



Homicide suspect Willie Summers, right, is led into the St. George police station by Detective Edwin Thorne.

S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons

Suspect arrested in fatal beating

By WILLIAM REYCRAFT
and CHRIS OLERT

After questioning hundreds of ferry commuters for possible leads, detectives yesterday arrested a Mariners Harbor man in connection with the death of a 76-year-old tailor.

Willie Summers, 24, of 18 Arlington Ave., was arrested in Supreme Court by Detectives Edwin Thorne and James Mercer and charged with robbery and homicide in the fatal beating of Nicola Infantino of 102 Windham Ave., New Dorp.

Infantino was found unconscious Oct. 12 in the men's room of the ferryboat

John F. Kennedy. He died 10 days later in Staten Island Hospital without regaining consciousness.

A court official said that Summers was brought to Supreme Court in St. George to be arrested. He had been held on \$5,000 bail in connection with an unrelated case. Summers was arrested Oct. 13 and charged with the robbery of a West Brighton man that day on the Tompkinsville overpass of the Staten Island Rapid Transit.

Police recovered a black vinyl case that they said Infantino was carrying when he was mugged on the ferry. They

had sent out descriptions of the case, and a picture of a similar case was published in the Advance.

The case apparently led police to the suspect.

Following a hearing in Criminal Court yesterday afternoon, Summers was held without bail and ordered to reappear before Judge Max Galfunt for a hearing Wednesday.

Police said that evidence gathered in the case would be turned over to a grand jury. They did not describe how evidence leading to Summers' arrest was gathered.

Inspector Vincent T. Agoglia, head of Staten Island detectives, praised Thorne and Mercer, as well as their supervisors, for the work that led to Summers' arrest.

He also praised the Marine and Aviation Department Police and the Advance for their help in bringing attention to the case.

Summers is a former resident of Willowbrook Developmental Center. He lived in the center from 1963 to 1970, when he was forced to leave because he reached a certain intelligence level which disqualified him from remaining there.