

# Capt. Sealy Made His Mark in Harlem Riots

LAST WEEK, the VOICE announced the appointment of New York City Police Capt. Lloyd Sealy as the first Negro commander of a Harlem precinct, the 28th. Following is a vignette of Capt. Sealy written by Albin Krebs of the New York Herald-Tribune staff that was published the day after Capt. Sealy's appointment. It should prove an inspiration to all Negroes interested in law enforcement problems and particularly those young men who may be considering entry into this type of endeavor.



FIRST NEGRO Precinct Captain before his station.

It was on Monday night, July 20, and the worst of the Harlem rioting was over. But in front of the Levy & Delany Funeral Home, at 2250 Seventh Ave., a nasty-tempered crowd strained at a wooden barrier.

"Look at the Uncle Tom," a young Negro shouted, as Negro police Capt. Lloyd Sealy strode by.

"Yeah," said another Negro. "Whitey can always get some of us to do his dirty work."

Capt. Sealy, a tall, ramrod-erect man who has been on the police force since 1942, chose to let the insults go unanswered. For two days, in ugly incident after ugly incident, he had stepped into danger to cool the tempers of members of his own race and his fellow policemen.

The captain's conduct during the rioting was praised as exemplary, and yesterday, it seemed only natural that when Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy said he had picked the first Negro ever to command a Harlem precinct, the choice was Capt. Sealy.

Normally a calm and rather sober-sided man, Capt. Sealy said yesterday he was "very excited" over his appointment as commander of the 28th Precinct, in the heart of the riot-torn area of Harlem.

But he seemed to be under no illusion that his appointment was going to make any easier law enforcement in a section of the city where distrust of the police is almost a way of life.

The riots, he said, were the natural result of "frustration and pent-up feelings" in the area. He said he hoped he could help ease tensions, but "no one person can correct the conditions that exist."

A diplomatic man, Mr. Sealy dodged newsmen's questions seemingly aimed at getting the captain to criticize his chief. Mr. Murphy, he said, "has become more aware of community sentiment and is co-operating by assigning more Negro personnel to Harlem."

Capt. Sealy said he would immediately confer with

community leaders in the 28th Precinct, as he had during the riots. Among fellow officers who know him well, Capt. Sealy was expected to work briskly and tirelessly toward improving community-police relations.

Briskness and tirelessness are Sealy trademarks. Now 47, he was 25 when he became a rookie patrolman. While working to advance himself through the ranks, he also studied nights to get a college education.

In 1946 Mr. Sealy received his bachelor of arts degree from Brooklyn College, and in 1952, a Bachelor of Laws degree from Brooklyn Law School. He was admitted to the New York bar in 1954. At present Capt. Sealy is working toward a Master of Public Administration degree at the Baruch School of City College.

The entire Sealy family has a profound respect for education. Mrs. Sealy is an NYU graduate who has worked as a corrections officer for the city for 18 years ("Lloyd is in the business of catching wrong-doers," she laughed yesterday. "My line is rehabilitating them").

The Sealys, who live at 168 Maple St. in Flatbush, Brooklyn, have a married son, Irving, 25, and a grandson.

Four other children are in college—Margaret, 22, a senior at Brooklyn College; James, 20 a junior at the University of Vermont; and twins Daisy and Diane, 18, freshmen at Howard University and Brooklyn College.

Capt. Sealy is a cop, and as such, he considers it his primary duty to enforce the law. But being a Negro too, he sees, in his Harlem assignment, a chance to be a peace-maker and a person able to help control the emotions of Negroes and policemen in abrasive situations.

L. Joseph Overton, leader of the Negro unity committee seeking to smooth tensions in Negro areas, said Capt. Sealy showed "extraordinary well" his ability to control both nervous policemen and bumptious teen-agers that Monday night the captain was called an Uncle Tom.

Mr. Overton said "the cops grabbed this youth and began beating him" and Capt. Sealy ran over to them and yelled "Damn it, if you're going to arrest the man, arrest him. Don't stand there and beat him." Mr. Overton said a menacing crowd had been moving in at that point, and "if Capt. Sealy hadn't made that move, I don't know what might have happened."

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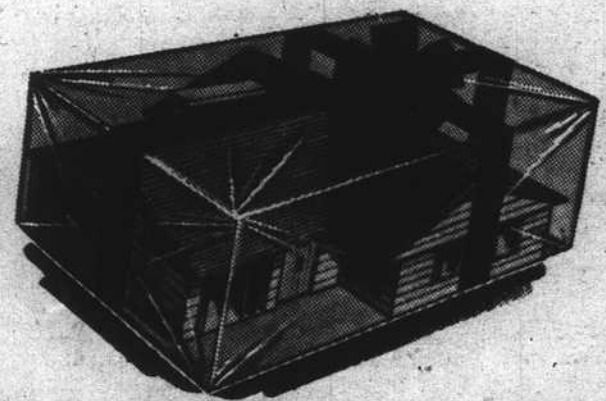
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## A Wrong Is Righted

(From the San Francisco Chronicle)

FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO, beneath a huge "Alabama Welcomes You" sign on the Georgia-Alabama border, five white and five Negro "Freedom Walkers" defied officials of De Kalb county and entered the State of Alabama.

The small group, heckled and assaulted, had been retracing the steps of assassinated postman William L. Moore, shot in the back from ambush as he conducted a one-man civil rights protest.

The ten were jailed for breach of the peace and found guilty.

THE CONVICTION has just been overturned, not in the Federal Courts which have become the customary place to right such wrongs, but in the Alabama Court of Appeals. The Deep South appellate judges found that the evidence did "not sufficiently show the commission of any offense."

The news heartens us. There is an omen for good in the court's quiet action taken after the emotions of the moment were spent.