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BULLETS FOUND AT JOHNSON HOME

Police Say Type Is Same as
Used in Colombo Shooting

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

A box containing cartridges, identical to ones used in the shooting of Joseph A. Colombo Sr. was shown to newsmen yesterday by detectives who found it among the effects of Jerome A. Johnson, the man the police say shot the reputed Mafia chief.

Chief of Detectives Albert A. Seedman arrived at a news conference at the 18th Precinct station, 306 West 54th Street, with a cardboard box filled with Johnson's "worldly goods." He said they had been recovered from his last known residence, a store at 176 Elizabeth Street.

The recovery of the items was the latest public development in the bizarre shootings at an Italian-American Civil rights League rally at Columbus Circle on Monday at which Colombo was shot and Johnson was killed.

Still Comatose

Colombo, 48 years old and said by Federal law officials to be the head of a Brooklyn Mafia family, still lay in a coma in Roosevelt Hospital.

A report from the hospital said that his respiration "appears to be somewhat improved" and his breathing is a little more efficient, but his condition remained "touch and go."

Johnson's possessions included a curved Indian sword, a black cane, a serape, a gold and maroon cape, a riding crop, a book titled "Fragments of a Faith Forgotten," about the origins of Christianity, and the box of cartridges.

Chief Seedman said that the cartridges fit a 7.65-mm. automatic pistol fired at Colombo and taken from Johnson's body by a policeman.

Still unanswered in the case are such questions as the following:

Who killed Johnson with a stolen .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver? What was Johnson's motive? Did he act alone or did he have accomplices.

If he did not act alone, was he in the employ of underworld enemies of Colombo, an agent for black revolutionists?

Report on Phone Number

Chief Seedman confirmed a report in The New York Times yesterday that sometime between June 15 and June 25 a request was made of telephone company to transfer calls for Johnson from 242-8938 to 486-9415, the number of the Ital-

ian-American Civil rights League at 635 Madison Avenue.

"There is nobody up there that took a call for him," the chief said, "that's what they told us." The league also denied that Johnson was in its employ.

With a shake of his head, the chief said "this case is such an odd case."

Chief Seedman said that Johnson had lived in the decrepit building at 176 Elizabeth Street, in the area known as Little Italy, for the past few weeks.

Blank Checks Found

Among his effects were blank checks, including some bearing the words Bark Book Distributors, Inc. The company, according to the State Investigation Commission, specializes in pornography and is owned by Joseph Brocchini, a reputed underworld figure.

At least one rubber check had been signed by Johnson on the Bark checks, which the chief said were stolen.

The chief said that a monkey had also been found at Johnson's apartment and had been turned over to an animal shelter.

A witness to the shooting of Colombo, James L. Delmonico Jr., 37, of Secaucus, N.J., was interviewed again yesterday and asked if a picture released by the police showing Johnson taking motion pictures of Colombo just before the shooting was the same man he saw fire at Colombo.

Mr. Delmonico, who was first interviewed at the rally before Johnson's body was identified, said that the man in the picture appeared to be Colombo's attacker.

Conflicting Data

Mr. Delmonico, a freelance cameraman who was working on a documentary of the rally commissioned by the Italian-American Civil Rights League, said that Colombo's assailant fired with his left hand.

Johnson's mother, Mrs. Ethel Johnson Smith of New Brunswick, N.J., told a reporter that her son was right-handed.

The police have repeatedly refused to say whether Johnson's fingerprints were on the pistol recovered from his body.

Mr. Delmonico said yesterday that he saw a uniformed policeman pick up the weapon. The policeman was "bent over, holding it by the grip," he said, adding:

"I see the clip is missing and there's blood on it and on the cop's hand. He cleared it and cocked it, shifted it to his right hand and put it in his pocket."