

5 Police Agencies Unite To Nab Sniper

By MARK NICKEL
PLYMOUTH
Plymouth Police officers, with help from four other police agencies, apprehended a rifle-wielding sniper Monday morning after a two-hour shooting spree ended in a home at 946 N. Holbrook.

In custody in Mercywood Hospital, Ann Arbor, is Donald J. Groom, 18, of the Holbrook address, police said. He was transported to St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor after complaining that his ribs, back and head hurt, according to police. He was later transferred to Mercywood.

No one was injured by gunfire during the melee.

According to police, Groom had become weary and dazed by tear gas that was shot into the home. He had fallen down the stairs as he approached the front door of the house to surrender.

Hospital authorities told police that Groom, a PHS student, would be in the hospital under observation for at least two days.

neth had come home and also pleaded with his brother to give himself up.

At 11:30 a.m., Groom put the two guns on a window sill with the stocks pointing out and closed the window, holding them in place, police said.

Several minutes later, the front door opened and Groom, lying on his stomach, held his hands out the door, police said.

Sgt. Henry Berghoff and Patrolmen Daniel Carpenter and William Fletcher rushed to the front door to secure Groom, police said. They were followed by more than 15 officers who stood guard around the house.

Straley said Groom used more than 20 rounds of ammunition and the police used about 15, all by Straley.

When police searched the house, rumors that the sniper had three hostages was proven false. Groom was alone during the episode, according to police. Straley said he found a

After the crowd of about 100 had left the area and most of the officers had returned to regular duty, Straley and his men searched the house for further evidence before finally leaving at 3 p.m., police said.

Police radio in the home and that Groom had apparently listened to all the instructions he had given to the men.

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had left the area and most of the officers had returned to regular duty, Straley and his men searched the house for further evidence before finally leaving at 3 p.m., police said.

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POLICE CHIEF Herbert Straley said no formal charges against Groom had been lodged Monday and that his department would be conferring with the Wayne County prosecutor's office later this week.

Armed with a 30.06 rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun, Groom reportedly began shooting at houses and cars in the vicinity of his home. When the shooting had ended, two Plymouth patrol cars, two civilian cars, a Livonia patrol car, a county patrol car and a county motorcycle all had been damaged by the gunfire from the sniper, police said.

Several homes in the neighborhood also had been hit by the gunfire, police said. The estimate of damage was not available but it was termed "considerable" by police.

IT ALL BEGAN at 9:30 a.m. when police received a call from a neighbor who said that his home had been riddled with bullets. Patrolman Ralph White answered the call and, after taking the complaint, heard more gunshots and called for assistance.

Straley, Capt. Loren Johnson and Patrolman Daniel Carpenter sped to the scene.

After arriving, Straley said the car he had been driving was hit, and he returned the sniper's fire. He said he wanted to keep the sniper's head down so he could get an officer with a tear gas gun into position.

Four cans of the gas were shot into the house, two on the first floor and two upstairs. The sniper had stationed himself at an upstairs window.

More help was requested and officers from the Wayne County Road Patrol, Michigan State Police and the Livonia Police Department answered. The City of Northville called Plymouth to see if more help was needed and sent three officers.

A FOUR-MAN sniper team from the Wayne County sheriff's office also answered the call and came equipped with bullet-proof vests and long-range rifles. They were stationed across the street from the house with Straley and other Plymouth policemen.

A four-block area surrounding the house was cordoned off, and police stationed themselves around the house and in nearby homes.

Another can of tear gas was shot at the house, but it misfired, landed on the ground and flushed four county officers from their hiding spot in the backyard of the home.

After more than an hour's wait, Straley pleaded with Groom to throw his guns out and come out on the front porch. Groom's brother Ken-

Civil Suits Seen As Tool Against Crime

LANSING Senator George W. Kuhn (R-Birmingham) has introduced a bill aimed at fighting organized crime connections in controlling legitimate businesses.

"This new concept of fighting organized crime through civil actions to close businesses infiltrated by criminal elements is similar to legislation passed by Florida last year," said Sen. Kuhn on the 14th District.

Sen. Kuhn said, "It is well known that organized crime and vice are increasing in affluence and power, and which power naturally flows from the investment of vast sums of wealth procured illegally.

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