

# Allendale, Ramsey Police Depts. <sup>44 & 2</sup> In Open Clash

## Counter Complaints

## Pending Decisions As "Hot Blood" Between Boros Boils

The charge of speeding at 70 miles per hour against Walter Ackerson, mortician residing in Ramsey, made by Allendale's marshal John Colmly, received a "reserved decision" in the Allendale police court last Thursday night, after a lengthy and somewhat melodramatic hearing for a minor motor vehicle violation.

The counter charge of reckless driving, made against Marshal Colmly, and signal by Ackerson, who incidently is a Ramsey marshal, and scheduled to be heard in Ramsey court last night, was postponed at the request of the Allendale legal representative. It was reported that W. W. Weber, Ramsey attorney, would represent Allendale.

Louis Boll, attorney associated with the law firm of R. J. McDermott in Paterson, appeared as counsel for Ackerson, and opened the hearing with a motion that the case be dismissed on the grounds that the summons was defective as it did not comply with the statutes in the manner it was made out. Recorder J. Frank Rouault denied the motion, as he did several subsequent motions.

Police Marshal Colmly and apprentice Marshal Robert Wehner were sworn in to testify, as was Ramsey's officers, Al Schmitt and Al Doremus. Lawyer Boll questioned the marshals relentlessly in an apparent effort to ascertain the exact number of seconds it took them to turn the Allendale borough police car around in order to give chase, and to establish the speed they attained in a certain number of feet.

Colmly, under oath, testified that the Allendale car, a new 1946 Plymouth, had left tire tread skid marks measuring 61 feet before colliding with Ackerson's. Riled over the cross questions directed him by Boll, Colmly shouted that "Yes, there were 61 feet of skid marks, and the Ackerson car left 15 feet which the Ramsey police paid no attention to at all."

When Officers Doremus and Schmitt were on the stand, they testified that at 3 A. M., a half hour after the accident happened, they saw no skid marks made by the Ramseyite's car, and during the half hour they were at the scene, no one called their attention to any alleged marks.

Ackerson's testimony hinted that the Allendale police car was following him without lights, or with dim lights on, as he saw no lights at all until, glancing in the rear vision mirror as he was about to turn into Norman Drive, he saw the red light, and simultaneously heard the siren. The impact of the car crashing into his was a matter of seconds later.

Chief Marshal Kenneth Booth declared there was no red light on the police car, the light on the roof being white. From observation after the hearing, there is a red light, on the left front fender, though not in the center of the roof as it had been first reported.

he summation of the case was a masterpiece of eloquence, with Ackerson "clothed in the white cloth of innocence as presumed by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of New Jersey," and Boll pleading the case as much to the audience as to the magistrate.

Rouault, as the lengthy summation, given in a vibrant rising and falling voice for effect, came to a close, dryly remarked that he was just consulting his notes to make sure it was a m.v. violation charge he was hearing and not a murder charge, adding that he wondered if such eloquence wasn't wasted.

The Ramsey charge is scheduled to be heard in Ramsey next Wednesday evening, November 13.

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