

# NEWS RELEASE

A. D. O'NEIL, Chief of Police

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1825 hours  
Date February 6 1976

No. \_\_\_\_\_

A MANSFIELD POLICE PATROLMAN WAS FATALLY SHOT AND AN AUXILIARY POLICE PATROLMAN WOUNDED AT 1616 hours (4:16 p.m.), THIS DATE, AT THE T&A THRIFT MART, 660 SOUTH DIAMOND STREET.

THE OFFICERS HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE MARKET TO INVESTIGATE A REPORT OF A SUSPICIOUS MAN ATTEMPTING TO CASH A CHECK WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN DURING A PURSE SNATCHING THE PREVIOUS DAY.

ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, THE OFFICERS INTERCEPTED A MALE AND FEMALE SUSPECT IN THE PARKING LOT AS THEY WERE LEAVING THE MARKET.

A BRIEF SCUFFLE ENSUED, DURING WHICH THE MALE SUBJECT SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING ONE OF THE OFFICER'S REVOLVERS, BOTH OFFICERS WERE THEN SHOT.

THE MALE AND FEMALE SUSPECTS THEN FLED IN A VEHICLE, WHICH WITNESSES DESCRIBED TO OTHER OFFICERS ARRIVING AT THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING.

AN ALL-POINTS BULLETIN WAS PUT OUT ON THE SUSPECTS AND THEIR VEHICLE. THE VEHICLE WAS STOPPED AT INTERSTATE 71 AND STATE ROUTE 97 BY STATE HIGHWAY PATROLMEN, WHO SUCCEEDED IN APPREHENDING TWO BLACK MALES AND ONE BLACK FEMALE SUSPECTS. ALSO RECOVERED WAS A REVOLVER, BELIEVED TO BE THE WEAPON USED.

THE NAME OF THE SLAIN OFFICER IS PATROLMAN MICHAEL E. HUTCHISON, THE WOUNDED AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICER IS PATROLMAN ROGER CASLER.

THE SUSPECTS ARE PRESENTLY BEING HELD PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

R. G. HILDEBRAND  
CHIEF OF POLICE

