

Member of Panthers Acquitted in Murder

BALTIMORE, April 13 (AP) —A Criminal Court jury has found a 30-year-old Black Panther Party member innocent of the kidnap and murder of a party sympathizer and suspected police informer. Charles Wyche, the defend-

ant, was acquitted of the charges after about two hours of jury deliberation Monday night.

Wyche was accused of being the gunman in the shotgun death of Eugene Leroy Anderson, 20, in the city's Leakin Park in July, 1969. Anderson's skeleton was found in the park about three months after the slaying.

After hearing the jury's verdict, Hilary Caplan, the prosecutor, polled the jurors and then dropped another indictment against Wyche charging him with conspiring to murder Anderson.

The state had based its case on the testimony of two party members, who told the court that Wyche was present when Anderson was tortured at Black Panther headquarters then taken on a "death ride" and slain.

One of the witnesses, Arnold Loney, 22, testified that Wyche and two others had accompanied Anderson into a wooded area from which a shotgun blast was heard. Loney said that later in the car, Wyche stated, "I shot him."

A loaded, sawed-off shotgun later found by police at Wyche's home was identified by Loney as the murder weapon.

Defense lawyers rebutted the prosecution testimony by presenting a series of witness who told the jurors Wyche was at work and later at home and shopping with his fiance the day of the murder.

Wyche himself never took the witness stand.

Wyche was the second of 12 persons charged in connection with the Anderson murder to come to trial. The first, Irving Young, was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.