

Clarence, his brother Clyde, and a friend named Nathaniel Johnson had spent a good part of the evening of May 28, 1971, at the Columbia Bar in downtown Detroit. Around one o'clock in the morning, they left to drive Clyde home. On the way they were stopped by two police officers who noticed that their brake lights did not work. The car and its occupants were searched. No weapons were found and no reason surfaced for detaining the three men, so they were released. This encounter proved significant in the trial of Nathaniel Johnson six months later.

After dropping Clyde off at home, Manning and Johnson returned to the bar to pick up Johnson's wife and mother-in-law, Wanda Thomas, who worked there. There are two versions of what happened on this return trip.



Ledyard Street where Clarence Manning Jr. was murdered by STRESS Officer Michael Worley dressed in the DPD's version of a "hippy."

Manning stopped the car in front of the Edison Garage near Third and got out to urinate. He was approached by a bearded white hippy dressed in old clothes. The hippy said something to Manning which made him so visibly angry that Johnson, seated on the passenger side of the car, could not get his attention, even by dropping an empty wine bottle from the car on the pavement outside his car window. Manning ignored Johnson and took a couple of steps toward the hippy who then pulled a gun and fired.

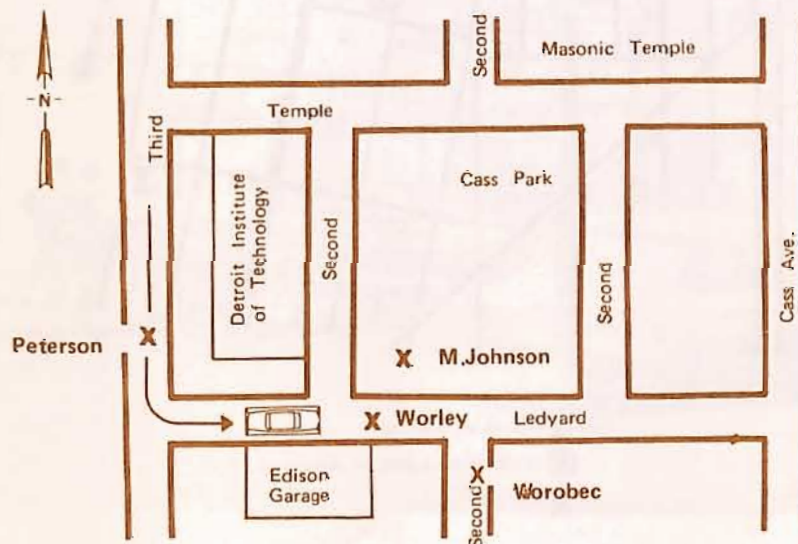
This "hippy" was STRESS officer Michael Worley, who was working decoy that night. His shot caused his three backup men (Raymond Peterson, Richard Worobec, and Marvin Johnson) to spring into action. When it was all over, a total of 18 shots had been fired, Manning

was struck by seven of these, the fatal wound being a bullet through his chest. The shot was fired from the gun of Raymond Peterson from a distance of less than five inches.

Nathaniel Johnson had never learned how to drive, but instinct for survival led him to slide behind the wheel and flee from the scene. Two blocks away he hit a parked car, abandoned the one he was in, and ran the remaining six blocks to the Columbia Bar where his wife and Wanda Thomas were still waiting.

All three returned to the scene in a cab. On the way they saw a police car and stopped the cab to get out and tell the officers that their friend had just been shot back on Ledyard. Johnson was arrested by these police officers, who had just received a police bulletin on him. He was charged with assault with intent to rob being armed, a capital offense.

Scene of the killing of Clarence Manning Jr.



Michael Worley had volunteered to be decoy that evening. As he walked down Ledyard, a car seemed to be following him. Finally the car stopped and Johnson pointed a gun at him from the passenger window, warning him, "This is it!" The driver, Clarence Manning, Jr., got out and approached him, brandishing a bottle. Worley identified himself as a police officer and pulled his gun, demanding that Manning halt.

Instead, Manning kept coming and finally threw the bottle at Worley who fired at him. Johnson sped away in

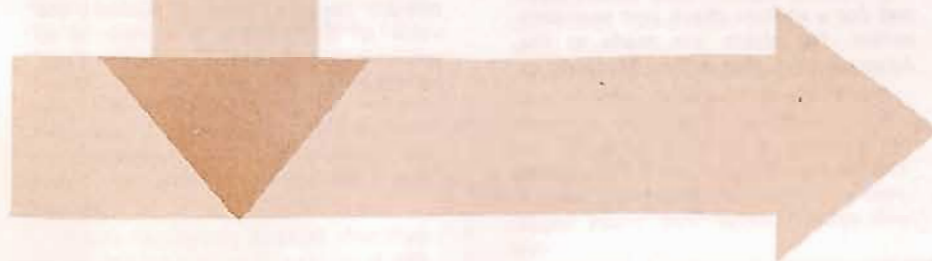
the car at this point, leaving his unarmed friend at the mercy of the STRESS team. All four STRESS officers testified that they believed Manning to be armed.

As Nathaniel Johnson sped away from the scene, he unknowingly drove directly in the path of Patrolman Worobec, who had positioned himself further down the street. Worobec, an expert marksman, claimed to fire four shots point blank at the car as it approached his position and two more shots at it from behind as it passed. There was, however, no gunshot damage to the car.



- Scene of Killing
- ⊗ Nathaniel Johnson Arrested
- X Columbia Bar

Twenty-five minutes later, a Tactical Mobile Unit spotted a man fitting the description of Nathaniel Johnson standing on the corner of Sproat and Park, three blocks from the scene of the shooting. They pulled over, asked the man his identity, and arrested him when he told them he was Nathaniel Johnson.



The Manning-Johnson case differs from most other STRESS cases in that the deadly weapons claimed to be used were a gun and a bottle rather than a knife. From that point on, however, there is an unsettling similarity to many of the other STRESS killings.

No weapon was found in the search of the Manning car when it was stopped for a routine check just moments earlier. No claim was made at the Johnson trial that either Manning or

Johnson fired any shots at any of the STRESS officers. No weapon of any kind was received in evidence at the Johnson trial.

One such incident could possibly be explained away as an unfortunate tragedy, but as such incidents multiply, we must conclude that the police and prosecutorial hierarchy gave STRESS a license for violence and murder because they recognized the value of STRESS as a technique to terrorize and control a segment of our community.



It was almost midnight on a hot evening in July, 1971, near Malcolm's Transmission on Chalmers Street, when Horace Fennicks, Howard Moore, and Ken Hicks approached STRESS Officer Michael Ziolkowski to ask him for a quarter.

At that point, according to the police version, the three tried to rob Ziolkowski at knifepoint. He allegedly identified himself as a police officer and the trio fled. Witnesses sitting on a porch across the street testified that they saw no weapon of any kind but that the men stood talking briefly, then Ziolkowski pulled a gun and shot at them.

Fennicks and Moore were shot to death

in the alley by the STRESS Officers. Hicks, the sole survivor of this attack, was critically wounded. He was charged with assault with intent to rob being armed, but this case was dismissed by Prosecutor Cahalan the day the jury had been picked. Once more, the police and prosecutor's office preferred not to have the conduct of STRESS subjected to public examination.

The autopsy report on Fennicks showed that his blood alcohol was .42, which is extreme intoxication. It was hardly necessary to shoot him to death in order to be apprehended by four STRESS Officers at the scene.

Although many elements of the Manning-Johnson case are disturbing, three aspects in particular reveal the murderous manner of the STRESS executioners.

The driveways of the Edison Garage, where the shooting of Manning occurred, are well lit. Reports filed by STRESS officers note this fact. These reports also indicate that all of the officers who shot at Manning were within ten to twenty feet of him when they fired. After Manning was downed, the officers could have easily seen that he had no weapon and was defenseless, and that no further force was necessary to subdue him, yet they continued to riddle him with bullets.

Police testimony showed that Raymond Peterson was not the first offi-

cer to fire at Manning. Patrolman Worley had already wounded him. Yet Peterson fired the shot which killed Manning — a shot fired into Manning's chest from a distance of less than five inches away.

Finally, readers should be aware of the manner in which the investigation of Manning's death was conducted. Less than six hours after the STRESS officers filed their reports on the incident, they were back at the scene to assist the Homicide Bureau in the very investigation for which they were possible murder suspects. Though the department routinely "suspends" officers involved in killings pending investigation, these inquiries are efforts at cover-ups and STRESS officers have logged many paid vacation days this way.

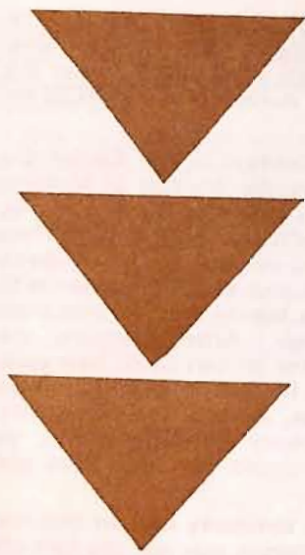


The driveway of the Detroit Edison Company's Garage on Ledyard Street where Clarence Manning Jr. was killed by STRESS.

Six months after the killing of Clarence Manning, Jr., the one witness to this killing was brought to trial. The charge of assault with intent to rob being armed was dropped just before the case went to the jury and they deliberated only on the less serious charge of felonious assault.

Thirty minutes later the jury acquitted Johnson of any wrongdoing in the incident in which his friend was murdered. He had spent almost 90 days in jail, because he was too poor to put up \$500 bail.

At the time of his arrest, Nathaniel Johnson was 21 years old. He was employed as a plumber. He had no criminal record at the time of the killing, and he still has no criminal record.



Nathaniel Johnson (left) with his attorney Kenneth Cockrel stand outside Recorder's Court. Johnson, the only witness to the STRESS murder of Clarence Manning Jr., was acquitted of the charge of assault with intent to rob being armed by a jury who saw through the cover-up and lack of evidence.

Chapter 3

Turning Point: The Rochester Street Massacre

During its first year of operation, STRESS became increasingly more controversial in certain segments of the community — those sectors where STRESS left its mark in blood, bullet holes and battered bodies. The State of Emergency Committee (SEC), formed in September of 1971 after the killing of two teenagers, demonstrated vividly the level of concern that STRESS had generated among blacks in Detroit.

At the same time, STRESS had not shot its way into the consciousness of the entire community, at least not in any way commensurate with its battlefield statistics and human casualties. Most Detroiters had never heard of Clarence Manning, Jr., Ricardo

Buck, Craig Mitchell, Dallas Collins, James Henderson, Ken Hicks, Howard Moore, Horace Fennicks, Harold Singleton and other STRESS victims. March 9, 1972 changed that.

From the moment the papers hit the streets with the story of the shootout between STRESS officers and Wayne County Sheriff deputies, STRESS could never again be quite the same. This was a shooting different from all the rest. It was not "law enforcement officer vs. alleged street mugger". It was "law enforcement officer vs. law enforcement officer". The usual cover-up and whitewash of police murder would not work in this case, and so there was a selective prosecution.

