

The Story Behind The Story

Everyone knows for a fact that a 16yr. old negro boy was killed by a 25yr. old white policeman Thursday March 28; and that's about the extent of the actual knowledge. From there we go to beliefs and speculations, based on rumors. Everyone has heard a version or may be several versions of how or why it happened, and in as much as each version is, to a large extent very different, for an example: "The police shot the boy because he was in the process of stealing a color T.V. and when he was caught, refused to ad hear to the policeman's calls to halt," or that "the boy pulled a 6 inch, an 8 inch, and even a 12 inch knife on the policeman and that he shot in self defense"; the validity of any of them is questionable.

But Monday April 1st, I heard a version which I not only don't doubt the validity of but have enough faith in to repeat. This version was told by a close relative of the boy and here is what she said.

Harry had just left home and was

on his way, with a piece of material in a paper bag, to a seamstress. The police saw him with the cloth and the bag, and evidently thought that he had been looting and the material was stolen merchandise. They began to yell to the boy, who probably because he was frightened by all the excitement, ran from them. The police chased and caught up with him and, according to a neighbor who also after the shooting, ran to Harry's home to inform his mother, after a few words pushed the gun into the boy's stomach, apparently to muffle the sound, and fired.

This was by no means the end though, for Harry was dead but the policeman hadn't gotten his fill of brutality yet.

After the neighbor, who will remain anonymous, informed Mrs. Paine of the shooting, she immediately ran out to see her son and as she bent mournfully over his body, this same policeman, who had not 10 min. ago killed her son, began beating her in her chest and on her arms and finally forced her to seek

refuge to avoid further injury." He acted like a wild man, I never saw anything like it in all my life."

This version of the murder is not known publically and the boys mother has no interest in telling it, not to investigators, police or any other authority. Right now the only thing she's interested in, the only person she wants to see is officer "John Doe"; her reason is obvious.

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