

CLAIMS HE JUMPED THEM

# Police Beat Youth In Traffic Squabble

BY BETTY DE RAMUS

Twenty-year-old Eddie Dowdell, a young man with a prudent past, had probably never even looked closely at a police officer before the night of December 1.

But after a double-date with a friend that night, the former army sergeant and Chrysler employee, got into an argument with two policemen over a traffic ticket he didn't think he deserved.

Now Edward Eugene Dowdell lies in Receiving hospital, his right wrist partially paralyzed, his head, knees, elbows and ankles crisscrossed by marks of violence. Charged with assault and battery against a police officer, Dowdell must stand trial when he heals.

At the same time, his parents have filed complaints with the Community Relations Bureau and the Commission on Community Relations, charging the two officers with assault and battery. So Dowdell's future is a toss-up.

NAACP Atty. Bruce Miller reconstructed events of the night of Dec. 1 as told to him by his client.

Dowdell, who resides at 4516 Sheridan, says he went to his friend's house also on Sheridan and the two of them picked up their girlfriends in separate cars, took them out to dinner and returned the girls home.

Dowdell and his friend then proceeded to drive home, the friend taking the lead. When they got to Sheridan the friend drove into the alley and Dowdell came down the street.

As he came into the block, the youth charges that a scout car pulled him over to the side and asked where his friend was. Dowdell replied, "I don't know."

The officer then reportedly said, "We'll have to give you two tickets, one for yourself and one for him."

An argument ensued and Dowdell said one of the policemen punched him in the face. Panicking, the boy ran but the policeman caught him at the corner and beat him until he fell into a state of semi-consciousness.

The policemen then shuttled him into the scout car and Dowdell says a discussion as to what should be done with him followed. The policemen, it is charged, decided that since Dowdell's friend might have seen them it was

best to report the incident. However they also decided, Dowdell said, to claim that Dowdell struck at them first.

Police claim they chased Dowdell after he drove through two stop signs while in an apparent race with a friend. When they drove up beside Dowdell in his 1962 Thunderbird, he reportedly leaped out of his car, came up to the police car and swung at the officer.

He is then alleged to have attempted to escape apprehension and the officers were forced to pursue him, one making a flying tackle.

"His head must have struck the ground when the officer tackled," one official said.

Neurosurgery was performed on Dowdell's head Dec. 4, Atty. Miller said. Dowdell was arraigned on the assault and battery charges, Tuesday, Dec. 8 and placed on a \$500 bond.

## Last Rites for Mildred Green, Hit-Run Victim

Funeral services for Mrs. Mildred A. Green, of Northfield, who was a hit-run victim, were held Monday in St. Stephen AME church. The Rev. Martin Luther Simmons officiated.

Mrs. Green, who was struck by an automobile at Scotten and McGraw, a week before her death, died in the hospital Friday.

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