

Staten Island Advance (NY)**A18,,,,MURDER MYSTERY UNSOLVED WOMAN STILL UNIDENTIFIED AFTER 9 MONTHS**

DEAN BALSAMINI ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Staten Island Advance

Published: June 9, 1992

This blood-stained hammer was found under the murdered woman.

It is one of the more heinous crimes on Staten Island in recent memory.

A young woman is found beaten, strangled, handcuffed, and then set afire, her corpse dumped in South Beach weeds.

Police exhaust all means to identify the body in order to allow the woman the dignity of a proper burial.

Nothing.

Nine months later, she lies in an anonymous grave, her murder unsolved, her identity a mystery.

"She's buried in a cemetery with other bodies that remain unidentified," said Lt. William Quinn, commander of the Crimes Against Persons Squad. Quinn was referring to the city's mass burial ground on Hart Island.

The woman was found Sept. 20 just after dawn. A passerby spotted the body in brush opposite 777 Seaview Ave.

The murder victim was a white woman, between 21 and 23 years old with brown shoulder-length hair and brown eyes. She was five feet, five inches tall and weighed about 115 pounds.

The woman was found wearing a black dress with pink trim on the neckline, black flowered underpants and white low-cut sneakers. She was also wearing an 18-inch gold chain and a 20-inch gold rope chain. On her right finger, she wore a ring watch with a brown expansion band. She also had a pack of Newport cigarettes and 30 cents.

Nationwide alerts have been issued and a check of missing person reports has turned up no identity for the woman.

But a tattoo on the woman's body and a blood-stained hammer found under her may be the clues that eventually lead police to the killer.

A red and blue scorpion tattoo on the woman's right buttock was most likely the work of an amateur, Quinn said.

Detectives are hoping someone can link the name "**LoydL**" which is scratched into the wooden handle of the hammer to a person or a particular place. The hammer, which investigators believe was used to bludgeon the woman to death, is the type used in auto body shops to punch out dents in cars.

Detectives have already made the rounds of Island auto body workers, but what exactly "**Loyd L**" stands for is unclear.

Investigators ask that anyone with information regarding the homicide call their 24-hour hotline at 667-1436. All calls will remain confidential. Detectives Bruce Carroll and Michael Morales are assigned to the case.