

Alberta Jones Case

Purse May Give Clues In 3-Year-Old Murder

Louisville police yesterday were hoping that a purse recovered Tuesday afternoon in the substructure of Sherman Minton Bridge will provide clues that will lead them to the killers of Miss Alberta O. Jones, Domestic Relations Court prosecutor.

Louisville Homicide Squad Sgt. Herman H. Mitchell Jr. said the purse, which belonged to Miss Jones, is in "exceptionally good shape" even though it had apparently been exposed to the elements since her death three years ago.

The purse and its contents are being processed in the police laboratory and the results will not be available until today or tomorrow.

Four boys climbing the bridge structure over the center of the river found the purse lodged in a four-foot round hole in a girder. The purse was on the west side of the bridge, where the substructure extends out about a foot further than the Louisville-bound lanes eight feet above. It was well out of the water.

Believed Thrown Off Bridge

Police theorized at the time of the murder that Miss Jones was thrown off the bridge into the Ohio River. They believe the purse was tossed away at the same time.

Miss Jones was struck twice on the head before being thrown in the river, but an autopsy revealed that she died of drowning.

The contents of the purse included a wallet without money, identification, credit cards, a \$200 check that Miss Jones had made out to herself, a partial dental plate and several key rings.

"We have some real good suspects," Sgt. Mitchell said, "but we have not been able to develop a case against them. We have laid the groundwork against some of them and when we talked to them three years ago, they didn't indicate ever touching the purse. So if we

find fingerprints of one the suspects, it would tend to make a case against him."

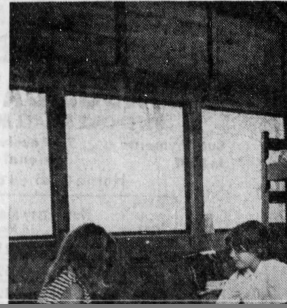
"The purse has a certain amount of dirt on it and the metal part had a certain amount of rust, but it is in exceptionally good condition," he said. "It could still have prints."

The sergeant, a veteran of five years on the Homicide Squad, said the investigation into the killing has continued intermittently for the last three years.

"I made a fairly extensive investigation on this recently—on another group of suspects. But we couldn't develop anything," he said.

"We keep getting new tips to follow up. Some are from people she knew and some from people who live near where her car was found." Miss Jones' blood-stained car was found abandoned on the 3100 block of Del Park Terrace about a day after her body was taken from the river.

Miss Jones, Kentucky's first female Negro attorney, lived at 3237 Virginia with her mother. She was 32 years old.



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