

## EX-SUSPECT IN SHOOTINGS OF COPS DIES IN SHOOTING

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

Author: BILLY BOWLES, SANDY McCLURE, ZACHARE BALL, RICIA MONTEMURRI, LARRY OLMSTEAD, JOE SWICKARD, Y DIEBOLT Free Press Staff Writers

**Hayward Brown**, who led police on the most intensive manhunt in recent Detroit history, was shot and killed Wednesday at an apartment house known for drug traffic.

A man critically wounded in the shoot-out was carrying eight packets of white powder suspected to be narcotics, police said.

Brown's notoriety stemmed from two police shootings in late 1972 and early 1973 in which six officers were shot, one fatally. The intensity of the manhunt for Brown and two other suspects inflamed much of the black community and elevated Brown to hero status in the eyes of some.

But Brown, only 18 at the time, became a pariah to police.

JOHN NICHOLS, Detroit police commissioner in 1972 and 1973, laughed when a reporter called him Wednesday about Brown's death. Nichols 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."

The known details of Brown's death, in a rundown apartment house at Holbrook and Brush, were scant. The wounded man told police he grabbed Brown to shield himself from a holdup man as they tried to rob him of jewelry and that both of them were gunned down. But investigators said later they do not know what happened in Apartment 306, where Brown's body was found lying facedown in a pool of blood.

He was 30.

Besides the gunman who fled, police are looking for a heavyset man and a companion who were seen leaving the area in a brown Chevrolet Monte Carlo about the time of the shootings, believed to have occurred about 1:25 p.m.

Brown and two other men, Mark Bethune and John Boyd, were accused of shooting four undercover Detroit police officers who stopped their car Dec. 4, 1972. Three weeks later, they were accused of killing patrolman Robert Bradford and wounding his partner, Robert Dooley, in another shoot-out. The shooting left Dooley paralyzed.

Nichols at that time called them "mad dog" killers.

BROWN WAS ARRESTED in a chase after the firebombing of a planned parenthood clinic near Wayne State University on Jan. 12, 1973. Bethune and Boyd died in shoot-outs with police in Atlanta that February.

But the 86-day manhunt after the Detroit police shootings drove a wedge between the Police Department, heavily white, and the Detroit black community. Coleman Young was elected mayor in 1973 after campaigning against police brutality.

Citizens complained of police methods in the house-to-house search. One man, Durwood Foshee, was shot and killed by police on the north side. Officers said Foshee fired a shotgun through a window of his home and leveled the gun at officers when they broke in his front door.

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

In the murder trial, lawyer Kenneth Cockrel, later a Detroit city councilman, persuaded the judge to dismiss the case by depicting Brown 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's only convictions came in 1975 in the firebombing case and in 1981 in Detroit Recorder's Court for possession of heroin. A U.S. District Court judge sentenced him to eight years in prison for the firebombing, but the conviction was overturned on appeal two years later.

BROWN WAS pronounced dead on arrival at Henry Ford Hospital at 2:01 p.m. Wednesday. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds, including wounds to the face and neck.

Police said they were notified at 1:30 p.m. of a shooting at the apartment.

The wounded man, John Harris, 52, arrived at the hospital in the same EMS ambulance as Brown. Harris also suffered multiple gunshot wounds, a hospital spokeswoman said. Police said Harris was shot in the chest.

A police investigator said the shooting "probably had to do with a drug sale, but we don't know."

A resident of the neighborhood, who asked not to be identified, said that there was a lot of drug traffic in the apartment building and that cars lined up outside starting in early evening. Many of those dealing drugs were young people, the resident said.

POLICE SAID Harris told them Brown and a man with a gun confronted him as he started to enter Apartment 306 and tried to rob him of his jewelry.

Police said he told them he grabbed Brown and that the gunman shot them and fled.

Police said Harris told them that the gunman carried a blue- steel revolver and that officers found a gun of that description in a bedroom of the apartment.

"There was an awful lot of shooting in that apartment, and we aren't sure who all was involved," a police officer said.

Investigators said there was blood throughout the apartment.

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

Brown's father identified the body at the hospital. That identification later was confirmed through fingerprints, police said.

Residents of the apartment house told reporters neither Brown nor Harris lived there. Police said Harris lives in the 2200 block of E. Ferry. The hospital listed Brown's address as in the 12800 block of Strathmore.

POLICE did not know what weapons were used. They planned ballistics and firearms identification tests today.

At the apartment house, a four-story building of about 80 units in a low-income neighborhood, residents who did not want to be identified said four to six shots were heard.

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.

The shooting that brought Brown to police attention occurred near Stoepel, on Detroit's west side Dec. 4, 1972. The wounded officers were members of a 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 three weeks later. Bradford was fatally wounded. Dooley was critically wounded and left crippled. Accounts of the shooting stated that Bradford had begged for his life.

Bethune and Boyd were hunted along with Brown. 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 the planned-parenthood clinic. 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.

Detroit homicide Sgt. Danny Knepp said Wednesday, "We're working just as hard to solve this one as we would any other."

But some officers reacted with pleasure to the news.

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

"What goes around comes around," he said.

Said another, grinning: "Once a holdup man, always a holdup man. This time he caught one."

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 STATE EDITION

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

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

Record Number: 8401210281

Copyright (c) 1984 Detroit Free Press