

The Beating:

Mother's Story

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Mrs. Powers said that she and her two sons had been beaten by policemen the night before. She was waiting at the hospital for her sons' X-rays, but more distantly, she was waiting for something else to happen, and she had no way of knowing just what that something would be.

Mrs. Powers is on ADC. The mother of eight children, she was put on probation not long ago because her 14-year old daughter broke the law, and she was held accountable for the actions of the minor child.

Saturday morning at approximately 3 a.m., according to Mrs. Powers, her two sons, Ford Preston, Jr., 17, and Willie James, 16, said they were hungry. They had watched the late show on television, she said.

The Powers just moved into an apartment on Maxwell and are not yet fully settled. She told her sons to go around to their grandmother's house to get something to eat. Then, she went to bed.

At approximately 4 a.m. Mrs. Powers said she heard the boys yelling, "the police are outside Mom, the police are outside!" Then, someone began to pound on the door and tried to force entry by breaking the door down.

She said, she then opened the door and the police rushed in.

"Are you the mother?" the police queried.

"Yes."

"Where did you send these boys?" asked the police, and as they asked, Mrs. Powers claims a policeman hit her and knocked her to the floor.

One of her son's advanced on the policeman and the other officer drew his gun, side and held h

Mrs. Powers began to cry, and another daughter, 10 years old, who had witnessed everything, left to get the grandmother. Mrs. Powers said the policeman continued to manhandle her.

As the police, now reinforced with others, began to take Mrs. Powers and her sons out of the apartment, the son resisted or objected to the handling by the police, according to Mrs. Powers, and they all began to scuffle.

One policeman was scratched in the tussle and one lost his badge.

Outside, she claims the police threw her into the snow, and continued beating and kicking her. "Cut out this crying out here," said one policeman. "You're disturbing the neighbors."

By this time, other people had gathered and the streets were lined with police cars. Her sister objected, and the policeman threatened to beat the sister. Then, somehow, the ten-year old daughter was hit and bruised.

On the way to the police car, said Mrs. Powers, the police called her unprintable names and punctuated their epithets with blows.

"We can't respect you people," said one police, according to Mrs. Powers. "We can have any of you women for two, three or four dollars . . ."

At the hospital Saturday, Mrs. Powers did not know of any formal charges lodged by the police. She was free to go home—as were her sons, as far as she knew.

Her house, she said was a shambles. Windows and bookcases were broken and the beds were turned upside down. She and her sons carried scars, inside and outside, perhaps because the boys ran when the police yelled to them on the street and sought to question their reason for being out at almost 4 a.m.

Why did the boys run?

According to Mrs. Powers, neither boy has a police record, but both have been picked up by the police on several occasions.

Each time, she says, they have been beaten before being released.

Police Story

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in a suspicious manner. When they attempted to question them they ran into their home at 4900 Maxwell.

Patrolman Bewak followed them and Willie Powers struck Patrolman Bewak over the head with a broomstick, and Ford Powers slashed him with a knife, inflicting a small laceration on the left side of his neck.

Patrolman Chalut received a laceration of the right hand from a curling iron which Alberta Powers had on her person, as he attempted to aid his partner in the scuffle with the boys.

Other police summoned to the scene including a lieutenant, two sergeants and a scout car manned by two officers, arrived on the scene and helped subdue the three persons.

They were all taken to the hospital. The patrolman had X-rays taken which were negative. Both received first aid treatments for scratches on the hand face and neck.

A broomstick and a curling iron are being held at the fifth precinct. There was no record of a knife reportedly wielded by the boys.

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