

April 20, 1939

"Sunday, April 16th, at 7 P.M. I was sitting on my front step when some colored kids were throwing stones at Ed Moore's Boy (also colored). Freeman was talking to Ed Moore and then said: "Wait, I'll be back". He came back and at the same time a scout car appeared. The officers went up to Moore and I figured it was about the kids who were throwing stones and I knew who they were so I walked across the street and I asked what it was all about. The big cop, Mitchell Buyak said "Who the hell are you?" and I said, "I am just a taxpayer." He said, "Where do you live?" I said, "Right across the street." Then he said, "Get the hell over there were you belong".

"As I was leaving the yard Officer Salem Watson grabbed hold of me by the neck and we fell out on the street. Buyak came out with his handcuffs while I was lying on the ground and beat my head. In the meantime I started protecting myself and the fight lasted for 15 minutes, dragging me around and knocking me down with the handcuffs.

"Then my wife and son came out protesting about the beating they were giving me, and when my wife protested, Buyak was going to hit my wife on the head with the handcuffs. My son, Clarence, protested, and he grabbed him. When he grabbed him, my son hit Buyak. In the meantime Freeman chased my son with a knife. While Watson goes to Freeman's assistance, Buyak still was assaulting

me with the handcuffs. That is all I remember until we got in the car when a fellow by the name of Randall demanded for Bayak to take the knife away from Freeman. He also took Bayak's badge number. Bayak was afraid and finally demanded the knife from Freeman. Freeman gave it to him.

"On the way to the station Bayak makes a deal with Freeman: 'I will forget about the knife but I want you as a witness against these two bastards we have here.' When we got to the garage Bayak took one of the cuffs off me and pulled me around by the other cuff and pulled his gun out of the holster, aimed it at me and said, 'This is what we do to bastards like you' and I reached around and hit him. We struggled until help came from the station and I was taken in.

"In the station house when I got near the door the janitor of the station pushed me into the room. A plainclothesman was standing behind the door and when I was pushed in he hit me with a billy once and said 'that is what we do with bastards like you around here'.

"After the assault they took me to the Receiving Hospital, then brought me back to the station and threw me into the cell until Attorney Baxter got my release."