

*The Sun, Monday, 5th, January 1981.*

# BASHING MYSTERY

## 60 INTERVIEWED BY POLICE

NEWCASTLE police have interviewed more than 60 people in their investigation into the fatal bashing last month of a 69-year-old pensioner.

Richard Slater, of [redacted] Cooks Hill, was found semi-conscious in a public lavatory in Birdwood Park on the afternoon of December 19.

He had been assaulted about the head and body and died three days later in Royal Newcastle Hospital.

About \$30 he had been carrying in a small black purse was missing.

Newcastle CIB has been investigating Mr Slater's death.

But interviews with more than 60 people has failed to lead police to the killer.

Detectives last week were pinning their hopes on getting vital information from an elderly man who spoke to an ambulance officer in the park just after Slater was found.

The man, who contacted police following widespread media reports that detectives wanted to interview him, was unable to shed any new light on the investigation.

A senior Newcastle detective, Det-Sgt Alan Donnelly, said inquiries into another assault and robbery which took place some hours after Slater was

attacked had proved fruitless.

"We would like to interview any person who might have been the victim of any type of violent attack in the Newcastle and Cooks Hill areas, who has not reported the matter to police," he said.

"And we still want any member of the public who was in Birdwood Park in the vicinity of the public lavatory between midday and 1 pm on December 19 to contact Newcastle CIB.

"Even the most seemingly trivial item of information could prove to be of vital importance to our investigation."



Bashing victim Richard Slater

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