

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Tuesday, December 23, 1980

# Pensioner killed for \$30

An elderly pensioner savagely beaten and robbed of his \$30 Christmas shopping money died of his injuries yesterday.

Mr Richard Slater, 69, was attacked in a public lavatory in Newcastle on Friday afternoon, battered about the head and body and left bleeding and unconscious.

Mr Slater, of [redacted] Cooks Hill, had left home only half an hour before to walk to a shopping centre.

## Mutilated

His mutilated body was found in a lavatory in Birdwood Park, opposite the shops.

Mr Slater died in the Royal Newcastle Hospital yesterday afternoon.

His wife, Gwen, was still too upset last night to speak about her husband.

Relatives who gathered at her home described the attack as "senseless murder for just \$30."

One said: "He was a good man."

"He never drank or smoked and he was friendly with all the neighbors."

"He was such a kind man."

"He never did any harm to anyone."

"He was bashed beyond recognition, with injuries to his face, head and chest."

Police said Mr Slater had his Christmas shopping money in a black vinyl clip purse.

They have asked anyone who may have found such a purse in the vicinity of Birdwood Park to tell them.

## Found

Police want to get in touch with an elderly man who reported having found Mr Slater after the attack.

Mr Slater retired about four years ago.

He grew up in Wingham, near Taree.

He went to Newcastle as a bus driver, then worked as a crane driver for the BHP steelworks.