

State of Tennessee vs. Bill Powell

May 24, 1968

News Break #1:

Good Evening to you, Ladies and Gentlemen from the WSM Studios, high atop Knob Hill in Nashville, Tennessee.

I'm Jud Collins, along with the rest of your Channel 4 News Team; and this is your Local News for this Friday, May 24, 1968.

On the National Front, the Department of Defense has revealed that there are now more than 530,000 troops stationed in Vietnam, This is the largest deployment of the American Military Forces since the War in Vietnam began. Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford has announced that a new troop ceiling will peak at some 541,000 later this year. We will have more on how the War is affecting families right here in Tennessee later in the broadcast.

In the aftermath of the death of Civil Rights Leader Martin Luther King, Jr. who was killed in Memphis last month, the FBI has still not made an arrest of the assassin who mortally the Reverend King while he was staying at the Lorraine Hotel in the Bluff City. And, the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, who has been selected to succeed Dr. King announced that the Southern Christian Leadership Corps is requesting a permit for an encampment to be held on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

Here in Music City, Metropolitan Police are reporting the murder of one prominent local businessman and the wounding of another. Earlier today, Mr. Haynie Gourley, the Founder and President of Capitol Chevrolet, was shot and killed during an attempted robbery by an unknown assailant.

While they were stopped at a red light at the corner of Elm Hill Pike and Spence Lane, only a few blocks from the Chevrolet Dealership, in a car driven by Mr. Gourley's friend and business partner, William Powell, a tall, thin Negro man jumped into the back seat of the automobile, where according to Mr. Powell, the assailant demanded that Gourley and Powell give him all of their money. The unidentified Black man then proceeded to shoot Mr. Gourley, three times in his head and neck and then proceeded to shoot Mr. Powell in the leg. The perpetrator is believed to have fled the scene and is still at large.

Gourley was pronounced Dead at the scene; but Powell, who is a former Vanderbilt Football star was taken to the hospital and is expected to make a complete recovery. Veteran Police Detectives including Sherman Nickens, and George Currey are continuing to investigate this murder and Channel 4 will keep you informed as developments are forthcoming.

Stay with us, and don't change that dial. It was another hot May day in Nashville! So, When we return we will have Teddy Bart with our Weather, and Sports Director Paul Eels will tell us how Coach Ed Temple the TSU Tigerbellies are preparing for the Olympic Trials leading up to the upcoming Summer Olympics to be held later this summer in Mexico City!

Bill Powell News Break March 27, 1969

News Break #2:

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm Jud Collins and this is Your Evening News from Your Channel 4 studios on this the 27th day of March 1969:

Early today all eyes were gazing at the sky when Mariner 7 was launched from Cape Kennedy in Florida. NASA reports that Mariner 7 will join Mariner 6 which was launched in February of this year. NASA officials announced that these two unmanned rockets will complete the first dual mission to the planet Mars and the mission is expected to produce hundreds of photographs of the surface of the planet so as to assist our scientists in analyzing the atmosphere of Mars.

It has only been three short months since President Richard Nixon was sworn into office as our 37th President of the United States. Despite his brief time as Commander in Chief, unidentified State Department sources are reporting that the President hopes to visit war-torn South Vietnam this summer, possibly as early as July. A spokesman for Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird would neither confirm or deny that Nixon is actually headed to South Vietnam.

Meanwhile, here in Nashville, District Attorney Tom Shriver has announced that the Davidson County Grand Jury has returned an Indictment for First Degree Murder in the death of Prominent local Businessman Haynie Gourley. Viewers may recall that the 72 year old Gourley, who was both the founder and President of Capitol Chevrolet was shot to death in April of last year. At that time, based on information provided by Capitol Chevrolet General Manager and Vice Present Bill Powell; it was believed that Gourley had been shot in a failed robbery attempt by an unidentified Negro assailant. However, the Indictment, according to DA Shriver, charges Bill Powell with First Degree Murder! The 41 year old Powell, was also shot in the leg during the killing of Gourley. Powell who is 6' 5" tall is frequently referred to as "Big Bill" Powell and he is a former Vanderbilt Football star who has maintained that he attempted to intervene during the robbery on the day that Gourley died. Powell is expected to plead Not Guilty. A trial Date has not yet been set. We will keep you informed and report to you as soon as that information has been revealed.

Now we will take a break for a word from our sponsors and when we return a story about one of NBC's most popular prime time programs, "Bonanza", TV show that you can only see here on Channel 4! We will have an interview with actor Michael Landon, who plays Little Joe Cartwright on the Hit Series!

BILL POWELL MURDER TRIAL BEGINS JULY 14, 1969

News Break #3

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm Jud Collins and this is Your Evening News from Your Channel 4 studios, on this the 14th day of July, 1969.

Leading off in our newscast tonight, the entire world is talking about Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong. These two American Astronauts, are preparing to board Apollo 11, which will be launched into space en route to the Moon in just two short days from now. Aldrin and Armstrong will be headed for a rendezvous with history! According to an official spokesman for NASA, the Apollo 11 crew is expected to land it's lunar capsule on the surface of the Moon in just a few days after lift off at which time if conditions permit, Neil Armstrong will become the first American (and the first human being) to ever step foot on the Moon. WSM Channel 4 and NBC expects to be able to bring you, actual film footage of this historic achievement the moment it becomes available.

On a more somber note: There are now more than 540,000 American servicemen stationed in Vietnam. This is the largest troop deployment since the beginning of the war, according to a State Department spokesman. As of Last Month; U.S. Combat Deaths in the Vietnam War have now exceeded the 33,629 Americans who perished in the Korean war, which ended in 1953. A grim statistic, indeed!

It is now being confirmed that internationally acclaimed actress and singer, Judy Garland, who died last month in London, actually died from a Drug Overdose! Garland is best known for her portrayal of Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz!

Meanwhile, here in Nashville, it was the first day of the much anticipated Murder trial of William "Big Bill" Powell. Powell is charged with First Degree Murder in the death of prominent local businessman Haynie Gourley. Powell is accused of shooting Gourley three times while Gourley was a passenger in a car driven by Powell. Jury selection began this morning in the sixth floor courtroom of Davidson County Criminal Court Judge Allen Cornelius, Jr.

Mr. Powell, who was an employee and minority stockholder in the Chevrolet dealership at the time of the killing has entered a plea of Not Guilty. Viewers will recall that Powell has repeatedly insisted that Gourley, was the victim of a robbery attempted by an unidentified Negro man.

Powell, alleges that the would be robber jumped into the back seat of a car driven by Powell. At the time of the incident, Gourley was a passenger in the car and Gourley was fatally shot three times. Powell, was shot only once, after which he claims that the assailant jumped out of the car without successfully stealing anything. Powell, who is 6 ft. 5" tall, is best known for his athletic career as a starting lineman for the Vanderbilt Football team back in the late 40's, where he was an all-conference performer for the Commodores on the Great Red Sanders Coached teams.

This murder trial is not without its share of celebrity lawyers. District Attorney Tom Shriver, who has compiled a list of 27 witnesses has requested that veteran litigator John J. Hooker, Sr., who has served as the Gourley family attorney, head up the prosecution for the state. Meanwhile, "Big Bill" Powell,

who has most recently become President and majority stockholder of the successful Capitol Chevrolet dealership has retained the services of a team of famous Nashville trial Lawyers including Jack Norman, Sr. and Cecil Branstetter.

Although Television cameras are not permitted inside the courtroom, Your Channel 4 News Team will be on the scene every day as this Murder Trial unfolds. We also hope to bring to you, live and in Technicolor, the artist renderings produced by the local Print media reflecting the riveting events and testimony that will occur inside the Courtroom.

Channel 4 has also confirmed that this case is expected to take several weeks to complete and the Powell defense team intends to call at least two circuit court judge Benson Trimble and James Swiggart as character witnesses on behalf of the defendant, Bill Powell.

Now, we will take a short break for a word from our sponsors and when we return a story you won't want to miss, as we will go behind the scenes of one of NBC's most popular comedy shows entering its second season in prime time: "Rowan & Martin's Laugh In"! In the words of Cast member Arte Johnson, we think you will find it "Very Interesting!"