

State of Tennessee vs. Bill Powell

Saturday, August 2, 1969

News Break #4:

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen: I'm Jud Collins, coming to you live and in color from the Davidson County Court House. We are just outside the Division 3, criminal court room, where Moments ago Jury Foreman, E.F. Carroll read the Jury's verdict to a packed courtroom announcing that "Big Bill" Powell has been found NOT GUILTY of the charge of Murder in the shooting death of his former boss, Capitol Chevrolet Founder Haynie Gourley. I repeat Bill Powell has been found NOT GUILTY by a Nashville jury in the death of Haynie Gourley. We can report that the courtroom literally erupted in cheers and applause upon hearing the verdict.

You will recall that this trial began more than three weeks ago, before Judge Allen Cornelius, Jr, and the 12 members of the jury have been sequestered in the old City Jail away from any radio, any TV, or any newspaper coverage of this historic trial for 22 days!

The Jury began its deliberations at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon and after reviewing the evidence for only 4 hours, the Jury unanimously concluded that Bill Powell did not commit the crime of Murder.

Mr. Powell and his high-powered defense team of Jack Norman, Sr., and Cecil Branstetter were jubilant over the verdict and expressed great satisfaction over the vindication of Mr. Powell, who has maintained his innocence throughout these entire proceedings.

A formidable prosecution team of District Attorney Tom Shriver, Special Prosecutor John J. Hooker, Sr and young attorney Hal Hardin were clearly disappointed with the Not Guilty verdict. Despite presenting a parade of witnesses and a mountain of evidence against Powell; the state was unable to convince the jury that Bill Powell committed the crime. So, for now the murder of Haynie Gourley remains a mystery!

Stay tuned for the Late News this evening as we will have more details surrounding this Murder trial and other News including this: Young people are calling the The Summer of Love and to prove it an event called The Woodstock Music Festival featuring "Three Days of Peace and Music" is set to begin in the tiny village of Bethel, New York in just over two weeks from now, all that and more on the Late News at 10 this evening.

And Now, we return you to your regularly schedule program in progress.