

SUSPECT IN 11 SLAYINGS \ SOUTHFIELD MAN HELD IN MOTEL KILLING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, February 8, 1985

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A Southfield man, charged Thursday with murdering a Detroit woman, also has become a **suspect in** the unsolved **slayings** of at least 10 other women -- some of whom were slain 12 years ago, according to police officials.

Victor Malone, 38, of Duns Scotus Avenue, was ordered held on a \$1 million cash bond **in** the **slaying** of Leshia Brooks, 26, who was found dead two months ago **in** a Woodward Avenue motel.

Malone has a lengthy criminal record that includes armed robbery, bank robbery, assault, a narcotics violation and two recent sexual assault cases **in** Detroit -- both of which were dismissed.

"There are several similar type murders which we are looking at as it regards Mr. Malone," Robert Deane, executive lieutenant of the Detroit police homicide section, said Thursday. Asked how many unsolved homicides are involved, Deane said: "We're really not **in** a position to say at this point. That's still being researched, and there's still a ton of work we have to do."

BUT POLICE sources familiar with the Malone investigation said as many as 10 unsolved **slayings** of women, some believed to be prostitutes -- dating back to 1973 -- are being examined by homicide investigators.

Deane said Malone "was originally arrested Tuesday night by Highland Park police on another matter which we will not comment on because it is still under investigation."

Malone was arrested by Highland Park police **in** connection with the kidnapping and sexual assault of a prostitute, according to police sources. Detroit police are investigating part of that case because the woman was abducted from Detroit and taken to Highland Park.

Highland Park police later turned Malone over to Detroit police, who wanted to question him about the **slaying** of Brooks, the sources said.

Brooks' body was found about 12:30 p.m. Dec. 5 **in** Room 16 of the Woodward Motel, 18650 Woodward, when the manager went to check the room. Brooks, who was nude from the waist down and had been tied up and beaten, was pronounced dead at the scene of a gunshot wound **in** the head.

MALONE WAS a **suspect in** Brooks' **slaying** because homicide investigators had determined that Malone checked into the motel with her and discovered evidence indicating he had been **in** the room with her. Witnesses also identified Malone as the man who was seen with Brooks leaving the Fancy Pants Lounge, a Highland Park topless go-go bar, the night before she was found dead.

Malone appeared for his arraignment before Detroit District Judge Ricardo Lubienski wearing a maroon jogging suit and sneakers. As he was led into the courtroom, Malone attempted to hide his face from an artist who was **in** the spectators gallery making sketches.

Lubienski ordered Malone, charged with first-degree murder, held **in** Wayne County Jail, pending a Feb. 19 preliminary examination.

A man who watched Malone being arraigned and identified himself as Brooks' landlord for two years said:

"She cared a lot about people, especially old people, and their well-being. She wanted to work **in** a convalescent home, or at least she talked about it."

Another man, who asked not to be identified, said he was a relative of Brooks and described her as "bighearted. Very generous. She couldn't say no to anybody **in** need."

MALONE'S CRIMINAL record dates to March 24, 1966, when he was placed on five years' probation after being convicted of armed robbery **in** Xenia, Ohio. A year later, he was convicted of violating Michigan's narcotics laws. And on June 30, 1972, he was sentenced to 25 years **in** federal prison after being convicted of robbing a Toledo bank. Malone's record, which also makes note of at least one escape, does not indicate when or why he was released from federal prison.

In June 1980, Malone was charged with sexually assaulting a Toledo woman **in** an east side Detroit home while he held a carpet knife to her throat. That case was dismissed when a Detroit Recorder's Court judge ruled that the woman's testimony, which changed from the version she had given police, was unbelievable.

In November 1983, Malone was charged with four counts of criminal sexual conduct while using a weapon after a waitress who worked at a northwest Detroit lounge claimed Malone forced her at knifepoint to a nearby office building and sexually assaulted her repeatedly. The case was dismissed after investigators discovered discrepancies **in** the woman's version of what had occurred.

Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: MURDER ; SEX CRIME ; MULTIPLE ; SHOOTING

Record Number: 8501060110

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