

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT
Criminal Investigation Division

July 22, 1965

To: Chief of Detectives

Subject: FATAL SHOOTING OF ROGER CURRY, N M 21, 13993 Maine St., By Police Officer; AND THE ARREST OF WILLIE JAMES BRAXTON, N/18, 13924 Cherrylawn, Held as Police Witness

1. At 1:35 AM, this date, Patr. Jerome Palka, Scout 11-8, called Det. Joseph Gross, Homicide Bureau, and informed him that he and his partner, Patr. Michael Wiecek, had conveyed the above Roger Curry to Receiving Hospital, suffering a gunshot wound, entrance to the left chest, exit right side of the back. Subject was DOA at 1:30 AM, death pronounced by Dr. Robert C. Moffat, of the hospital staff (Chart #669189).

2. Dets. William Ellridge and James O'Leary, #11 CID, conveyed Willie James Braxton, N M 18, and Robert Davis, N M 36, to the Homicide Bureau. Patr. Percy Hart and Donald Magdowski, Scout 11-1 responded to the Homicide Bureau. Longhand statements were taken from all of the above by Det. Sgt. Hershel Bostick and Det. Joseph Gross in the presence of Det. Insp. Hiram Phipps, Homicide Bureau, and Uniform Insp. Stanley Jedlinski, 11th Pct, both of whom were notified and responded to the Bureau.

3. Later, formal statements were taken by Asst. Prosecutor Norton Wisok, and recorded by Stenographer David Dahline, also in the presence of Inspectors Phipps and Jedlinski.

4. Det. Lt. Sebastian Eifrid and Det. Billie Bishop, Homicide Bureau, were notified and responded to the scene, along with Patr. Eugene Nierzwick, where an investigation was conducted and photos taken. From the investigation and statements it was learned that at 1:05 AM, this date, Patr. Hart and Magdowski saw a 1964 Buick coach, Mich. license ML-5948, speeding south on Conant to Joseph Campau, then south on Joseph Campau toward Mc Nichols. The officers gave chase and apprehended the car and occupants in the driveway of Watts Standard Service, 2801 E. Mc Nichols.

5. Patr. Magdowski got out of the Scout car and questioned the driver, who produced a Michigan operator's license belonging to a Leroy Curry, and a bill of purchase for the car made out to Roger Curry. The driver stated that Roger was his brother. While questioning the driver, Patr. Magdowski observed the ignition wires of the auto hanging from under the dash. The officer then asked for further identification, and when the driver could not produce it he was informed that he would have to accompany the officers to the station. The driver then told Patr. Magdowski to take his hands off the car and knocked the officer's hand away. Patr. Hart joined Patr. Magdowski and the two officers attempted to subdue the man. A scuffle ensued and Patr. Hart succeeded in putting a handcuff

on the driver's left wrist, at which time he broke away. While trying to effect custody of the man again the officers noted that the man put his hand in his pocket and said, "I'll get you." At this time, Patr. Hart pulled his revolver and a shot was fired when the driver grabbed at the gun. The shot struck the pavement. The driver, his right hand fumbling in his pocket advanced toward Patr. Hart and Patr. Hart fired, inflicting the above wound.

6. A passenger in the above Buick, Willie James Braxton, was apprehended at the scene. The driver of the Buick was later identified at Receiving Hospital as Roger Curry by his father, Willie Curry, N/M/42, 13993 Maine, TW 1-3772.

7. Patr. Hart and Magdowski went to Receiving Hospital, after statements were taken, and Patr. Hart received first aid for a bruise of the left jaw, and Patr. Magdowski received first aid for an abrasion and scratches of the left arm and a bruise of the left forehead.

8. The above Buick was towed from the scene by the Chene X-Way Service, 5960 Chene, WA 3-0000, tow-truck driver was Paul Kovacs, W/22, 19919 Waltham, VE 9-0003. The car was towed to the 11th Pct. Station where it is held on tag E-538749.

9. A bone handle pocket knife with a 3" blade, found in the right pants pocket of Roger Curry, taken from him by John Martin, attendant at Receiving Hospital, N M 38, 6311 Colfax, no phone is held on tag E-540083. A Michigan operator's license C 6005-510-015-116, issued to Leroy Curry, 13993 Maine St., taken from Roger Curry by Patr. Magdowski, is held on tag E-540084. The clothing of Roger Curry, taken from Receiving Hospital by Det. Sgt. Bostick, is held on tag E-540086. Two spent 38 Cal. shell casings, taken from Patr. Hart's Department issued 38 Cal. Colt revolver, serial 637778, DPD 7297, are held on tag E-540085. Personal property, taken from Roger Curry at Receiving Hospital, is held on tag E-540087. All except the car are held at the Homicide Bureau.

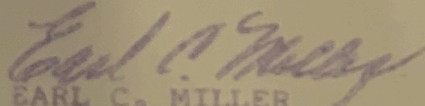
10. At the scene: Sgt. William Knaus, 11th Pct.

11. Notified: Weekly Duty Officer, Dist. Det. Insp. George Bloomfield; Acting East Side Dist. Insp. Anthony Rozman; Det. Lt. Angus Gatherum, #11 CID (responded to the Homicide Bureau); Lt. Lawrence Kean, 11th Pct.

12. Notification procedure completed at 2:00 AM.

13. Assigned to 11th Pct. and Homicide Bureau; copies to Dir of Personnel, Accounting Office, Gun Repair Shop, Firearms Instructor, Scientific and Central Photo Bureaus and Citizens' Complaint Bureau.

Det Gross:drp


EARL C. MILLER
Detective Inspector