



Officer Birkahn watches reporter sign waiver releasing city from liability in the event injury incurred while riding in a patrol car. Officer's portable partner is on the counter.

# on Patrol

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Officer Gary Birkahn is a specialist in Family Crisis Intervention, having completed with 10 other men from the Department a training program offered in San Francisco. These men are now training others in the Rochester Police Department.

6:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident.

A parked car had been hit by a man who claimed that he swerved to avoid a child. Officer Birkahn gathered the information and filled out the accident report. The unlicensed driver was taken downtown in a paddy wagon.

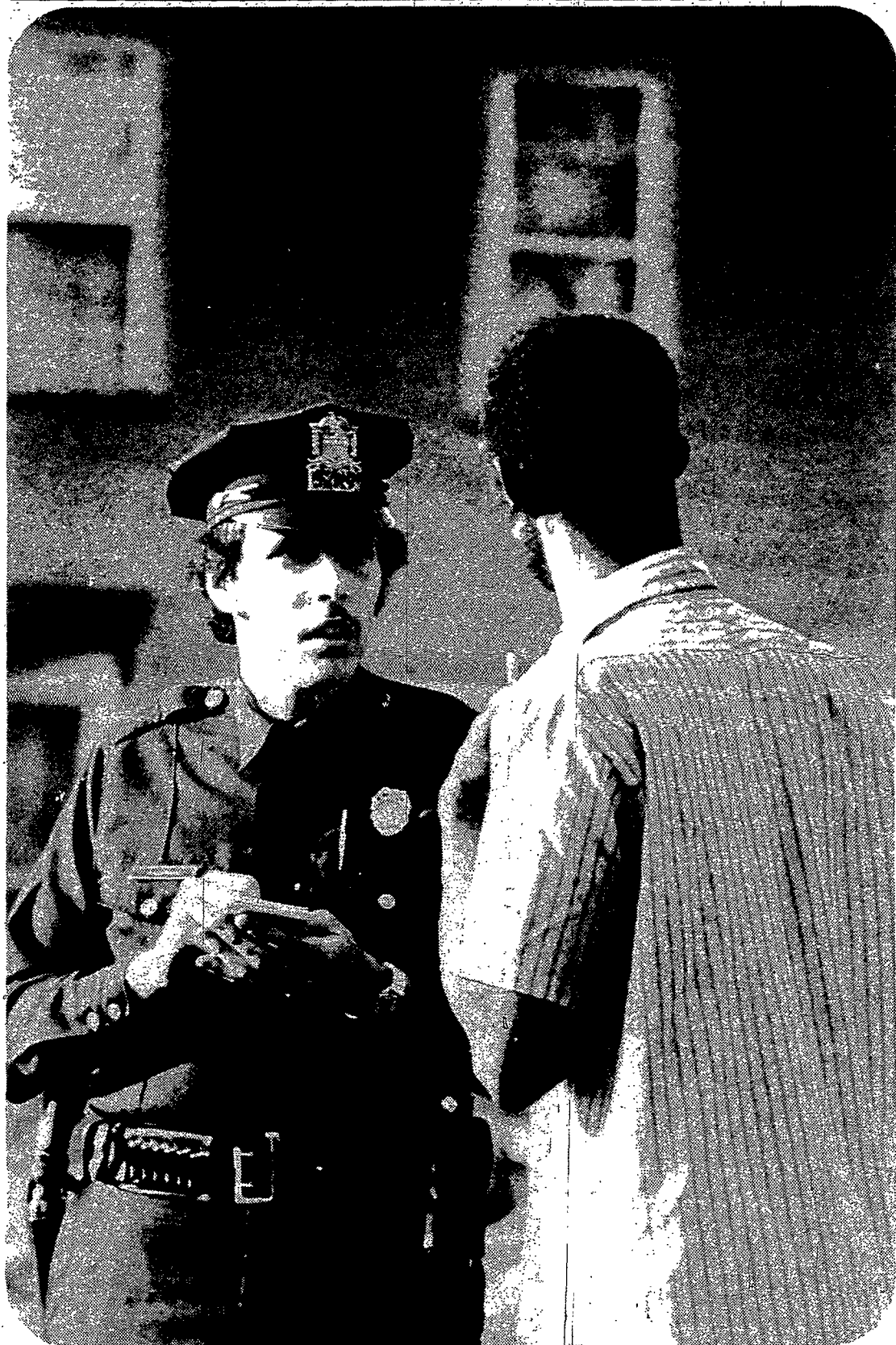
7:20 p.m. Arrived at bus station. The bus had arrived 15 minutes early, but the driver said he remembered the girl. Officer Birkahn drove around downtown to see if he could spot her. No luck. "This one came to our attention," he said, "There are so many other girls running away with no place to go."

7:55 p.m. Officer Birkahn, back in his territory, stopped in front of a doughnut shop. Time for coffee, but "Goodman 266, man threatening at . . ."

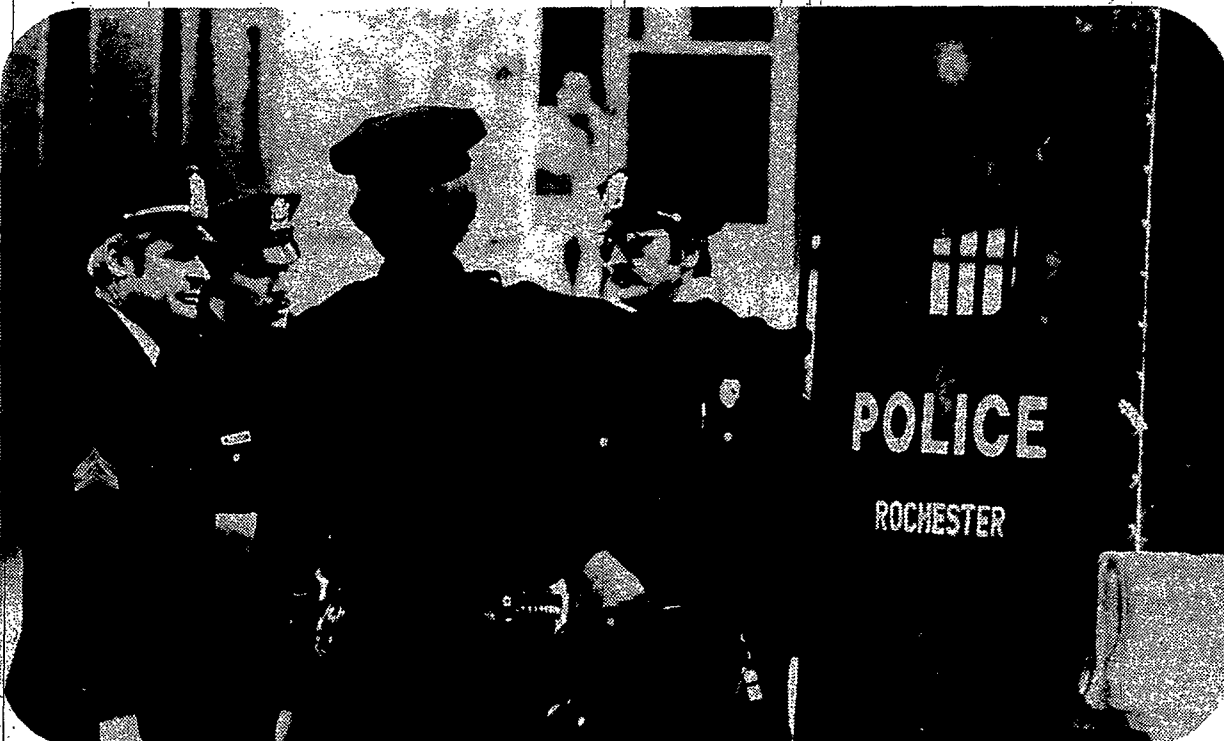
Birkahn accelerated, slowing for intersections with siren blaring. At the house a 17-year-old girl reported that while she was walking home from work a man tried to pick her up and threatened her when she refused. She described both the man and the car.

Officer Birkahn drove to the place of employment and found the car parked nearby. He questioned the man, who admitted to trying to pick up a girl, but denied threatening her. Two detectives arrived and went for the girl who pressed harrassment charges. Sergeant Anthony D'Angelo arrived. He explained that he checks with each of the men in his platoon each night. When a very real looking toy gun was found in the glove compartment of the accused man's car the technician unit was summoned. The man was taken downtown to police headquarters, given a psychological examination, and released on bail.

9:15 p.m. Officer Birkahn had an hour of paper work ahead, filing reports on the arrest. Maybe after that he would find time for a late supper or even that cup of coffee he had missed. He had admitted, however, "I wanted to be a policeman ever since I was knee high to a grasshopper."



Officer Birkahn investigates traffic accident.



Officer Birkahn, second from left, confers with Sergeant D'Angelo, far left, and two officers assigned to the paddy wagon.



Cruising typical street . . .



High separates seats in patrol cars, Officer Gary Birkahn is seen explaining his job to reporter Bonita Baldwin.