

SUSPECT CHARGED IN DOUBLE KILLING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, March 26, 1983

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A 32-year-old Detroit man was **charged** Friday **in** the shotgun slayings of Adolph Powell -- also known as "Doc Holliday," the alleged brains behind Detroit's 1979 triple beheading -- and a barmaid who apparently saw Powell's execution.

Gregory Barnett was arraigned **in** Detroit District Court on charges of first-degree murder and use of a firearm **in** commission of a felony **in** the Jan. 22 **killings** .

The slayings of Powell, 50, and Jeanette Askew, 22, said by police to be professional **killings** , occurred at La Players Lounge, 3305 Joy Road.

AT THE TIME of his slaying, police speculated that Powell, an alleged drug dealer and hit man, knew his killers and was buying drinks for them. Powell was shot **in** the side of the head as he held a \$50 bill **in** his hand, while three glasses of cognac were lined up on the bar.

Askew was killed at the same time. It was her first day on the job, taken to help pay her way through Wayne State University, family members said.

A bar patron, Edward Marshall, 23, was wounded **in** a hail of bullets as he ran from the back of the bar to the men's room.

Judge Prentis Edwards ordered Barnett held **in** Wayne County Jail without bond on the murder and firearm charges and on a parole violation charge **in** a separate case.

POWELL and four others had been **charged** with **killing** , beheading and mutilating three people July 18, 1979, at the Michigan Federated Democratic Club on the near east side, **in** what police said was a dispute over drug sales territory

Powell was accused of arranging the murders. He and two others were at first found guilty, but the case ended **in** a mistrial when a juror changed her mind as she was being polled **in** open court.

In a second trial, Powell was acquitted. But **in** a separate trial, Frank (Nitti) Usher, 39, described **in** testimony as a drug kingpin, was found guilty despite testimony that he did not fire any shots and was an intended victim of the assault that killed the others.

Police said at the time that Usher and Powell might each have been trying to have the other killed.

Usher is serving a life prison sentence without chance for parole for his part **in** the 1979 **killings**. Robert Partee, 41, is also serving a prison sentence for the **killings** , and James (Red) Freeman, 35, also allegedly involved, is **in** prison for other offenses.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Record Number: 8302040243

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