
BRIEFLY

Juneau

Police Investigating possible murder: Juneau Police are investigating a possible murder at the Mountainview Apartments, a senior citizen complex on West 12th Street.

The body of 73-year-old John L. Jack Sr. was found Monday morning by a Mountainview employee.

Police Captain Randy March said "the circumstances surrounding the death not being consistent with either a suicide or natural death, the case is being investigated as a homicide."

Police declined to comment further until the results are released from an autopsy.

Autopsy ordered in death of 73-year-old

By ED SCHOENFELD

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

A noted forensic pathologist is being flown to Juneau to perform an autopsy on the body of a 73-year-old man found murdered at the Mountain View Apartments Monday morning.

Dr. William Brady is scheduled to perform the medical examination beginning Friday morning to determine the cause of death of John L. Jack Sr.

Jack's body was discovered by a Mountain View employee in his apartment in the West 12th Street senior citizen housing complex at 10:10 a.m. Monday, said Juneau Police Department Capt. Randy March.

In a prepared release issued Tuesday, the department only said "the circumstances surrounding the death not being consistent with either a suicide or natural death, the case is being investigated as a homicide."

Today, however, March said there is no question Jack was killed. "It is a murder investigation," he said.

March said police will not release the cause of death until after the autopsy. "At this stage, we are not in any position to make a determination," he said. "That decision is made by a pathologist."

Juneau Coroner Richard Siangco said he ordered the autopsy to be done by Brady, a noted pathologist who was medical examiner in Portland, Ore., for about 20 years.

Siangco said the decision to bring Brady to Juneau rather than fly the body south was made for practical reasons. "We have a homicide in Juneau and it's best to have the pathologist here in Juneau where the investigators are here and they can ask questions," he said.

Siangco said bringing Brady to Juneau also allows him to examine the crime scene, which can provide important information needed for a criminal investigation.

As a pathologist, Brady is familiar to local law enforcement officials. He performed the autopsy on Richard Johnson, a 20-month-

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old boy who died from an infection caused by a blow to his abdomen in March 1986. Brady's testimony was a crucial part of the case against the boy's mother, Natalie Iris Pinkerton, who was convicted of criminally negligent homicide about a year after the death for failing to provide medical care that might have saved her son's life. Her conviction is on appeal.

The mother's boyfriend, Peter D. Paulo, was accused of striking the blow. He pleaded out to a criminally negligent homicide charge and is currently serving a five-year jail term for his conviction.

Police are refusing to reveal details of Jack's murder, such as the condition of the body when it was found and when he was last seen alive. March said such details are being kept secret so their public knowledge will not impact the ongoing investigation of the case.

Meanwhile, that investigation is continuing, with interviews of Mountain View Apartment residents and employees and others who might have information about the case.

"We've got people assigned to different aspects of the investigation since the discovery of the body," March said.

It has been almost two years since a murder was committed in Juneau.

Sometime on or about Nov. 9, 1986, 50-year-old George Robert "Bob" Williamson, a newspaper delivery man for the Juneau Empire, was shot and killed at about 38-mile Glacier Highway.

Although Williamson was reported missing in November, it was not known that a murder was committed until the following January, when his body was found partially buried in the snow near Cowee Creek.

James David Herrin, Williamson's business partner, was eventually arrested and charged with the murder. He was also charged with stealing money from Williamson's home and with tampering with the gun thought to be used in the murder.

On the day his trial was to begin, Herrin pleaded out to a reduced — second-degree murder charge and all other charges were dropped. He is currently serving a 30-year prison term.

Police seeking information in Mountain View murder

By ANNABEL LUND

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

The Juneau police are appealing to the public for help in solving the murder of the 73-year-old man found dead in his Mountain View apartment Oct. 17.

Police say they have no suspects, no weapon and no motive in the case.

John L. Jack, Sr. was last seen alive Friday, Oct. 14 at a downtown restaurant. His body was found the following Monday morning by an employee at the Mountain View Apartments, a senior citizens complex on 12th Street.

Police say results of the autopsy indicate Jack was probably killed on Friday. He was severely beaten before he was killed, but the autopsy reveals the assault was not directly responsible for his death. Police, concerned about jeopardizing their investigation, are withholding the exact cause of Jack's death.

"We're asking people to come forth who have knowledge of the victim's habits, routines, recent visitors or activities on Friday. No matter how trivial or inconsequential those details may seem," said Juneau Police Capt. Randy March.

March said police suspect the beating and murder took place in Jack's apartment, but neighbors say they did not hear any suspicious activity or sound from his residence.

There is a key and buzzer security system for the complex, but March said, "It's only as good as the

residents themselves are in enforcing it."

No one has been ruled out as a possible suspect. March said.

March said he has spoken twice with a collection of residents at the building. "I told them we were continuing to work on the case and do not have a suspect at this time," he said. "I tried to reinforce security with them, told them to make sure they keep their rooms locked and don't let in anyone they don't know. We just don't know who committed this crime."

John L. Jack Sr. moved to Juneau in 1982. Known by friends and family as Johnnie, the 73-year-old retired commercial fisherman was a former mayor of Angoon. His wife lives in St. Ann's Nursing Home.

"From everything I've seen and heard so far, John Jack appeared to be a highly respected and liked person," March said.

Three investigators from the Juneau Police Department have been assigned full-time to the homicide case. March said officers have spent more than 200 hours, so far, investigating. The Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska State Crime Laboratory have also been involved in the case. Evidence from the scene has been sent to the crime lab and to the laboratories of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Quantico, Va., for analysis.

The autopsy was performed Friday by Dr. William Brady, a noted forensic pathologist who has previously consulted on homicide cases in Juneau.

To solve a murder

Joint effort aims at two local crimes

By ANNABEL LUND

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Barricaded by notebooks, manila folders and plastic cups stained with cold coffee, a dozen men are convened in a makeshift classroom above the Juneau police station. It's already been a long day; it will be a longer night.

Some of the state's top homicide investigators, they're engaged in an innovative technique to assist local police solve homicides. The item on their agenda: figure out who robbed and killed two elderly Juneau men in their homes late last year.

Marshaling them together for a day-long session focusing on a specific investigation is a relatively new approach in law enforcement, one that is becoming increasingly popular across the country.

It's a first for Juneau.

The meeting here was initiated by Juneau police Lt. Steve Kalwara, chief investigator in the murders of John Jack Sr. and Harold Gallant.

Jack, 73, was found beaten and stabbed to death in his apartment in the Mountainview senior complex Oct. 17. Police say cash and his wife's jewelry were apparently taken by the murderer.

Gallant, also 73, was shot to death Dec. 30 in his West Ninth Street home. Robbery was also apparently the motive: his safe, containing cash and other valuables, was stolen.

Police have no weapons or suspects in either case. Although there are striking similarities between the two, police have said all along they do not believe they are linked.

The conference last week did generate new developments, Kalwara said.

"In the Jack case, we have some evidence we're taking back to the Mountainview Apartments to discuss with people there. We want to see if we can trace that evidence back to the perpetrator," he said. Kalwara declined to identify the evidence, but he did say hundreds of latent fingerprints discovered at the scene by technicians from the Alaska State Troopers crime laboratory had been analyzed and will provide new leads.

Although the Gallant investigation will also refocus on crime scene fingerprints, a major break in the case has come from people who have called the police with information.

"Due to helpful information recently received, we're now fairly

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certain more than one person was involved in the Gallant homicide," Kalwara said.

Because of the size and weight of Gallant's missing safe — 3 feet tall, 2½ feet wide and weighing several hundred pounds — there was already speculation early on that more than one person was involved.

The group also offered several suggestions about new forensic techniques to apply in the Juneau murder cases, he said.

"We're optimistic that the evidence will be providing us with further leads. The Juneau Police Department is using every resource available to us to nab these people," he said.

The new approach to homicide investigation is effective and efficient, said FBI Special Agent Don McMullin of the Violent Crime Apprehension Program in Quantico, Va.

"We think of it as a brain trust. Everyone gets together to discuss

the evidence and sometimes one person will see something others have overlooked. It helps police narrow down their emphasis and gives them a new perspective. I am really impressed with the professional way the JPD is ensuring in an effort to be left unturned in an effort to solve these crimes," he said.

VICAP is a computerized center employing a team of analysts who trace homicides and missing persons and unidentified bodies thought to be victims of homicide. The information is cataloged so law enforcement personnel can plug their unsolved cases into the network, discovering links or similarities to other crimes across the country. The Jack and Gallant murders have already been fed into the VICAP computers, McMullin said.

Juneau investigators are still waiting to hear what information crime laboratories in Anchorage and Washington, D.C., can contribute from an analysis of the physical evidence discovered at the murder scenes.

"This process of gathering talent and expertise, drawing in every pos-

sible resource, is a critical part of crime analysis. There are no shortcuts to a homicide investigation and the JPD has been very thorough," McMullin said.

The local police have fielded several hundred phone calls from people who have offered information about the two killings "but we still feel there are more people out there with information who are reluctant to talk. We need to hear from them," Kalwara said.

Included in the meeting were Sgts. Robin Lowm and Roy Holland of the local trooper detachment, Sgt. Jim McCann of the troopers' Fairbanks General Investigative Unit, Tom Stearns of the troopers Criminal Investigative Unit, Sgt. Mike Grimes of the Anchorage Police Department, FBI Special Agent Don Crabtree of Juneau, District Attorney Richard Svobodny and McMullin.

Local police picked up the tab for the homicide expert from the Anchorage Police Department. Expenses for the other participants were absorbed by their respective agencies.

JUNEAU EMPIRE

March 14, 1989

A year later, police still seeking clues in elderly man's death

By ANNABEL LUND

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

One year ago today, Juneau police discovered the body of a 73-year-old man who had been brutally murdered in his Mountainview Apartment. The homicide is still unsolved.

"We know there's someone out there who knows something about this and at this point we're counting on them to speak up, even if they want to do so anonymously," said chief homicide investigator for the Juneau Police Dept., Lt. Steve Kalwara.

John L. Jack Sr. was last seen alive Friday, Oct. 14, 1988, in a downtown restaurant. His body was found the following Monday morning by an employee at the Mountainview Apartments, a senior citizens' complex on 12th Street.

Results of the autopsy indicate Jack was probably killed on Friday, police say. He was severely beaten before he was stabbed to death. Robbery was apparently the motive, but police have no suspects and no weapon in the case.

Kalwara said the beating and murder took place in Jack's apartment, although neighbors say they did not hear any suspicious activity or sound from his residence. There was no sign of forced entry. A pair of black Stadia tennis shoes, covered with blood and hair similar to Jack's, was discovered at the scene. Investigators believe the shoes belonged to the murderer and that the killer may have left Jack's apartment barefoot.

Jack moved to Juneau in 1982. Known by friends and family as Johnnie, the 73-year-old retired commercial fisherman was a former mayor of Angoon. His wife lives in St. Ann's nursing home.

"From everything I've seen and heard so far, John Jack appeared to be a highly respected and liked person. He was considered a quiet and

friendly man who visited his wife almost every morning at St. Ann's," Kalwara said.

Jack was known to maintain a stash of money in his home. He cashed several checks just before his death and was planning to leave on the ferry to Angoon, leading to suppositions that he probably had a large amount of cash on him at the time of his death, police say. Money and Jack's wife's jewelry were apparently taken by the murderer.

Kalwara said the Juneau police have fielded several hundred phone calls from people who have offered information about the killing.

"But we still feel there are more people out there with information who are reluctant to talk. We need to hear from them. This was a brutal murder of a partially paralyzed 73-year-old man," he said.

Two months after Jack's murder, another 73-year-old man was robbed and murdered in his home, two blocks from the Mountainview Apartments. Police say Jack's killing and the murder of Harold Gallant are unrelated, although several aspects of the cases are similar.

Gallant was also known to have large sums of money in his home and a 600-pound safe, containing cash, rare coins and other valuables, was missing from his bedroom closet. Gallant was shot to death in his West Ninth Street home; his body was found Friday, Dec. 30, 1988, but he may have been dead for three days. As in the Jack case, there was no evidence of forced entry.

No suspect has been arrested in the Gallant case, either, and police say more than one person may have been involved.

People with information about the Jack or Gallant killings should call Juneau Police at 586-2790, or they may call Juneau Crimeline anonymously at 586-4243.

An unsolved murder

Two years later, death of 73-year-old John Jack Sr. remains mystery

By ANNABEL LUND

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

It was two years ago today that employees at a senior citizens apartment building unlocked the door of a second-floor unit and found the savagely beaten body of 73-year-old John Jack Sr.

The killers are still at large. Police think the murderers knew Jack well and that robbery was the motive, but they have no suspects, no weapons and no leads.

"This was an elderly man who was partially paralyzed. He used a cane to get around with. He was virtually helpless, defenseless. He was a very gentle man who had no real enemies, a very generous man to his friends and family. And yet he was beaten brutally and stabbed by someone who probably knew him well and all for a small amount of cash," said Juneau Police Lt. Steve Kalwara, lead investigator in the case.

Evidence at the scene suggests there were two killers involved, one probably a woman or small man, Kalwara said.

Police have fielded several hundred phone calls from people who have offered information about the killing.

"But we still feel there are more people out there with information who are reluctant to talk," Kalwara said.

"Sooner or later their conscience has got to get the best of them and they'll have to realize they've got to come forward with what they know to lay their mind at rest."

Kalwara said one reason informants should come forward to help is the killers may strike again. "If they've been successful they may try something like this again. That's something people should think about if they're reluctant to come forward... preventing another person from having to go through what Jack did."

The lieutenant said anyone with information about the murder may speak with police anonymously or contact Juneau Crime Line, which is offering a \$15,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Jack's killer. Crime Line, a non-profit community effort, launched a major pledge drive this month to increase the reward for Jack's case.

Crime Line's number is 586-4243.

"We see large rewards for all kinds of property crimes, and it's only right that we make murder a top priority. We've been seeking pledges from individuals and businesses for the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for Jack's death," said Ed Kalwara, the police lieutenant's brother and vice chairman of Crime Line.

"It was a gruesome murder and we know the police

have exhausted all leads at this point. Having a large reward out there might trigger some information," he said.

Jack was last seen alive Friday afternoon, Oct. 14, 1988, at the Viking Restaurant downtown. Planning to leave on the ferry to Angoon later that evening, Jack had cashed several checks, leading police to believe that he had a sizable amount of cash on him at the time of his death.

His body was found three days later in his home at Mountainview Apartments, on 12th Street just off Egan Drive. Building supervisors, concerned because they had not seen Jack in two days, unlocked his door with a pass key and discovered the murder.

His wife's jewelry was missing, as was an undisclosed amount of cash Jack was known to stash in his apartment because he distrusted banks. He kept his wife's jewelry at the apartment after she had moved to St. Ann's Nursing Home.

A Seattle forensic pathologist, Dr. William Brady, said autopsy results indicated Jack was probably killed on Friday and was severely beaten before he was stabbed. The beating was so brutal Brady was unable to determine exactly how many times Jack had been struck. The autopsy revealed Jack died of knife wounds.

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not the beating, Brady said.

Neighbors in the apartment building said they did not hear any suspicious activity or sound from Jack's unit that day. When police conducted acoustic tests in the apartment, they discovered the building's soundproofing was effective enough to muffle most sounds between units.

There was a buzzer security system for the building, indicating that Jack knew his killers well enough to unlock the door and welcome them into his home. There was no sign of forced entry into Jack's residence and the door was found locked two days later, leading police to suppose Jack's murderers may even have had a key to the apartment.

A pair of small black Stadia athletic shoes, covered with blood and hair similar to Jack's, was discovered in the building's trash bin. The shoes reaffirm the theory that the murderers knew the layout of the apartment building. The killers either had a key to the garbage area or knew where the out-of-the-way garbage chute was on the second floor, police said.

Investigators believe the shoes belonged to one of the murderers, possibly a woman, and that she may have left the building barefoot. Once police have a suspect, her feet can be compared to impressions left in the shoes, Lt. Kalwara said.

"We believe the person who did this was familiar with Jack and with Mountainview Senior Center. We don't think this is some transient just passing through. We think the perpetrators are still in town. Somebody knows who they are," Lt. Kalwara said.

Jack's murder stunned his neighbors in the quiet senior citizens building.

"We were absolutely shocked. It was a tragedy. He was a nice man, well respected. We've been open since 1977 and we've never had any crime here," said Paula Frengle of the Alaska State Housing Authority, which op-

erates the apartment building. Frengle was building manager at the time of Jack's murder.

Known by friends and family as Johnnie, the retired commercial fisherman was a former mayor of Angoon. He moved to Juneau in 1982 after his wife was admitted to St. Ann's Nursing Home.

"John Jack appeared to be a highly respected and liked person. He was considered a quiet and friendly man who visited his wife almost every morning at St. Ann's," Lt. Kalwara said.

Even before Jack was buried in Angoon, Juneau detectives launched an intensive investigation, plowing hundreds of hours into the case. Fingerprints discovered at the murder scene were analyzed by experts from the Alaska State Troopers crime laboratory in Anchorage. Other evidence was sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory in Virginia. But none of it helps much until police find suspects with whom they can compare evidence found at the scene, Lt. Kalwara said.

Initially, Jack's murder touched off panic at the senior citizens apartments, Frengle said.

"But ultimately, it strengthened our bonds as a community and tightened up security procedures in general," she said.

Following Jack's death, police offered personal security tips to residents and mental health counselors provided help in dealing with the crisis and fear.

A video camera was installed at the outside doors so that tenants can see visitors before allowing them into the building. The security system is connected to residents' units by a closed-circuit television system. A special security door was installed between the living area and the senior citizens activity center. Deadbolt locks were added to apartment doors.

"We're all a little more cautious nowadays, but I think we feel safe here again," Frengle said.

Only one other recent Juneau murder remains unsolved, the August 1983 strangling death of 20-year-old Cindy Elrod in her trailer at Kodzoff Acres trailer park.

Crime Line continues to offer a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Elrod's killer.

Local man, 73, murdered in home

By ANNABEL LUND

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

An elderly man was found murdered in his Juneau home Friday, and police say they cannot rule out a connection to the 2½-month-old unsolved murder of another elderly man.

The body of 73-year-old Harold Gallant was found by police Friday lying on the living-room floor of his West Ninth Street home. He had been shot.

Police are not releasing details, but deputy chief Randy March said robbery appears to be the motive. Gallant's safe is missing.

March said police have no weapon and no suspect.

The police were notified by Gallant's housekeeper when she was unable to rouse him by pounding on the door or by calling on the telephone. She told police the elderly man was housebound with a heart condition and she feared he may have had a

heart attack or had fallen and was unable to call for help.

Gallant's body was flown to Anchorage for an autopsy, but results have not been released.

March said similarities between the Gallant and the John Jack Sr. murders "certainly leads us to look as if the two are connected."

Jack, also 73, was found beaten and stabbed Oct. 17 in his Mountainview Apartment on 12th Street, a few blocks from Gallant's

home. Police suspect robbery was also the motive in the Jack killing. Jack had been dead several days before his body was discovered. He was last seen alive on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 14, in a downtown restaurant.

Police still have no suspect in the Jack murder.

March says he realizes another murder may frighten the elderly community in Juneau.

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"I think the only thing that's going to ease everyone's mind is to find out who did it," March said. "We're going to need help from people in the

community who have any details, regardless of how inconsequential they may seem. We want people to call us down here at the station."

The telephone number for the Juneau Police Department is 586-3788.

Investigators say murders not related

Investigators for the Juneau Police Department said today they do not think the recent murders of two elderly Juneau men are connected, although there are similarities in the cases.

The body of 73-year-old Harold Gallant was found by police Dec. 30 in his West Ninth Street home. Gallant had been shot and his safe was missing.

Police are still looking for a suspect in the Oct. 17 slaying of another elderly Juneau man, John Jack Sr., 73, at the Mountainview Apartment complex on West 12th Street. Robbery is also suspected in that killing.

Juneau Deputy Chief of Police Randy March said the stolen safe was 3 feet tall, 2½ feet wide, and weighed several hundred pounds. The contents of the safe have not been revealed. March refused to speculate on whether theft of the safe indicated there was more than one assailant.

March said police have no weapon and no suspect.

Officers were called when Gallant's housekeeper was unable to rouse him by pounding on the locked door or by telephone. She told police the elderly man was housebound with a heart condition and she feared he may have had a heart attack or had fallen.

Investigators are urging residents with any information about Gallant, his habits or recent activities to contact the Juneau Police Department at 586-2700.