

Metro Detroit

NEWS COMMENTATOR: "Good evening Detroiters, this is station FTGU bringing you authenticated monthly reports and summaries on news topics of special interest. Tonight's topic -- STRESS. STRESS is an elite unit of the Detroit Police Department. For more than a year now there has been furor thruout the community on the subject matter of STRESS. Is it a legitimate police tool? Or, is it a murder squad? This is the question which we shall examine.

"January 13, 1971, STRESS began its decoy operation.

"April 24, 1971, STRESS records its first killing.

"May 11, 1971, STRESS records its second killing. On ~~March~~ ¹⁹⁷¹ 11 STRESS Officer Raymond Peterson the decoy combatting, as it were, crime on the street, lost his three cover officers after voluntarily following an alleged prostitute into an apartment building at Charlötte & Woodward. Apparently Mr. Peterson was trying to do the work of the beloved Detroit Vice Squad. Inside the apartment Peterson shot twice and killed Herbert Childress. One person witnessed that killing. His name: James Henderson.

"On September 9, 1971 James Henderson became the 8th Stress victim. He was gunned down, in the back, by 2 Stress Officers. The location: a hotel lobby at Woodward & Charlotte. The Stress Officers: James Brown and none other than Raymond Peterson!

"For a closer look at the facts surrounding the killing of victim number 11, we bring you the testimony that took place in Court in the now-aborted STOP STRESS trial.

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"The date of the event: September 21, 1971.

"The time: 1:30 a.m.

"The place: Monroe & Randolph -- 3 blocks from 1300 Beaubien, Police Headquarters.

"We switch now to Court. Stress Officer Robert Miller is on the stand being cross-examined by Justin C. Ravitz.

(The names ~~are~~ ^{have been} not changed to protect ~~those who are~~ ^{the} guilty).

"Q: So then Mr. Miller, you were just hanging out at Monroe & Randolph at 1:30 a.m., is that correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Who were your brother officers that night?

A: Tony Golicz, David Siebert & Raymond Peterson.

Q: They weren't on the street with you, were they?

A: No, they were not.

Q: As a matter of fact, they were lurking in nearby alleys, .357 magnums at the ready, weren't they?

A: They were out of my line of vision, sir.

Q: You then saw Donald Saunders, is that correct?

A: Yes, he was walking down Monroe and he asked me for 20 cents.

Q: What did you do?

A: I told him no.

Q: What happened next?

A: Mr Saunders started to walk away and I sat down on the curb.

Q: Were your feet tired, Mr. Miller?

A: No, sir.

Q: What did Mr. Saunders do?

A: He came back and said: "Hey man, don't you have 20 cents? I need bus fare to get home.

Q: What did you answer, Mr. Miller.

A: I told him I have twenty dollars, but I didn't have 20 cents.

Q: Why did you say that officer?

A: Because I had \$20.

Q: I see officer, you meet a stranger in downtown Detroit at 1:30 a.m., he asks you for 20 cents, and you decide to give him an inventory of the monetary assets on your person, is that correct?

A: Well, that's what I told him.

Q: Officer, have you ever heard of term "provocateur?"

A: Yes, but I'm not one of them.

Q: What happened next, Officer?

A: I crossed Monroe and sat down on the other curb and Mr. Saunders came across the street, pulled a knife on me and ordered me to stand up.

Q: Did you stand up?

A: I did.

Q: What happened next?

A: He held the knife to my throat, grabbed my wallet, hit me and knocked me down.

Q: Which hand did he have the knife in?

A: His right hand.

Q: What hand did he grab your wallet with?

A: Uh, the left. He grabbed my wallet with his left hand.

Q: Where were you carrying your wallet?

A: Uh...In my.....uh.....in my right rear pocket.

Q: Which hand did he hit you with: the one in which he had the knife or the one in which he had the wallet?

A: Uh.....

Q: Well, anyway Mr. Miller, Donald Saunders must have hit you pretty hard to have knocked you down. How big a man was Mr. Saunders?

A: May I check my write-up, sir?

Q: Certainly.

A: Yes, I have him listed as about 5'10", 160 pounds.

Q: What happened after he knocked you down?

A: I immediately drew my service revolver, identified myself as a police officer and ordered the thug to halt, but he continued running?

Q: What did you do?

A: My partner, David Siebert and I gave chase and started firing.

Q: Was he getting away from all of you, fleeing on foot --3 blocks from Police Headquarters?

A: Oh yes, he was running real fast and he turned off Monroe onto Randolph.

Q: How many shots were fired at him on Monroe.

A: Together, we fired 5 shots.

Q: Did any take effect?

A: No, sir.

Q: Did you yourself reach Randolph and fire some more.

A: Yes, both Officer Siebert and I reached Randolph and fired 4 more shots?

Q: Tell me Mr. Miller, as a Detroit Police Officer with several years experience you've had occasion have you not to arrest persons for public drunkenness.

A: Yes, I have.

Q: You're able to discern when a person is under the influence of intoxicants, aren't you?

A: Yes sir.

Q: In your judgment did Mr. Saunders, in any way, appear to be under the influence?

A: No sir, he didn't.

Q: He hit you real hard, and he ran real fast and well, is that correct?

A: Yes he did.

Q: When you finally shot him down on Randolph, you observed him when your bullet took affect, didn't you?

A: Yes sir, I was directly behind him, down the street, when he was hit.

Q: How did he fall?

A: He fell straight forward, face down, with his feet pointing directly back in my direction.

Q: Then the bullet or bullets doubtless struck him or entered the rear or back portion of his body, is that correct?

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A: Yes sir

THANK YOU, I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OF MR. MILLER. THE PEOPLE NOW CALL THE WAYNE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER.

Q: Dr., you are a licensed physician, in fact a pathologist employed by Wayne County, is that correct?

A: Yes sir.

Q: In that capacity did you have occasion on September 21, 1971 to perform an autopsy upon the corpse of a person identified as Donald Saunders.

A: Yes sir, I did.

Q: What did your examination consist of, doctor.

A: Well, I made an external examination of the body and took appropriate measurements; I then opened the body by the usual "Y" shaped incision" and examined the heart, lungs, liver, spleen, kidneys, gastro-intestinal tract, and head. I rendered an opinion as to cause of death, and I conducted a toxicology report and issued my findings.

~~Q: Doctor, you took the external measurements and weight of Mr. Saunders?~~

~~A: Yes, I did.~~

~~Q: How high was the approximate height of Mr. Saunders?~~

~~XXXXXXXX~~

~~X~~

~~X~~

~~A: Oh, he was approximately 5'7" tall and weighed 122 pounds.~~

Q: What was the cause of death, doctor?

A: A gunshot wound of the chest.

Q: Did you determine the entry point of the wound.

A: Yes I did?

Q: The bullet entered in the back didn't it, dr?

A: No sir, the bullet entered the anterior or front chest.

Q: Did you take the height and weight of the body, dr?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What was Mr. Saunder's size--was he about 5'10" tall, 160 pounds?

A: Oh, no, he was a much smaller man. He was 5'7" tall, 122 pounds.

Q: Dr. what did the blood-ethanol count reveal, if anything.

A: Counsellor it revealed that Mr. Saunders very, very drunk. The count was .32.

Q: Dr., based upon your medical expertise, was Mr. Saunders ~~able~~ ^{time} just prior to his death able to run real fast and well?

A: Certainly not. He was sufficiently drunk so that he ~~was~~ ^{would} have ~~had~~ ^{had}

difficulty walking, or even standing, let alone running.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

So STRESS continues. Last fall after massive protests, Commissioner John Nichols stated that all STRESS officers were going to be subjected to thorough psychological testing. A week later, Mr. Nichols said that the statement was just to silence critics: that no amount of testing could determine how an officer would act under pressure.

Last month Stress was re-activated after several months of a decoy-operation moratorium. Commissioner Nichols proudly told the public that all officers had been subjected to thorough psychological testing.

The 3 Officers acquitted in the Rochester shootout that resulted in the murder of Wayne County Deputy Henderson were, on December 6 returned to Stress duty.

Raymond Peterson, involved in 8 of the 15 Stress killings is still with Stress. It was Peterson's bullet that killed Clarence Manning, Jr on May 29, 1971. Manning, who was unarmed, was shot 7 times, but the fatal bullet was fired by Peterson. A Sgt. from the Detroit Police Ballistics lab testified in the Stop Stress trial that Peterson's fatal bullet was fired directly into the heart of Mr. Manning from a distance of: less than 5 inches.

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"This is Station FTGU. STRESS is a murder squad of the Detroit Police Department. It will continue to murder until we, the people Stop STRESS.

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