



Tampa police detective Jerry Payton shows onlookers a picture of a woman, later identified as Loretta Vann of

1832 Cano Court, who was found dead Thursday at 3007 N. 22nd St.

Tribune photograph by AUGUST STAEBLER

# Pregnant woman is slain

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**TAMPA** — The death of a pregnant 23-year-old woman whose partially clad body was found Thursday morning in a carport near the Ponce de Leon public housing project is being investigated as a homicide, police said.

Loretta Vann of 1832 Cano Court lived near a rooming house at 3007 N. 22nd St., where her body was found lying in front of an old Chevrolet pickup truck in the carport, said Tampa police spokesman Steve Cole.

Vann, the youngest of seven children, was several months pregnant, said her mother Lula, who learned of her daughter's death Thursday afternoon after returning to Tampa from a vacation in New Jersey.

"I'm in shock. I just don't believe it," said Lula Vann. "She was a sweet person who was good with kids."

Loretta Vann was on five years probation for conviction of a February 1983 charge of uttering a forged instrument, which usually means passing a forged check, police records showed. She also had received a 30-day jail sentence and six months probation for con-

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Tribune photograph by AUGUST STAEBLER

Police officers take notes as they survey the area where a body was found.

## Death

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viction on a September 1982 charge of offering to commit prostitution.

Although Vann's head appeared to be wounded, the cause of death will not be known until an autopsy is performed, Cole said.

Police had no suspects by Thursday afternoon, Cole said.

Rooming house residents who found the body flagged down a passing Tampa police patrol car at 7:19 a.m. Thursday, Cole said.

Vann wore only a pair of shorts, which were pulled down slightly, Cole said.

Because there was no identification near the body, police at first did not know who she was.

prints with those in police files, Cole said.

Residents said about 15 people live in the rooming house, a two-story Mediterranean building with green stucco.

Across the street is the wood-frame New Hope Apostolic Holiness Church and a half-block north are the Ponce de Leon apartments.

None of the rooming house residents reported hearing any screams or a scuffle, Cole said.

Beverly Long, whose second-floor room has a clear view of 22nd Street, said she didn't see anything unusual during the night.

"I'm ready to move," said tenant Valerie Anderson, carrying her 2-year-old daughter. "I've never seen anything like this. I've got two girls and I never want anything to happen to them."

A member of Vann's family said she was last seen Wednesday night, walking up 22nd Street to her home