

PARTY STORE OWNER HELD IN SLAYING

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Some Chene-Warren neighborhood residents said **Thomas Dickow**, owner of the Bicentennial Party Store, is a good man who extends credit to adults and discounts candy bars to youngsters.

Others said he tries to frighten and harass people, especially youngsters, perhaps in retaliation for vandalism.

DICKOW WAS being held by police in the shooting death of Alfred (A.C.) Wilson, 17, outside the store Tuesday night. Police were trying to decide whether to request a warrant charging him in the slaying.

Police said a 16-year-old male store employe was also being detained by juvenile authorities

As police sorted out details of the incident, an angry crowd of about 70 people gathered outside the padlocked store at 5222 Chene Wednesday afternoon. As a half-dozen officers kept watch over the store, some in the crowd said it may be burned down.

WITNESSES SAID Wilson, who lived two blocks from the store, was knocked to the ground with a baseball bat and shot in the chest.

Police suspect that minutes before the shooting, Wilson may have thrown a concrete block through the window of **Dickow**'s 1972 Chevrolet parked in front of the store.

Residents said **Dickow**'s car windows had been smashed many times in recent years and some of his vehicles burned. Area businessmen said **Dickow** has owned the store for about nine years.

"Tom (**Dickow**) was cool -- he was a credit man, too ," said Ricardo Lewis, 25, an employe of an auto bump shop at the corner of Chene and Frederick next door to the Bicentennial. "As long as you leave him alone he won't hurt you."

BUT NEIGHBORHOOD boys and girls recounted alleged instances of **Dickow** harassment as they played video games inside the store or stood outside.

Eight-year-old Shandra Jackson said shyly that **Dickow** had brought in his dog to frighten and trap her at the back of the store.

Another youth said **Dickow** grabbed him, threatened him and accused him of vandalizing his car.

Police have received calls to the store almost daily in the past four years involving youth vandalism and disputes between customers and the owner, said Officer Paul **Thomas** .

PAUL NUTT, a soft-drink salesman, said he had seen **Dickow** "give little kids a 30-cent candy bar when they only had one 10-cent pop bottle."

The salesman added, however, he knew of the trouble **Dickow** was having with vandalism and that "he (**Dickow**) was getting ready to sell the place."

Area businessmen said that when **Dickow** brought video games into his store a year or two ago, youngsters came into the neighborhood from other areas to play, and his problems with vandalism increased.

The shooting occurred Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. and Wilson was dead at Detroit Receiving Hospital a half hour later.

POLICE FIRST said they believed **Dickow** was mistaken about Wilson being the vandal.

"They (investigators) are not saying that anymore, that this is a case of mistaken identity," said Detroit homicide Inspector Gilbert Hill. "There is a chance he (Wilson) might have been the person who threw the brick through **Dickow** 's car window.

"I still don't see why that would justify the killing. We will leave that up to the Prosecutor's Office."

Attorney Charles Hammons said **Dickow** has not given a statement to police and that "there won't be any given."

CELIA BARNES, who said she watched as a juvenile and a man beat and shot Wilson, was at Wilson's home on Theodore Street, two blocks from the party store, consoling the youth's mother, Ruby.

Mrs. Wilson said her son was getting a General Equivalency Diploma and was going to join the Job Corps

"I hear he (**Dickow**) said it was a mistake," said Mrs. Wilson bitterly. "How could he make a mistake like that? It was cold- blooded murder."

Caption: Photo DAVID C. TURNLEY

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