

Court examines stabbing victim's purse

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A cosmetic bag containing lipsticks, eye shadow and other cosmetics said by police to have been among contents of a purse bearing identification of Gail Miller, was examined in court Monday afternoon at the non-capital murder trial of David Edgar Milgaard.

Milgaard is being tried in Queen's Bench court before Mr. Justice A. H. Bence, in connection with the stabbing death last Jan. 31 of Miss Miller, 20, a nursing assistant. Her body was found in an alley behind the 200 block of Avenue N, south.

Detective Gerald McCarrison of the city police, described how he found a woman's purse after it was dumped from a trash can into a city garbage truck.

He said that on Feb. 3, he followed the city garbage truck on foot, and retrieved a purse from a garbage can that was emptied at the rear of 1411 20th St., west.

In court, detective McCarrison held up individual items found in the purse. These included a cosmetic bag containing eye shadow, black eye line pencil, lipsticks, a Bank of Montreal folder with the name of Gail Miller on the inside, a plastic folder containing photographs, another make-up bag with a lipstick, cigarettes, a pen, some paper tissues, and a black cloth glove.

It was brought out during cross-examination that there was no money, bus tickets or wallet in the purse.

Last week during evidence heard at the trial, Miss Nichol John, who was with Milgaard and Ronald Dale Wilson on the morning of Jan. 31, testi-

fied to finding a cosmetic bag containing a powder compact, eye shadow and lipstick in the glove compartment of the car in which they had travelled to Edmonton.

Miss John said that when she asked to whom it belonged, Milgaard had snatched it from her and threw it out of the car window.

This incident was said by Miss John to have taken place in the late afternoon of Jan. 31, as the car was reaching Rosetown on its way to Edmonton.

Earlier Monday, Lieut. Joseph Penkala, head of the identification branch of the city police was questioned by Mr. Justice Bence about the lack of footprints and car tracks in the area where the girl was found.

Lieut. Penkala had said there were no discernible footprints leading to the body and no tire marks. Then, Mr. Justice Bence asked: "Can you tell me how the body got there?"

The police officer explained that the woman's body was found near the edge of the travelled part of the lane. He said it was so cold, it was impossible to see fresh marks on the travelled portion. He said it was so tramped down that fresh footprints would not show. "The temperature was so extreme that the snow was like sand," he said.

Under cross examination by Cal Tallis, defence counsel, Lieut. Penkala said that the appearance of the body suggested that Miss Miller had been sexually assaulted.

Asked whether he saw anything or located any object that might lead to the theory

that the girl was alive at the time of the sexual attack, or whether she was conscious at the time, the police officer said he was unable to establish this.

Lieut. Penkala said the surface flesh of the girl was

frozen when he arrived on the scene.

The police officer said there was evidence that the body was either moving or being moved at the time of the attack. He had earlier testified that a struggle appeared to have taken place.

Peter Shawchuk of 1412 20th St., west, testified to finding a set of keys and a woman's comb in his back yard on Feb. 1. He said he found the objects after noticing two indentations in the snow.

Richard Hounjet, 8, of 227 Ave. N, south, gave evidence of finding a handle of a knife in the back yard of his home on March 2. The boy said he was kicking the snow when he

kicked out the knife handle.

The knife handle, bearing the initials of the boy and police officers, was examined in court.

Giles Beauchamp, 9, of 1505 20th St., west, reported finding a wallet.

The wallet, the witness said, was found near the house of Albert Cadrain.

Cadrain, 18, of 334 Ave. O, south, who was one of the first witnesses to testify at the trial, told court last week that Milgaard, Wilson and Miss John had been at his home on the morning of Jan. 31.

Cadrain had travelled with the three to Edmonton.

Beauchamp told court Mon-

day that the wallet he found on April 4 was on the same side of the street as the Cadrain home. He said he kicked the wallet out of the snow. After finding the wallet, the witness said he hid it under the skating shed of St. Mary's school.

He said he retrieved it about five minutes later to show a friend. After retrieving it, the boy said they showed it to the mother of his friend, and the police were notified.

The boy said there was nothing in the wallet when he found it except two pieces of paper that fell out when he kicked it.

The trial continues.

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