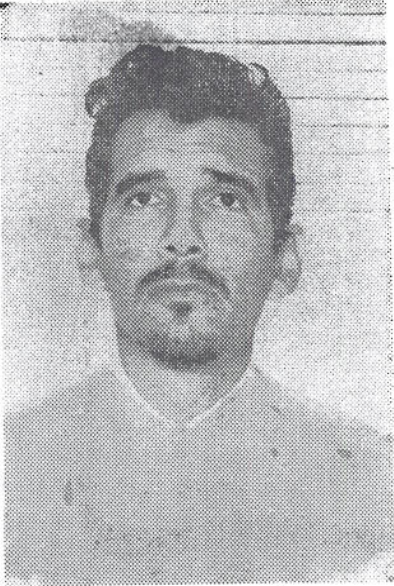


EX-CON IS FOUND  
BEATEN TO DEATH



Jessie Gonzales

A 37-year-old former convict was found dead on a roof outside a French Quarter rooming house today. He apparently had been beaten to death with a metal step stool.

The body of Jessie Y. Gonzales was found at 7:20 a.m. on the roof of a building at 1121 Decatur St. Sam Moran, a special investigator for the Orleans Parish coroner's office, said he had been dead about four hours when the body was found.

Police records show that Gonzales served time in the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville for possession of narcotics and at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola for aggravated battery. The Louisiana conviction was in 1965. It was not known how much time he served in either prison.

The body, clad in underwear, was

found by Antonio Epan, 69, a resident of the rooming house who had gone to the roof to clean it up. The man's clothing was found nearby.

**MORAN SAID THERE** were deep gashes in the back of the man's head and other slashes on his back and shoulders.

The investigator said the murder weapon apparently was a metal stool found on the roof. Moran said there were bloodstains and traces of hair on the legs of the heavy stool.

Moran said there was a knife in Gonzales' hand but that he believes it was placed there by the killer.

**GONZALES WAS** last seen late last night when he made two trips to a

nearby bar, purchasing a case of beer on each visit.

Judy Manetas, who manages the rooming house, said none of the residents of the building reported hearing anything unusual on the roof during the night.

Miss Manetas said Gonzales once lived in the rooming house but moved four or five weeks ago.

**SHE SAID THE** roof showed signs of a scuffle and it appeared to her that Gonzales' body had been dragged to the spot where Epan found it.

Miss Manetas said she believes Gonzales was from Houston.

Gonzales was pronounced dead at 8 a.m. by Dr. Waldo Bernard.

Orleans Parish Coroner Dr. Carl Rabin has ordered an autopsy.

Police said they have no suspects in the murder.