McMenimen argued that no wrongdoing by the corporation had been shown and stressed that Nedder was

the only individual charged in the case.

Pransky argued that it had not been shown "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the bank relied on false data or that Nedder had provided false information to the bank. Pransky also suggested that memories fade with time and that prosecution witnesses could have forgotten important facts. Pransky also asked the jury to consider whether "someone in the bank changed documents" to affect a civil suit that is pending in the case.

Worcester State Elects Holden Man To Trustees Board

Russell E. Vickstrom of Holden has been elected to the Worcester State College board of trustees by the college's alumni executive board. Vickstrom, a 1973 graduate of the college, has been president of the Alumni Association since 1984.

Vickstrom is an employee of Wyman-Gordon Co. and is responsible for personnel administration of 800 employees. He was previously coordinator of employee development at Norton Co.

Alumni representatives on the 10-member board of trustees are elected to five-year terms by the college's alumni.

Vickstrom succeeds Robert W. Barros, a 1952 graduate, who will complete his term on the college's governing board in April.

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