

## ACCUSED KILLER'S DEATH LEAVES MANY LOOSE ENDS

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Hayward Brown's violent finale, like the gunshots that ended his stormy life, is only a dim and fading echo in the local memory.

It has been almost a year since Brown was killed in a shoot-out during a suspected drug rip-off, and there is little likelihood that officials will bring criminal charges in connection with the incident.

"The case is inactive -- officially closed," said Detroit police Sgt. Chalmers Sanders, of the homicide section.

**YET THE CASE**, as was so often the situation when Brown was involved, is not a tidy package. **Loose** threads remain.

From 1972 until his **death** last June, Brown, an **accused** police killer, was hunted, reviled, hailed, suspected and, from time to time, arrested. But only once could authorities bring a tough enough case to convict him, and that was on a minor drug charge.

On the afternoon of June 13, 1984, Brown and at least one companion entered an apartment building at Holbrook and Brush. Minutes later, a resident of the building was wounded three times in the stomach, and Brown -- who had survived the largest police manhunt in Detroit history -- was dead, shot in the forehead and neck at close range.

Law-enforcement officials announced that Brown had been slain while trying to rob a suspected drug dealer. However, given the thinly concealed hatred of **many** officers toward Brown, some people on the streets and in courthouse corridors speculated that he had been set up.

**AN INTENSE** investigation of Brown's slaying by Detroit police and a review by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office resulted in no charges being filed.

Police said Brown shot the suspected drug dealer, who then killed Brown in self-defense. Trying to charge Brown's alleged companion would not be possible under Michigan law, they said.

"Hayward initiated this on his own," Sanders said. "He planned to rob the guy, but the old guy was not as scared of Hayward Brown as he was supposed to be. There was a gun battle, and Hayward got dead."

Sanders said one report, which could not be confirmed, had Brown's companion giving a signal just before the gun was drawn. Others said Brown was acting on his own when he pulled the gun, Sanders said.

In 1972, Brown was charged with killing and wounding members of the Detroit Police STRESS (Stop the Robberies -- Enjoy Safe Streets) Unit, a controversial police operation that used undercover officers as decoys. Finally captured after a massive manhunt, Brown portrayed himself as a Robin Hood, robbing drug dealers to protect the community. A Recorder's Court jury, saying later that police had "hunted him down like a dog," acquitted Brown.

Convicted in federal court of firebombing a Detroit Planned Parenthood clinic -- a verdict thrown out on appeal -- Brown escaped attempts to convict him on a variety of other charges in state courts until 1982, when he was convicted of drug possession.

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