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Unsolved Cases: Avalon Jane Doe

An elderly woman found over a hillside in Avalon was never identified.

By [Zandy Dudiak](#) [Email the author](#) June 17, 2012

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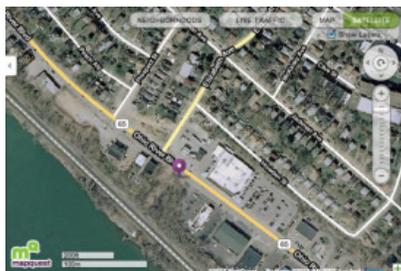
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The woman survived about eight decades on this earth, but her death gave no dignity to those years.

On June 19, 1997, the mummified body of a petite black woman with short, curly, gray-and-white hair—only 5 feet tall and weighing only 100 pounds—was found over a hillside behind the Ponderosa Steakhouse at 920 Ohio River Blvd. (Route 65) in [Avalon Borough](#).

The woman, who was found inside of a blue sleeping bag, was wrapped in two black plastic trash bags—one tied over her head, one tied over her feet—then wrapped again in what authorities believe was a plastic mattress cover, according to the [Pennsylvania Missing Persons](#) website.

Her head was lying on a pillow with a towel covering her face. Her body was covered with a green blanket. She was dressed in beige slacks, a light green adult diaper, a sweatshirt, a white (but yellowish-discolored) bra and two pairs of socks—one set pink, the other green.

She also wore a long-sleeved, yellow sweatshirt with "USA for Africa" in big, blue block letters. A musical note was on the "A" in USA and a leaf or tree was on the first "A" in Africa. The shirt also featured red script lettering that read "United Support of Artists for Africa." Because her body was mummified, it was likely that she had been deceased for a period of time between six weeks and one year in a sheltered place.

Authorities are not sure how long she was on the hillside where she was found. She died of natural causes, and hardening of her arteries was noted by the medical examiner assigned to the discovery.

Her identity was never determined. No one claimed her body. And her remains were eventually cremated.

If you have any information about this case, contact the [Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office](#) at 412-350-4800.

For more information about this and other missing person cases, visit [Pennsylvania Missing Persons](#), [NamUs](#) or [The Doe Network](#).

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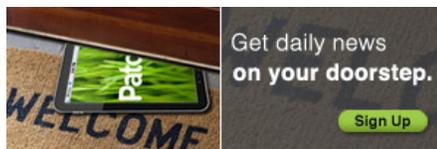
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