

May 10, 1961

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Subject: Complaint of Mrs. Ruth Stegall alleging discourtesy by Officer J. D. Tippit.

Complaint No. 61-28.

Sir:

Mrs. Stegall called the Personnel Office about 3:30 p.m., May 6, 1961 and stated Officer Tippit gave her a ticket for Running a Blinking Light and No Operator's License shortly before then. She said she drove up the street a short distance and found her license and returned and found the officer talking to another person. She said she stopped across the street from the officer and held up her license and told the officer she had found her license. She stated Officer Tippit told her he was busy then and would talk to her in a minute, but got in his car and drove away when he finished talking with the other person leaving her sitting there. She felt he was being discourteous by not coming and talking to her.

Statement of Officer J. D. Tippit:

I gave Mrs. Stegall a ticket for Running a Red Blinking Light on Edgefield at Beckley Friday afternoon, May 6, 1961. She said she had changed purses and could not find her drivers license, so I also gave her a ticket for No Operators License. About 30 minutes later, I was stopped writing another ticket a little further North on Edgefield and Mrs. Stegall stopped on the other side of the street and told me she had found her license. I excused myself from the man I was with and told Mrs. Stegall to bring them with her to the court with the ticket. When I finished writing the man I had stopped at that time, I drove away. I did not realize Mrs. Stegall was still there. I thought she had found out what she wanted to know. If she was still there and was expecting me to talk further with her, I am sorry. I certainly would not have been that discourteous had I known she understood things that way.

Note: The tickets issued to Mrs. Stegall were set in Court #3 at 9:00 a.m., May 19, 1961. They were issued at 2:20 p.m., May 6, 1961, and the ticket Officer Tippit was writing at the time Mrs. Stegall returned and showed him her license was dated at 2:45 p.m. Mrs. Stegall possibly might have had time to have gone home and returned with her license. She must have gone longer than she inferred when she reported the incident.

Mrs. Stegall entered the hospital May 9, 1961. Her daughter was contacted May 10, 1961 and she is going to bring the tickets to the Fines Bureau with Mrs. Stegall's license and take care of the tickets for her. Mrs. Stegall will be contacted later and given an explanation of why the officer did not talk to her further. It is possible she did understand but used that as an excuse to complain about the tickets.