

Relatives Of Slain Youth Dispute Policeman's Story

By LARRY SCROGGS

Relatives and friends of a 16-year-old boy police said was killed when he threatened an arresting officer with a knife after Thursday's downtown riot yesterday disputed the official police report.

Mrs. Lizzie Payne of 855 Mason, Apt. 175, said her son Larry Payne, who died after being shot with a police officer's 12-gauge shotgun about 12:50 p.m. Thursday, had come to her apartment by himself shortly before noon the same day.

Mrs. Payne said she and Larry, who lived with his father, Mason Payne, at 3023 Parker Road, talked for several minutes after he arrived.

"After a while, Malcolm (another son, age 11) was going to show Larry where a boy who did some sewing lived in the apartment building behind us. Larry had some material and he wanted the boy to make him some pants."

"While they were gone, I started watching 'As The World Turns,' on TV. It comes on at 12:30 and I always watch it. While I was watching it, a

girl came and told me the police had shot Larry."

"I ran out there and tried to get to him. The police put the gun on me and said 'Get back.' I said 'That's my boy.' They wouldn't let me get near him."

Mary Francis Miller, 17, of 855 Mason, Apt. 177, who said she watched the shooting from about 100 feet away, said, "Larry had his hands up and his back to the door of the storage room. His hands were behind his head when the police shot him."

"The short fat policeman shot him," said Lewis Berry, 18, of 855 Mason, Apt. 162. "The skinny policeman told the other one, 'You didn't have to shoot him.' It was a muffled sound, like busting a sack. The gun was touching his stomach."

Police Thursday linked Larry Payne with the looting of the Sears, Roebuck and Co. retail store at 906 South Third.

Fred Latham, the store manager, yesterday said the incident at the store began about 12:10.

Police said Patrolman L. J. Jones, 25, shot the Payne youth in self defense.

A statement by Jones said, "my partner and I observed a male colored entering the basement of one of the apartments carrying a television" (after they had answered the looting call at 901 South Third).

Jones statement continued, "... I saw a blade ... sticking out of his hand and he made a motion toward me and I shot him."

"The male colored slumped down in the doorway ... this knife fell down the stairs, at which time the male coloreds above me on the stairway landing were leaning out over me from the landing, shouting and screaming, 'Let's kill the white ...' they had been hollering at me and at each other while I was trying to get the boy to come out."

"Crowds began to gather and there were several shouts 'Kill the no good murdering, white-----' and after several more minutes more help came in there and sent the boy to the hospital in an ambulance and we got out of there."

Patrolman Jones said he was "60 to 70 yards" away when he first saw the person carrying the television set run into the basement but that he was positive it was the Payne youth.

Fire and Police Director Frank C. Holloman last night said, to his knowledge, no statement had been taken from Patrolman Charles Williams, who was Patrolman Jones' partner at the time of the shooting.

Detective Chief W. P. Huston said police had recovered a wooden handled knife with a 5 and a half inch blade from the scene.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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