

... And 24 Years Later: The '43 Pattern Remains

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: Detroit has now suffered two of the most severe racial disturbances in American history: the race riot of 1943 and the riot just passed. Ralph R. Reed, a 40-year veteran newsmen, was an editor of a metropolitan Detroit daily newspaper during the 1943 riots. Reed worked day and night on that story, and he draws on his experience to compare what happened then with what in the future will call "The July, 1967, Detroit Riot.")

THE FOUR HORSEMEN rode again — spreading Death, Famine, War and Pestilence.

The first 1943 dash into Detroit saw invasion of Paradise Valley, on the lower East Side. The second, now just over, saw Hell break loose in an area north of West Grand Boulevard, still in the inner city but blocks away from the site of the race riot that saw 34 die in 1943. Riot No. 2 has taken a death toll of 40, at least.

Rumors rode rampant in both instances, carrying conditions beyond control of local police authorities, who moved against the madness without orders to shoot to kill.

Snipers took their toll on both occasions, while a scared and critical public wondered why police guns were strangely silent for so long.

Death, Famine, Civil War and Pestilence left their scars on all battle scenes in 1943 and 1967 before Federal troops moved in, under delayed orders from Washington, to put down the trouble. They came on the heels of State troopers, called to bolster the Detroit police, and in Riot No. 2, more than 8,000 Michigan National Guardsmen.

Defiance still reigned, and stones flew faster than rumor at any figure of authority, until the "get tough" orders went out.

THE 1943 TROUBLE was a clash mostly of mobs of southern whites against groups of Negroes from the slums of near downtown east of Wood-

ward, and mobs of whites and Negroes who had made Belle Isle a scene of growing race hatred for years.

Rumors of rapes and murders involving white and black women and children caused clashes that for two days — June 20 and 21 — brought death to 34, injuries to 675, fire to 20 automobiles, 1,883 arrests and damages of \$2,000,000.

Fighting the Paradise Valley-East Side mobs were 2,000 Detroit police, of whom 75 were injured; 150 State Police, 4,000 Federal troops, none of whom were hurt.

Unlike the two day East Side war of 1943, which saw looters shot in wrecking countless stores, but no arson because "Molotov cocktails" were not yet known, was the fiery scene between West Grand Boulevard and Clairmont, Linwood and Woodrow Wilson, with Twelfth and Fourteenth streets in the heart of it.

It was there, in northwest Detroit, that a blind pig raid set off an attack on arresting police, and for five days and nights life was cheap while armed police and soldiers fought arsonists who set fires to cover looting or just for the hell of the thing.

Police said it wasn't a race war that broke out that Sunday and spread to various sections of the city.

In many ways, this set the past week's riots off from those of 1943.

In the riots of 24 years ago, white mobs fought with Negro mobs. This year, both whites and Negroes were injured, some by snipers, some by looters, some by young toughs.

White reporters said they were generally safe from mobs last week, but that trouble came when they got in the way of someone trying to get into a store or just running down the street.

IN THIS RESPECT, the violence of last week seemed all most incidental to the main busi-

ness of looting and general hell-raising. In 1943, the violence wasn't incidental by any means. There are both whites and Negroes among those arrested last week for looting.

Both whites and Negroes were killed by snipers, and there are unconfirmed reports that white snipers were operating in Detroit last week.

In fact, the first man to be killed in this past week's riots was described by police as a white looter.

In 1943, there weren't so many snipers. There was just mob against mob, and the mobs were not integrated.

Another curious difference between 1943 and 1967 is that the earlier riots were in the hard core Negro slum areas, while the riot of last week was centered mainly in the residential areas.

There was trouble in the Negro slum sections a week ago, but not the massive destruction and looting.

It could be that there just isn't much to loot in the Negro slums and that the rioters had to go out to the formerly white residential areas to get their hands on booze, drugs and appliances.

It could have also been that the tough Federal troops who were assigned to guard the slums on the east side had things under better control than the National Guardsmen to the west.

But there seems little question that if the riot of 1967 was not a race riot in the strict sense of the word, it was at heart racial.

The fear of the black man that you could read on the faces in 1943 was mirrored by the same fears in 1967, just as nerve fear of the police 24 years ago was paralleled by fear of the authorities and the white power structure a week ago.

It was an unpretty picture of tragedy within a stone's throw of the suburbs, as though 24 years had passed only to find nothing different.

Don Meier 14 Nurses Get Is C'ville Caps And Pins High Aide At Schoolcraft

Donald B. Meier, a former principal and acting superintendent in the Alcona Community School District has been appointed assistant principal at Clarenceville High School.

Meier is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University in 1950. He received a master's degree from Wayne in 1956 and first taught in Fernvale. After three years there he served the Wyandotte schools for 12 years, during which he was named Coordinator of Student Affairs.

In 1965 he became principal of the Alcona schools, and for the past several months has been serving that district as superintendent. Married for 19 years, he and Mrs. Meier are the parents of four children.

Certificates of program completion, along with traditional nursing caps and school pins were presented to 14 members of the third Schoolcraft College graduating class in practical nursing in a ceremony at the college on Friday, July 28.

The 14 graduates, who completed a full year of instruction that included clinical training at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital, are eligible to take the state examination for practical nurses on Aug. 31 in Lansing.

Wayne Driver Faces Trial
A Wayne man was fined \$50 in Livonia Municipal Court for careless driving which resulted in a spectacular accident on Plymouth Road, near a red light at Stark, west of center, and struck a car stopped for the light.

The car, driven by Judith K. Ballard, 20, of 34980 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, was spun around in a circle, and she was injured. Regis' car landed upside down about 140 feet from Stark Road.

Right Ticket, Wrong Track; It's Fraud

A Grand Blanc man who turned in a Hazel Park ticket at the Detroit Race Course in Livonia has been sentenced for fraud by Municipal Judge James R. McCann.

Richard D. Jakimiec, 29, of 5378 Rushmore, was sentenced to six months of probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$25 and costs of \$22.50. He received a 15-day suspended jail sentence.

Jakimiec had presented a \$10 show ticket on a No. 3 horse to a teller at the DRC, 2901 Schoeder. The teller placed \$32 down on the counter and then noticed the ticket was from the Hazel Park Race Track.

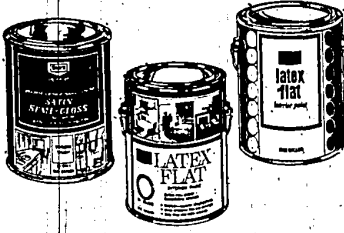
Jakimiec grabbed the money and ran from the window. Two patrons chased Jakimiec and he was caught by a patron on the stairway in to the grandstand.

Jakimiec refused to return the money or hand it over to officers, saying that he'd found the ticket on the floor and assumed it was good and that the teller had made the mistake.

GEM
Gem Store Advertising Section directed by your local Observer. All attractive dates have been changed to Wednesday, August 2 thru Sunday, August 6. Not July 28-30 as indicated in advert.
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Guaranteed Satin Semi-Gloss
Guaranteed one-coat coverage, washable, color-fast, spot-resistant. Hard finish withstands repeated scrubbing. Reg. 2.69 1.67 (saver)
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Excellent for exterior use on wood siding, stucco, brick, masonry, asbestos shingles, rough-hewn woods. Even covers damp surfaces. 3 1/2-hour drying.

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Sears Paint Dept.

Driveway Coating, Supplies

Jet Black Coating. Sealers ready to use. Protect asphalt from gas and oil damage. 3-gal. pail, Regular 7.39	5.87
Driveway Crack Filler smooths out driveways, even fills hair-line cracks. Waterproof. Gallon	1.49
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Compact No-ill Sprayer, Gun, 1.2 cm at 20 psi. Fiberglass case, Sprays 3 inch pattern. Regular 39.95	29.88
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