

EX-SUSPECT IN SHOOTING OF COPS DIES IN SHOOTING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, June 14, 1984

Author: BILLY BOWLES, SANDY McCLURE, PATRICIA MONTEMURRI, RY OLMSTEAD, JOE SWICKARD, JUDY DIEBOLT, e Press Staff Writers

Hayward Brown, the object 12 years ago **of** an intensive police manhunt **in** two police shoot-outs and one slaying, was shot and killed Wednesday afternoon **in** a Detroit apartment house on Holbrook near Brush.

Another man was critically wounded.

The wounded man told police that Brown and another man had tried to rob him. He said he grabbed one **of** the men as a shield and that the other man shot them both.

Police said they are looking for the gunman and two other men believed to have been with Brown when the **shootings** occurred.

Police said they found eight packs **of** white powder on the wounded man and planned tests to determine whether the powder was narcotics.

Brown was characterized by former Detroit Police Commissioner John Nichols at the time **of** the police **shootings** as a "mad dog killer." Brown and two other men, Mark Bethune and John Boyd, were hunted by police **in** a wide-reaching manhunt that fanned animosity between police and the city's black community.

Brown was tried on charges **of** murder, arson and gun and drug violations but was cleared **of** all the charges by acquittal or dismissal.

In the murder trial, lawyer Kenneth Cockrel, later a Detroit city councilman, helped him win acquittal by depicting him as a drug fighter who held up drug dens, but only to clean up the city.

William Cahalan, Wayne County prosecutor at the time, termed that characterization "ridiculous."

BROWN WAS a hero to some **in** the black community, and no state court found him guilty and made it stick until December 1981, when a Detroit Recorder's Court jury convicted him **of** possession **of** heroin.

Brown was 28. He was dead on arrival at the hospital at 2:01 p.m. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds, including wounds to the face and neck, she said.

Police believe the **shooting** occurred about 1:25 p.m. They were notified at 1:30 p.m.

The wounded man, brought to the hospital with Brown **in** the same EMS ambulance, was identified as John Harris, 52. He also suffered multiple gunshot wounds, the hospital spokeswoman said. Police said Harris was shot **in** the chest.

Police said Harris told them Brown and another man confronted him as he started to enter Apartment 306 **in** a run-down apartment house **in** the 300 block **of** Holbrook.

Harris said one **of** the men produced a hand gun and tried to rob him **of** his jewelry. He told police he grabbed the other man and tried to use him as a shield. The gunman shot them both and fled, Harris told officers.

POLICE FOUND Brown lying facedown **in** a pool **of** blood **in** the apartment. A long-barreled, blue-steel handgun lay on a bedroom floor, and there was blood throughout the apartment, police said.

But they said they did not know whether the confrontation between Harris and the other two men occurred inside the apartment or **in** the hallway.

Officers said they found \$4 **in** cash on Brown. They also said they found a watch, lighter, keys and a black notebook, but no identification.

Police were trying to confirm the identification from fingerprints.

Harris, who lives **in** the 2200 block **of** E. Ferry, carried the eight packs **of** white powder and more than \$800, police said.

Police did not know what weapons were used **in** the **shootings** .

At the apartment house, a four-story building **of** about 50 units **in** a low-income neighborhood, residents who did not want to be identified said four to six shots were heard. One **of** them said neither **of** the victims lived there.

THE MAN who fled was identified as a black man, about 33, about 5 feet 8, about 145 pounds, clean shaven, wearing a gray flowered shirt and blue jeans.

Hayward Brown's case became a cause celebre partly because **of** the intensity **of** the manhunt, which began after four plainclothes police officers were shot by three men on Livernois near Stoepel, on Detroit's west side Dec. 4, 1972. The wounded officers were members **of** the now-defunct police unit called STRESS -- for Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets. STRESS already had been controversial because **of** its involvement **in** several killings **of** suspects, mostly young black men.

Two more STRESS officers were shot down three weeks later. Robert Bradford was fatally wounded. Robert Dooley was critically wounded and left crippled. Accounts **of the shooting** stated that Bradford had begged for his life.

Hunted, along with Brown, were Bethune and Boyd. Bethune and Boyd fled to Atlanta, where both died **in** police shoot-outs.

BROWN WAS arrested **in** Detroit **in** January 1973 **in** the firebombing **of** a planned parenthood clinic near Wayne State University. He was 18, with a police record that included 14 juvenile arrests and armed robbery and concealed weapons arrests **in** the months before the police **shootings** .

Interviewed about Brown's death Wednesday, former Police Commissioner Nichols laughed and said: "I think probably the violence **of** his career terminated **in** the kind **of** justice he richly deserved. Not too many Detroit police officers will be sorry to hear about it. At least I'm not. Ultimately, justice does prevail."

A police official who asked not to be identified laughed when he got news **of** Brown's death.

"What goes around comes around," he said.

Retired Detroit police Sgt. Bill Shine, now Free Press security chief, worked with Bradford, the slain officer.

Shine said he had done a favor for Bradford and helped him get a security job for the holidays.

"When he was done, to show his appreciation, he brought me a bottle **of** Canadian Club, and before I got home with the bottle, he was dead," Shine said. "And I put the bottle away and figured when justice was served, I would drink it, and now's the time to drink it."

Cockrel, Brown's former lawyer, said: "The brother never had a chance. His father was an autoworker, and his mother was a hardworking, decent woman. . . . But the brother was out there on the street, and the street is a stern mistress."

Caption: Photo 1973

Memo: SEE ALSO STORY BY HERON; SEE ALSO METRO FINAL EDITION

Edition: STATE EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: MURDER ; DRUG ; OBITUARY ; BIOGRAPHY ; HAYWARD BROWN ; SHOOTING

Record Number: 8401210271

Copyright (c) 1984 Detroit Free Press