

## **Murder May Be Result of Probe Of Man's Death**

Claire Penny Law, 34, female impersonator admitted to the Altoona Hospital in an unconscious condition yesterday morning from the City Hall lockup, died at 11:15 p.m. last night.

With his death, the case became a possible murder case, since death resulted from a massive cerebral hemorrhage, an autopsy performed at the hospital this morning disclosed. Police already are questioning a suspect.

Deputy Coroner William Crawford and District Attorney Park H. Loose were present for the post-mortem examination. Mr. Loose reported that the investigation of the death has not yet, progressed to a point where the murder charge may be verified.

Both state police and city police were continuing their investigation of the man's story today. He told city police Sunday night when found injured that he had been picked up by three men in front of the Charles R. Rowan American Legion Post home Saturday night on the promise of being taken to the Cesare Battisti home for a drink.

Instead, he was taken "out in the country" where, he reported, one of the men forced his fingers backward, almost breaking them, and the other hit him in the mouth, police were told. Early Sunday morning he was picked up on the Upper Brush Mountain Rd. at Sylvan Hills by a passing motorist and brought to Altoona.

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## **MURDER MAY BE RESULT OF PROBE**

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City police first learned of the incident at 8.45 p.m. Sunday when Thomas H. (Sandy) Bulman, in charge at the Altoona Rescue Mission, called that a woman was in the office there who had been beaten up and needed medical attention.

Officer Amerigo Caporusio and Frank Hoover went to the Rescue Mission and removed the injured person to the Altoona Hospital where a laceration of the upper lip had four sutures inserted, while minor lacerations of the arms and a bruise of the chin were treated.

Removed to City Hall, the injured person was placed in the women's ward of the lockup. The prisoner was dressed in a plaid skirt, blue blouse, gray cloth coat and was wearing men's black oxfords and black silk socks. Blond hair was worn at shoulder length and held by a blue bandana.

Yesterday morning police found the prisoner unconscious and he was returned to the Altoona Hospital where he was admitted shortly after 9.15 a.m. An X-ray examination of his skull disclosed no fracture of the skull, a fact verified in today's autopsy.

First believed because of the attire to be a woman, it was learned at the hospital Sunday evening that the individual was a man. The address in Cincinnati found in the clothing was that of the theatrical magazine, Billboard, which is used as a mailing address by professionals in the entertainment world.

Police learned that Law had been in the Bedford area before coming to Altoona and the investigation has been enlarged to that community. His trunk and suitcase have been found and a letter in the luggage had been mailed from York on Oct. 25 by a Leslie Lau.

It is believed that the man's name is properly spelled Lau and District Attorney Loose has communicated with the chief of police at York in an attempt to locate that person or relatives of the dead man. City police checked with Cincinnati police yesterday and through the Billboard magazine officers learned that Law had worked as a female impersonator with carnivals and in floor shows.

Fingerprints have been sent the FBI in an attempt to further the identification. Also in the luggage was an Army discharge in the name of Lau. The letter from York was addressed to General Delivery, Bedford.