

Spokane Police Department
Additional Report

Date: 04/14/2016

Incident Classification: Death - Unknown

Location: Spokane River / 400 ft W of Monroe St Bridge, Spokane

Complainant/Victim: Marshall, John O. Race: W Sex: M DOB: [REDACTED]

Suspect: Race: Sex: DOB:

X-Reference #'s:

Department Status: Suspended Investigation/Inactivated

NIBRS Status: Not Applicable

Detective B. Cestnik #528

Approved by: Sgt. J. Fertakis #110

Suspend

I have not found any evidence at this time indicating where or why John Marshall entered the Spokane River. There are no witnesses or useful video. The riverbank and trails in the area have been searched numerous times, but no helpful evidence has been located. I have walked and searched every possible entry point along the river. Myself, other detectives, and forensic personnel have walked and searched both sides of the river and all bridges over it. I have contacted dozens of runners, walkers, bikers, and transients along the Centennial Trail and around the river. I have not found anyone who saw anything around the time that John went missing.

As mentioned in previous reports, there has been intensive media coverage surrounding this case. I have followed up on every plausible tip that has come in as of this time, and none have helped me to determine what exactly led to the death of Marshall. No one saw him that morning after he left the YMCA. None of the tips that have come in have indicated that anyone else was directly involved in the death.

While people have many theories and guesses as to what happened, there are no witnesses or evidence to back any of them. There are two main theories that have been brought to my attention numerous times by people who have called in. The first is that Susan Marshall was involved in or responsible for the death of Dr John Marshall. I have found no evidence to suggest that she was involved in any way. I do not believe that she has anything to do with his disappearance or death.

The other theory that I have heard repeatedly was that John and / or Susan were involved in extra-marital affairs, and that this may have somehow played a part in his death. I have been

through John Marshall's computer and cell phone. I have talked to his friends, co-workers, and family. Not one person has reported direct knowledge of any affair. Many people have speculated that he was somehow involved with another VA employee who was recently the victim of a shooting. I have not found any evidence that he ever had contact with this female. Though they both worked for the VA, they worked in completely different specialties. They did not work in the same building and I do not have any evidence that they ever talked. I have spoken with the Spokane County detectives working on that case, and they confirm that they have never found any link between the cases.

I did receive numerous calls from prior patients of Dr Marshall after his death. Several people called to talk about bad experiences they had with him and his poor bedside manner. I was able to track down several people who had been vocal about their dislike of Dr Marshall as a doctor, but have found no one that was upset enough to want to harm him. There have been no substantiated reports of threats against him, and he was not fearful for his safety around the time he went missing.

I have not found any evidence to indicate that John was suicidal at the time of his death. He had plans for both the day he went missing and for the future. No notes were found, and he was not doing anything out of the ordinary the day he went missing. He does not have a history of depression and there is no evidence that he has ever tried to harm himself in the past. He does suffer from **33** but he was in counseling. John has had family issues, marital issues, and financial problems, but again he was in counseling and there is no indication he was depressed to the point that he would harm himself.

There were no calls to Crime Check or 911 around the time Marshall went missing that indicate any fight or struggle in the area. There have been no other reports of random assaults on joggers or walkers along the Centennial Trail, either before or after this incident. There is nothing to indicate that this was a robbery, as the only item of value Marshall had on his person (an old I-Pod) was still on him when he was found. He is a retired Marine and knows how to handle himself in a confrontation. He did not have any injuries to indicate that he was in any sort of physical fight. He did not have any defensive wounds or pattern injuries that suggest he was the victim of a violent assault.

The morning he went missing, Dr Marshall parked his vehicle on the north side of the YMCA, went inside, then left out the south side of the building. Surveillance video shows that no one was following him. Even if someone had followed him to the YMCA, they would not have seen him leave out the south side of the building. This makes it highly unlikely that someone was following him and targeted him.

Dr Howard's autopsy indicated that there are two main areas of injury on the body – the back of the legs (bruising on the buttocks, both thighs, and calves) and the chest (two broken ribs and broken sternum). There were no injuries that would indicate that Marshall tumbled or fell down an embankment or onto the rocks. This limits the possible places/ways that he could have entered the water. Dr Howard has indicated that these injuries could have been sustained by a fall from a high place (Monroe Street Bridge), then hitting the water while in a

seated position. The broken bones could also be the result of hitting rocks just right while in the water, or even hitting something which is about chest high (a railing for example). As mentioned earlier, Dr Howard did not find any pattern injuries during his autopsy which support this, but Marshall was wearing a coat at the time of his death. There were no marks on the coat indicating that he was hit with anything.

As of this time, I cannot say for certain what caused the death of John Marshall. I cannot eliminate accident or suicide as the cause of death. Though I have not found any evidence that anyone else was involved in the death of Marshall, I also cannot definitively eliminate the possibility that he was the victim of foul play.

Dr Howard has classified the manner of death as an accident at autopsy. He did not see anything which led him to believe that any assault had occurred or that anyone else was involved in Marshall's death.

The case will be suspended at this time. Should any new information develop in the future, I will re-open the case and continue the investigation. The case will remain as Death-Unknown.

Suspended / Inactivated Investigation

I certify / declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the forgoing is true and correct (RCW 9A.72.085).

Det Brian Cestnik #528
04/14/2016
Major Crimes Unit
City & County of Spokane, WA