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Monday October 18, 1971 Oklahoma Journal

Woman's body found in junk.

Discovery Baffles police by John Long

The badly decomposed body of an unidentified woman was uncovered Sunday afternoon in a junkyard at 100 N. Bath, police said.

Police say they are completely baffled by the discovery.

At 2p.m., the operator of the Northeast-side salvage yard, David Moore(62) of 100 N Bath, discovered the body when he saw a hand sticking out of a pile of discarded auto seats.

The Auto seats had been used to cover the body.

No cause of death has been determined. Dr. A. Jay Chapman, state medical examiner, viewed the body at the scene and declined to speculate on the cause of death until an autopsy is performed Monday.

Police speculated the woman had been dead for approximately one week.

Lt. James Watson, head of the robbery-homicide division of the Oklahoma City detective bureau said police had no suspects and expected no leads until the woman could be identified.

Technical investigators would take fingerprints in an effort to identify the woman through FBI files, Watson said.

Sgt Bruce Shaw, public information officer for the department said the woman was so badly decomposed her race, size or age could not immediately be determined

Although not ruling out any possibilities, detectives noted the woman was fully clothed in a red blouse and black slacks -not an any particular disarray.

Shaw also said that until a cause of death was determined, police could not be sure any foul play was involved.

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Involved-but detectives and Shaw began their investigation on the basis that a homicide had been committed.

A pair of woman's shoes was shown to at least two persons brought in by police for interrogation but Lt. Watson said he felt their discovery was of minor importance.

Other than Moore Police declined to identify three other people interview or to discuss their statements concerning the bizarre discovery.

Police late Sunday said the investigation would continue Monday.

FOLLOW UP ARTICLE <https://www.okctalk.com/images/okjournal/1972-04-11.pdf>

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Oklahoma Journal

Slaying Sentenced Reduced (page 7)

James Danzell Chaney 48 pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges In district court Monday in the fatal beating of his 42-year-old wife, Irene. He was assessed a 10-year prison sentence with nine years suspended.

Al Houch, assistant district attorney, said Mrs. Chaney's decomposed body was found in a junk yard in the 100 block on N. Bass last October 9, after she had been reported missing.

Chancy, who admitted having a violent fight with his wife in their make-shift home near the junk yard, was arrested in Georgia on murder charges and extradited back to Oklahoma .

"The prosecution was unable to establish the cause of Mrs. Chaney's death because the body was badly decomposed ." Hoch said. "We were unable to fine any witnesses."