

POLICE PERSPECTIVE: the information that we have at this point is that:

**Haynie Gourley**

- died from 2 bullets to the neck on May 24, 1968
- He was the 72 year old
- Founder of Capitol Chevrolet (located on Murfreesboro Rd.) and 75% owner
- Gourley was born in Cross Plains TN
- and spent time as the deacon at Vine street Christian church
- He was also past president of Nashville Automobile Trade Association and the TN Automotive Assoc.
- Earlier in May, Gourley approached Bill Powell about buying Powell's 25% share of Capitol Chevrolet, telling Powell he wanted Capitol to stay in the family; He wanted his son Billy to take the reins
- The Buy-Sell agreement between Gourley and Powell (prepared by Gourley's attorneys about co-signing the Capitol lease) clearly seemed to state if anything happened to either Gourley or Powell, the survivor would become exclusive owner of the Chevy franchise

**Bill Powell (known as "Big Bill"):**

- was shot once in the left leg during the incident
- He is 41 y.o. and has been with Capitol for 3 years
- Powell is vice president and general manager of Capitol Chevrolet; and 25% owner
- "Big Bill" is 6'5" and played on the Vanderbilt football team- He is a member of 1948 Vanderbilt football team hailed as the greatest Vandy team of the post war era
- Once out of the hospital from his gunshot wound, Powell's first visit to Gourley's widow was with representatives from General Motors who told her to sell her share of the business to Powell
- Josephine Gourley was furious. But before she could take formal action, Powell rounded up sufficient investors to trigger the Buy-Sell agreement and "Big Bill" became President and sole owner of Capital Chevrolet

**Sherman Nickens was one of the detectives assigned to this case**

- he has helped solve hundreds of murders for the metro police department
- he has worked in the homicide division since 1965 and has been featured on the local news multiple times
- he has pretty much seen it all when it comes to grizzly murders
- In the wake of Dr. King's murder, and 3 summers of riots in the streets of various American cities, Nickens is keenly aware that of the need to find the "right man"

- Nickens sent a crew of 75 workers to scour the Elm Hill roadside in search of the murder weapon- they climbed through tall grass, sifted through dirt, and trudged the creek bed- 9 metal detectors were used to cut across the area but we have had no luck in finding the weapon
- Nickens says he has never seen a case with so few clues

**Based on witness accounts, The events of May 24, 1968 are as follows:**

- About 11am Powell borrowed the keys to a new Chevrolet and asked Gourley to take a ride with him.
- Powell told his secretary he would be back in 15 minutes
- Powell drove out of the Capitol Chevrolet parking lot and turned right onto Elm Hill Pike.
- At Spence Lane, the two men stopped at the light
- According to Powell, "a negro man opened the rear door and jumped in the back seat. He told us 'give me your money,' and we started to reach for our billfolds. He said to Gourley 'don't reach for your pistol,' and then the man started shooting. When Gourley slumped over I reached for him and I got shot."
- note, Powell had not brought his wallet on the ride
- Gourley's wallet, with \$200 cash, was still lying in the back seat of the car
- According to Powell, the man was wearing a mask and dark glasses
- The only evidence was Powell's car:
  - right side window shot out
  - a couple of fingerprints were found that didn't seem to match anybody
  - the men were shot with a .38 caliber

**Interesting details that we will investigate further include:**

- something isn't right about the way Gourley's body was lying
- also, there is something strange about the bullet holes; we have questions about bullet angles and powder burns
- Also strange is that investigators warned ambulance personnel who transported Powell to the hospital not to let Powell wash his hands; when Powell arrived at the hospital, his first act was to wash his hands
- Powell did pick a man out of a line up but shortly thereafter said he wasn't sure that it was the shooter
- and finally, we have not yet found the murder weapon

Rest assured, we will use every resource at our disposal to find the perpetrator of this crime