



Jane 'Sally' Doe dies 5 years after she was left in Birmingham hospital parking lot

Edith Allen.jpg

Jane "Sally" Doe, (left) dumped at St. Vincent's East in 2010, was identified in 2013 as Edith Allen of Georgia. Her former caretaker, Cathy Jean Thomas, (top right) was arrested in Georgia (bottom right) on Monday, Aug. 12, 2013. ()

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A mentally disabled Georgia woman who **was dumped at a Birmingham hospital** in 2010 and whose identity remained a mystery until three years ago has now died.

Edith Allen, the 70-year-old woman who was affectionately known for years by her caretakers only as Jane "Sally" Doe, died Tuesday. "I think she had happiness for a part of her life, but something went terribly wrong for a while," her legal guardian, Birmingham attorney Sid Summey, told AL.com Thursday.

Summey said Allen was well-loved and comfortable in her final years thanks to a team of people who took her in and didn't give up on her, finding her true identity and pursuing justice against those who wronged her. That team included St. Vincent's Hospital; Laura Fulbright at JBS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, Blount County District Attorney Pamela Casey and the countless caregivers at the Olive Home in Oneonta and Springville Nursing Home, he said.

"She spent her last years as we all would want: with justice, peace, comfort, love and caring," Summey said. "Her race is run and she will rest in peace. Thanks for a job well done."

Allen was dumped at St. Vincent's East in August 2010, wearing only a hospital gown and an adult diaper. She had no identification, weighed less than 90 pounds, and her hair had been dyed dark, possibly in an attempt to disguise. She barely spoke, and never spoke again. Doctors diagnosed her with a urinary tract infection. She was dehydrated, malnourished and a choking risk.

Authorities spent weeks trying to identify her. Those weeks turned into months, and then years. Alabama Bureau of Investigation Lt. Scott Bartle spearheaded the search, assisted by other agents who spent hundreds of hours fielding more than 2,000 tips **after an extensive 2011 story in AL.com** and The Birmingham News.

Because authorities and health care workers didn't have Allen's identity, she didn't qualify for Medicaid. Her medical bills from 2010 through 2013 totaled more than \$200,000. St. Vincent's East footed the bill for her hospital stays, and the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority has supported and overseen her extended care.

The 2011 AL.com story resurfaced in the summer of 2013 and was widely circulated on Facebook. A tipster reached out to LostNMissing Inc., a nationwide non-profit, volunteer group with a possible identity. That group reached out to Bartle and Alabama authorities and they quickly verified the tip that Jane "Sally" Doe was 68-year-old Edith Allen of Douglasville, Ga.

Allen had been living with a family member of a Georgia woman named Cathy Jean Thomas and that family member passed away in 2009. That's when Thomas took over as Allen's caretaker. Thomas filled out the necessary paperwork to take charge of Allen's social security benefits.

Thomas remained her caretaker until Allen was dropped off at St. Vincent's. Thomas denied dropping Allen at the hospital, but admitted to receiving Allen's money and using it to obtain goods and services that never went to Allen.

Thomas has **since pleaded guilty to wire fraud** and making false statements to a federal agency, court records show. Thomas, of Douglasville, was sentenced to 13 months in federal prison with credit for time served since her February 2014 arrest in Georgia. She also was ordered to pay \$25,514 in restitution to the Social Security Administration.

In Alabama, **Casey charged Thomas in Blount County** with identity theft and is awaiting trial which is scheduled for October. Authorities said she collected more than \$25,000 in Allen's social security benefits from 2010 through 2013. Any restitution collected will go to the Blount County facilities that provided care for Allen while Thomas was stealing her identity, Casey said.

"I am saddened to hear that Edith has left this Earth," Casey said. "We will continue to pursue justice for her for the cruel way she was treated during the last years of her life."

"Heaven gained an angel when Edith left this Earth," she said, "but I have no doubt she is walking the streets of Heaven with a new body."

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