

## Samuel J.R. Long

( - 10 Jan 1931)

---

**Long, Samuel J.R.** On Saturday, January 10, 1931, Samuel J.R. Long, eldest son of the late William M. and Addie V. Long. Funeral from the residence of his sister, 325 1st st. s.e., on Thursday, January 15, at 10 a.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

*The Washington Post, January 15, 1931, p. 22*

### **Seven Are Grilled in Mystery Death Of U.S. Employe**

### **Six Men and Woman Held After Police Uncover Party Evidence Hold Theory Injuries Were Result of Fall**

### **Say Long Remained at House 12 Hours Before Being Found On Street**

Police last night were holding seven colored persons in an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death Friday of Samuel J.R. Long, Capitol folding room employe who was picked up on the street at Delaware avenue and C street southwest and taken to Gallinger Hospital, where he later died.

At a late hour the six men and one woman still were being grilled by police at the Fourth Precinct Station. Acting on information unearthed yesterday, police are working on a theory that Long either fell or was thrown down a flight of steps at a house on C street near First street southwest, after a drinking party.

A fellow employe, whose name was withheld, was said by Lieut. S.J. Marks, who is conducting the investigation, to have told police he saw Long with a small amount of liquor in his possession Saturday morning before he was found unconscious Sunday night. The coroner's office and Dr. J.J. McCarthy, attending physician at Gallinger Hospital, both previously stated that Long had not been drinking when he was admitted to the hospital and that an autopsy following the death did not reveal traces of liquor.

### *Says Long Went to House*

Precinct Detective N.G. Thayer, who is assisting in the investigation, said that Long went to the home of one of the colored men who is being held, Arthur Mitchell, 32, of the C street address, sometime during Saturday, and that the fall occurred at that time.

For at least 12 hours, according to the story allegedly told by Mitchell, Long remained in the house, too weak from the fall to move. Headquarters detectives, who are working on the case with the Fourth Precinct policemen, say that, according to the story told by Mitchell, fear of being blamed for Long's accident kept them from calling medical aid.

Only four of the seven persons being questioned last night had been booked. They were Mitchell, Fannie Poole, 23, of Canal road southwest; George Higgons, 35, also of Canal road, and William Moore, 57, of C street near First street southwest.

### *25 Witnesses Questioned*

Twenty-five persons, all of whom were neighbors and friends of those held, were questioned yesterday, but police say that they were only questioned with a view to checking statements made by Mitchell and Moore.

Explaining statements made by physicians that there was no liquor in Long's stomach, at the autopsy police pointed out that two days had elapsed between his death and the investigation and it was not less than 7 days after the accident that the autopsy took place.

The stories told by those held were said by police to be conflicting. It has not been definitely established just when the fall occurred, or whether it is a fact that Long was held or remained at the C street house from Saturday until he was picked up on the street Sunday night by J.C. Wilson, of K street near Thirteenth street, who took the man to the hospital.

*Seen By Passersby*

It was said the man was seen lying on the street where he was later found by Wilson, at least five hours previous to the time he was picked up and taken to the hospital. Police says that passersby saw the man at 6 o'clock, but thought that he was drunk and left him alone. He was admitted to the hospital at 11:55 o'clock that night.

Police say that they have not dismissed the theory that Long may have been thrown down the steps. Those who were at the house were drunk and did not know what they were doing. It was learned yesterday that the last pay Long drew at the Capitol was on December 23, when he drew \$64.

It was intimated last night that several other persons would be brought to the station house for questioning, possibly this morning, and Lieut. Marks declared that the investigation would continue until something definite was learned.

Funeral services for Long will be held from the home of his sister, Miss Mattie Long, 325 First street southeast, this morning at 10 o'clock, services being at the home instead of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church as previously announced. The Rev. Freeley Rohrer, pastor, will officiate, and interment will be at the Congressional Cemetery.