Heroes from page 1A

10:30 a.m. As he was heading into the store, he saw what he first thought might be a scuffle be-tween two youths.

thought might be a scuffle between two youths.

"At first I thought it was a coujule of guys kind of knocking each
other around," he said. "Then I
thought it might be a boyfriendsirlifrend problem."
As he came closer, Partin realized something more and different
than a mild spat was going down.
The woman, who had just finshed putting her groceries into
the trunk of her car, had just got-

ten inside when a youth grabbed her by the threat and pushed her

her by the threat and pushed her down.

"He kept choking me and sald, 'don't scream,' "ihe sald in her statement to police. "I kept screaming and kitching."

When Partin, who works for BASP in Wyandtotte, realized the seriousness of the situation, he immediately grabbed the youth and held him in a bear hug against another car. Hills police had been dispatched to the parking lot on a report of a fight.

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When they arrived, Partin and Mitchell, who had helped Partin keep the young man from running away, had prevented the woman from being seriously injured. She did not request medical treat-ment.

Knife is found

Knife is found
Police found a 14-inch butcher
knife, restraints and duct tape on
the assailant and believe he intended to at least steal the woman's new car.
Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer

North of Maple West Bloomfield

said he feared much worse for the

said he feared much worse for the woman.
"We don't know what he was going to do," said Dwyer. "But If those two citizens hadn't come to her aid, we could have had a real tragedy."

regody.

Dwyer said police did not know
why the youth accused of the
crime had attacked the woman,
but after seeing the weapons, they
leared the worst.

"We don't know if he was going to kill her, abduct her, or what,"

Partin and Mitchell have born up under the celebrity status with

Dashing whru the snowle

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modesty, but neither man seemed particularly comfortable in their

"I'm not really interested in the publicity," Partin said. "But if it is something that will show people the importance of getting involved, I'm glad to do it."

volved, I'm glad to do it."

Lavar Vernon Roumph, 16, was
arraigned as an adult in 47th District Court Monday on charges of
assault with intent to rob while
armed, which carries up to life in
prison; assault with intent to
commit a felony: kidnapphis,
which carries up to 10 years in
prison or a \$5,000 fine; and as-

ault with intent to commit a felony: carlacking, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison or \$5,000.

Partin asid he knew the young man, who was fired Dec. 13 efter working at the store, Partin asid although the boy was tall, he was too akinny to be a match.

"He had always been pleasant to me," is said. "When I was belding him down, he said that he had ruined his life. I told him that didn't have to be the case."

Partin said he's often at the Kroger store, where employees know him as regular.

"I have four kida," he said. "So I'm in there a lot."

After the excitement died down and police took away the suspect and the victim who called her saying "a wonderful man named 'Jeff," Partin did what he'd come to do — shop.

"I' went in and bought my groceries," he said. "When I got in line, the manager opened another line and told mo to bring my stuff over. When it came time to pay he said, "ou're not paying,"

Roumph, who is from Southfield, has no criminal record. He is in the Oakland County Jell without bond.

The Hills woman sawed by Partin has declined to talk to the medic, but had plenty to say to Chief Deyer about the man who camb to risk.

She told me that she considers him her guardian angel," Dwyer said.

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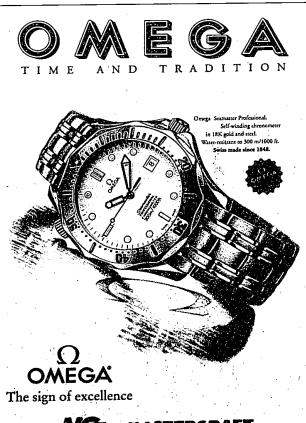
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