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Federal Investigation Smacks Of Witch-hunt

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By Nadine Brown
Sun City Editor

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Thirty women carried bouquet tributes as the huge crowd paid their respects. In attendance were members of City Council, civilian Board of Police Commissioners, and an untold number of police—from the top ranks to patrolmen, both black and white, male and female, including officers from outstate and throughout the city.

Neither Mayor Coleman Young nor any representatives of the Mayor were present, however, although it was noted that the mayor may have been out of town on one of his

many quests for funds for the city of Detroit.

Many of the mourners arrived well ahead of the memorial service and talked sadly about the whole depressing wave that has swept this community.

Oh, what a tangled web we weave when we first practice to deceive.

The Detroit Sun **Analysis**

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To the raid on Blount's home, with the news media conveniently there . . .

The inclusion of Deputy Chief George Bennett as a suspect, accusing him of trying to slip subpoenaed files to Mayor Young . . .

And the shooting death of Deputy Police Chief Reginald C. Harvel, whose name is also on the alleged narcotics payoff list. Harvel's death is now being called a suicide, despite some strange circumstances surrounding the shooting.

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(Continued on Page 2)

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(continued from cover)

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now, according to a Detroit *News* article, he and reputed drug dealer Kenny Garrett "are of virtually no significance at all." Volsan has

giving the citizens substantial evidence to validate the charges.

Innuendoes abound. Hints are hurled about by some of the news media to imprint in the minds of the citizens that those so named must be guilty even before the Federal grand jury began calling in people to testify.

Up to this point, there seems to be a campaign to hold the people named as suspects up for trial in the media. It has all the earmarks of being exactly that. As we said in previous **Sun** articles, it reeks of a repetition of the old McCarthy witch-hunt era, which destroyed the reputations of many innocent citizens.

Citizens of this community have long been weary of narcotics trafficking and the general crime wave that has soared in this city, recently reaching the point where their determination to end the menace has drawn many people into a closer relationship with the police.

More people are cooperating with the police in efforts to eliminate crime than has been the case in a very long time. The hue-and-cry of the people is that those guilty of perpetuating the corruption must be ferreted out, regardless of who they may be or whatever their position.

But the people do not want trials in the newspapers, radio and television. And those who remember the McCarthy era are most vehement in their rejection of such a practice, to the degree that it has served to bring the community closer together when they see the heads of people they respect on the chopping block without benefit of a court trial.

Meanwhile, during all of this cloak-and-dagger intrigue, our information has it that some people who were behind the efforts to discredit Blount see some things being uncovered that are sure to get pretty sticky and reportedly wish they could remain buried.

But, as the old saying goes, when you start digging in filth, it's bound to stink so loud that you can't hide it. The whole thing takes on the appearance of a territorial gangland war, when the syndicate wants its turf back.

The tentacles of the current campaign, according to reports, have spread out into numerous other areas and touch white people as far away as Fort Leavenworth Penitentiary and as close as the Cass Corridor.

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George Bennett, who has been accused in the media of taking subpoenaed files belonging to the grand jury to the Mayor, insists that what he took were copies of a subpoena and his own notes on what happened. He couldn't have been sneaking them in because he presented them in front of the parties present.



According to our reports, it is believed that Volsan has not been called to testify because he said Bennett is not involved in any of the hanky-panky he previously cited.

Despite the report that Harvel committed suicide, most people in the community we talked to do not believe that was the case at all. And from this quarter, it certainly doesn't look that way.

One account said that Mrs. Harvel rushed down to the bathroom when she heard the first shot and found Harvel slumped over. She couldn't arouse him, so she went to the telephone to call 911. Before she could talk to the operator, the story goes, another shot was fired. Is it possible that he roused himself that quickly and shot himself again?

Did someone who knew him well and knew how to get into the house, do just that and wait for him to come downstairs? Then, too, what about paraffin tests? Were any taken?

They embrace such crimes as hi-jacking, prostitution, the numbers racket and others. At least two bars in the Cass Corridor are implicated.

Moreover, even before Willie Volsan, whom the media constantly reminds the people is the brother-in-law of Mayor Young and the former husband of Harvel's sister, said he feared for his life, rumors were circulating that a contract was out on him. Volsan is reportedly an informer for the Feds who is alleged to have been involved in selling narcotics at Young's Lounge and Barbeque, once partly owned by Mayor Young and his brother, George.

Volsan was reportedly a key witness but

It seems they would have performed tests on his hand in view of the powder burns found on his pajama jacket.

Many people are talking about that and want a further probe into Harvel's death. They are posing the question: How could Harvel commit suicide twice? Moreover, the word is circulating that the DEA should also be investigated. That isn't a bad idea at all. To create a wave of suspicion about people by innuendo is sheer cruelty. If people are notified that certain persons are under investigation, they should also be presented with substantiating evidence before the destruction of the character and reputation of an innocent party is risked.

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