

# "BOB" DAVIS ACQUITTED

## State Abandons Case For Lack Of Incriminating Evidence.

### WOMAN TOLD STOWMAN TO GO

#### Maggie Hunter Says She Sent Him Away To Prevent His Testifying. Thought Davis Kind.

Robert E. Davis, generally known as "Bob" Davis, was acquitted in Part 2 of the Criminal Court yesterday of the charge of having obtained \$75 from Maggie Hunter, proprietress of a disorderly house on North Carey street, on March 1, 1909, on the pretense that he could protect her so as to prevent her being indicted. The verdict of "not guilty" was rendered by the jury upon the recommendation of Deputy State's Attorney Eugene O'Dunne, who abandoned the case, but not until all the evidence had been heard.

"You have heard the evidence in this case," Mr. O'Dunne told the jury, "and we always try to get all the evidence possible. I take the responsibility of saying to you that on this evidence a conviction is not justified. Assuming all the responsibility, political and otherwise, I say to you that on this evidence the State has not made out a case."

Besides showing that both Miss Hunter and Edward Stowman, the principal witnesses for the State, were warm friends of Davis, the trial disclosed the fact that Miss Hunter is responsible for the mysterious disappearance of Stowman, which caused the postponement of the trial last Monday, and that she had sent him away to prevent him from testifying.

#### Feels Kindly Toward Davis.

"I certainly do feel kindly toward Mr. Davis," Miss Hunter said, in answer to questions of Mr. O'Dunne. "I have no ill feeling at all toward him. He certainly did me a favor. I liked him when I sent him the money and I like him now."

"You like him so much," Mr. O'Dunne asked, "that you sent Stowman out of town to prevent his testifying?"

"I certainly did," she replied.

Although both Miss Hunter and Stowman testified that the money had been sent to Davis by her, Davis denied that he ever got any money from either of them. He also denied that he ever had any conversation with Miss Hunter about settling an indictment.

A sensational statement begun by Davis, on cross-examination, was cut short by the Court. "I am friendly with Stowman, just as Stowman said," he began. "Sergeant Hurley framed the hand-up. He started the investigation to put **Captain Ward** in trouble, and he succeeded. I think Stowman was led into what he did. If the **Police** Board was honest, when it had 45 affidavits against Sergeant Plum"

Here the harangue of Davis was stopped by the Court. "I don't blame Stowman for going out of town to keep from testifying," he said later, "as he knew he was lying."

Davis was the last witness, and when he left the witness stand Mr. O'Dunne abandoned the case.

#### No Difficulty Selecting Jury.

The taking of testimony began after a jury had been selected, without difficulty, from the regular panel of the court and opening statements had been made by Mr. O'Dunne, for the prosecution, and Mr. Thomas C. Ruddell, for the defense. Mr. O'Dunne said that Maggie Hunter had "gone the limit" in endeavoring to shield Davis, having sent the chief witness for the prosecution out of town.

Mr. Ruddell told the jury that Miss Hunter stated her case to Davis and he offered his services, and that she may have paid \$75, but Davis did not get a cent of the money.

Miss Hunter was the first witness. She was on the stand for nearly two hours. After **Captain Ward** had spoken to her about her house, she said she went to the office of Davis, on Fayette street, near Eutaw, and told him that **Captain Ward** was going to send to the grand jury the names of persons who visited her house. "I asked him to see the Sheriff so I would not be indicted," she went on. "He hesitated, then said he might fix it for \$75. I thought it was very kind of him. He was doing me a favor, and why all this excitement about it I don't understand. It's a perfect outrage. He told me he was going to do the best he could."

Miss Hunter could not remember whether the conversation was about an indictment or protection, it had been so long ago. She was positive that she sent \$75 in an envelope to Davis by Stowman.

#### Stowman Takes Stand.

Stowman, who said he was 65 years old and had known Davis about 25 years, testified that he gave the envelope containing the money to Davis, but he did not know the amount the envelope contained. Stowman also said that it was his own idea to go away so as not to testify, and that no one had suggested it to him.

Sergeant Hurley and Patrolman Kiggins were called by the State to show the time when Miss Hunter's house was reported.

Former City Councilman **Edward Hargrave**, now a clerk in that body, was called for the defense and denied Miss Hunter's statement that he had advised her to see Davis.

Former Police **Captain Ward**, whose dismissal from the force was one of the results of the charge against Maggie Hunter, was called by the defense. He said no evidence was obtained against the house before that sent to the grand jury last December.

A. J. Roche, manager of a loan office on West Fayette street, which Davis acquired, and Miss Connor, employed there, testified that they had never seen either Miss Hunter or Stowman on the premises.

The courtroom was crowded during the trial, but there was no attempt at a demonstration when the verdict was announced.