

## GUN SUSPECT KILLED SON OF SOSAD FOUNDER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, October 11, 1990

Author: JIM SCHAEFER, JOE SWICKARD, ROBIN FORNOFF, ER CHESLEY, CHRIS CHRISTOFF, SANDY MCCLURE, IE GERDES AND JOCELYNE ZABLIT, e Press Staff Writers

One of the alleged gunmen in Tuesday's assassination attempt in Birmingham was released from prison in March, four years after killing the son of Detroit antiviolence crusader Clementine Barfield.

Barfield said Wednesday she was shocked and dismayed that **Jessie Harrison**, who killed her son in 1986, is a suspect in another violent crime.

"I didn't know he was out," said Barfield, who, spurred by her son's death, founded Save Our Sons And Daughters. "This time four years ago, we were in trial."

On Tuesday night, police said **Harrison** 22, and Shawn Brown, 18, fired into a Cadillac driven by Arthur Ben (Fatman) Wilson at an intersection in Birmingham. Wilson survived. Police chased the pair south on Woodward until their car crashed into a light pole in Highland Park. Brown died; **Harrison** is in the hospital. He is expected to be arraigned today, but authorities would not specify the charges.

On July 17, 1986, 16-year-old Derick Barfield and his two brothers went looking for a fight at a gasoline station at West Grand Boulevard and Dexter. There they met **Harrison**, who was believed to have been involved in a threat against one of the Barfield brothers.

When Derick called out of a car window, **Harrison** fired four shots, killing Derick and wounding his younger brother, Roger.

**Harrison** was charged with second-degree murder but was convicted of reckless use of a firearm and use of a firearm during a felony. He got 16-24 months on the first charge and the mandatory two years on the second. He was paroled March 1.

The sentence was not enough for Barfield.

"I feel as though it was a waste," she said. "I was very disappointed that he didn't take advantage of this opportunity to do something constructive with his life."

She said, though, that she has never dwelled on thoughts of **Harrison**.

"I think if I had spent my time hating him, I think the hate would have consumed me and the rest of my family," she said. "We can't keep throwing away lives like this."

Federal and local authorities are investigating to determine whether the Birmingham attack was part of a larger struggle within the Detroit-area drug world.

The brazen shooting in a residential area came a little more than 24 hours after reputed drug lord Demetrius Holloway was assassinated in a downtown Detroit clothing store.

Lt. Richard Dimock said he wouldn't be surprised if the shootings were linked. But he added: "We just don't know. This was not a random shooting."

Police said Wilson, 34, is lucky to be alive after being hit by three of 14 shots that tore into the side of his car during the three-second burst of gunfire from a 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

A Detroit police investigator said the Birmingham shooting has no known link to the Holloway killing. Detroit Executive Deputy Chief James Bannon cautioned against speculation that a drug war has erupted.

"I'm not impressed yet that anybody knows whether there's some kind of war going on or whether it's bad feelings going on among fellow travelers," he said. "I don't know whether this is related to any kind of turf war or just a bunch of s---heads with guns."

Another law enforcement official with extensive experience in drug gang operations said the killings might not be unusual attrition among dealers.

"It happens all the time -- they kill each other every day," he said. "Only now, we've had a couple of big names go down. That's the only difference."

Don Reisig, director of the state Office of Drug Agencies, said the rash of drug-related killings is a symptom of drug abuse that is not confined to large cities.

"The fact that a couple of drug barons escaped prosecution and now chose to shoot it out, and the fact it happened in Birmingham, may wake people up to the fact that this can happen anywhere," Reisig said.

Roger Reynolds, owner of Neighborhood Hardware near downtown Birmingham, said no one should be surprised by drug-related crimes in any town.

"Just because we're between 14 and 15 Mile doesn't make us special," he said Wednesday.

But there also was anger.

"You live in this kind of community, you expect a certain quality of life. You don't expect bullets," said Robert Rovinsky, owner of Birmingham Locksmith on Woodward.

The shooting flared around 6:10 p.m. when a blue 1979 Datsun pulled along Wilson's white 1988 Cadillac and a passenger in the Datsun "just stuck the gun out and started firing," Dimock said.

Although hit in the right arm, the abdomen and a leg, Wilson put the car in park and crawled into the backseat. He then rolled out through a rear door onto a strip of grass; a resident who heard

the shooting found him, police said.

Wilson was listed in serious condition.

According to court records, Wilson was placed on two years' probation in August after pleading guilty to possession of less than 25 grams of cocaine stemming from a Pontiac arrest.

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Index Terms: HOMICIDE ; SHOOTING ; WEAPON ; DEATH ; INJURY ; CLEMENTINE  
BARFIELD ; PARENT ; BIRMINGHAM ; DRUG ; AUTOMOBILE ; DERICK BARFIELD

Record Number: 9002080344

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