

BEHEADING-CASE FIGURE IS SLAIN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Sunday, January 23, 1983

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Adolph (Doc Holliday) Powell, acquitted of the 1979 shooting and beheading of two men and a woman at Detroit's Federated Democratic Club, was gunned down shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday at a near northwest side bar.

Also killed at the La Players Lounge, 3305 Joy Road, was a young woman believed to be a 23-year-old bar maid at the lounge.

A second man, Edward Marshall, 22, was taken to a Detroit hospital. He was listed in temporary serious condition from gunshot wounds suffered during the attack.

Powell, 50, was one of five men charged with the slayings July 18, 1979, of William Jackson, 41, Joanne Clark, 33, and Willie McJoy, 33, in what police described as a territorial dispute over drug trafficking

The three were killed by multiple gunshot wounds. Their bodies -- heads and hands removed -- were found in a van on the city's east side.

Powell was accused during court testimony of arranging the murders. His first trial in Detroit's Recorder's Court ended in a mistrial. Tried again, he was found not guilty.

At the first trial Recorder's Court Judge Justin Ravitz dismissed charges against Benjamin (Shorty) Fountain, 56, a part-time doorman-handyman at the club, for insufficient evidence.

That trial ended in a mistrial for James (Red) Freeman, 35, accused of being one of two gunmen in the triple murder, and Robert (Lefty) Partee as well as Powell. The jury returned a guilty verdict against them, but when the jury was polled in open court, a juror changed her vote.

Partee, whom testimony indicated was one of the gunmen in the slayings, was convicted at the second trial, in which Powell was found not guilty.

FRANK (NITTI) USHER, who was tried separately from the other defendants, was also found guilty. Usher, described as an area drug kingpin, was convicted despite testimony that he had not fired any shots and that he had been an intended victim of the assault that killed the three victims.

Both Usher, 39, and Partee, 41, are serving prison sentences on the murder convictions. Freeman is in prison for other convictions.

Informants described Powell's slaying as an obvious drug world "hit." Detroit police homicide detectives refused to release any information on the death.

Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: BIOGRAPHY ; ADOLPH POWELL ; ORGANIZED CRIME ; MURDER

Record Number: 8301280309

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