

16 YEARS IN PRISON, CLEARED OF MURDER

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DETROIT, Nov. 4—After serving sixteen years in Michigan State Prison for a murder authorities are now convinced he did not commit, Louis Gross, 49 years old, was freed today.

Mr. Gross, who has spent the last three years in the prison hospital as a tuberculosis patient, will go to the home of his brother, Maurice Gross, in New York, where he will stay while undergoing treatment.

Gerald K. O'Brien, Wayne County prosecutor, who took an active interest in freeing Mr. Gross, obtained a new trial for him. At Mr. Gross' arraignment today the proceedings were nolle-prossed by Recorder's Judge Thomas J. Maher.

Court attachés congratulated Mr. Gross for his long fight for freedom following his conviction on a murder charge growing out of the slaying of Nortaba Abraham, a rug merchant, in Highland Park in 1933.

Mr. Gross studied law and in 1942 pleaded his own case for a new trial. His motion was denied. However, the fight attracted the attention of Erle Stanley Gardner, detective story writer, who visited him in prison at Jackson, Mich., several times. Mr. Gardner interested Mr. O'Brien in the case.

Mr. Gross said upon being freed: "I have no words to thank Prosecutor O'Brien. I have spent sixteen years in prison for a crime I did not commit, but I am not 'sore' at anybody. All I want to do is go to work and forget the past."