

Police probe mystery of missing Loyola grad

By Steven Gunn

ON JULY 23, Edward Beaudion, 22, who had just graduated from Loyola University with plans for a teaching career, dropped off his date after attending a wedding in Oak Lawn. He told her he was tired and going home.

He hasn't been seen since, and his family fears he has met with foul play.

His parents, Adla and Louis Beaudion, 3834 N. Francisco Av., reported the disappearance immediately to Chicago police. But since there was no evidence he had been harmed, they could do little except take a missing person's report.

They found nothing in his background to indicate he would want to disappear.

NOW, SHAKESPEARE area homicide investigators have entered the investigation after the car Beaudion was driving was found last week in Caruthersville, Mo., in the possession of Jerry Jackson, 26, a South Side resident.

Jackson has been charged with possession of a stolen auto and released on \$1,000 bond. Police said there wasn't enough evidence to file other charges, although Beaudion's coat, wallet, and credit cards were found in the car when Jackson was arrested.

He said he found the car on Lower

Wacker Drive near the Chicago River with the keys in the ignition.

Beaudion's friends and relatives, who said they have not given up hope, Monday night talked about him in the past tense.

"HE WAS SUCH a good boy," said his father, who works at Ace Loose Leaf Bindery Co. "He didn't drink or swear, and the only things he did for fun were to be in the church choir, listen to his tapes, and work with his plants."

He pointed out at least 35 potted plants in the apartment as Mrs. Beaudion said: "I'm just climbing the walls about this. We still are getting mail for him and his checks [from a part-time job] were mailed here."

Both parents said Beaudion, who lived at home while an honor student in education at Loyola, would always call them when he was going to be late coming home or changing his plans.

HIS SISTER, Ruth Delatorre said: "I've been working with police about this every day. I know he didn't belong to any gang. We're the sort of family that, if he had gotten into trouble, he could have told me."

"I can't, I can't, I just can't give up hope, but I'm so afraid something bad must have happened to him."

Judge rules out death-penalty law

By Donald M. Schwartz

A Criminal Court judge Monday ruled that Illinois' death-penalty law is unconstitutional.

The ruling, which is not binding upon other judges in Cook County or the state, will be appealed, an assistant state's attorney said.

Judge William Cousins Jr. said the statute, which took effect June 21, 1977, violates constitutional prohibitions against cruel and unusual punishment.

Reading from a 12-page written opinion, Cousins said the Illinois criminal code "vests prosecutors with unlimited discretion to trigger death sentence proceedings" which the judge ruled "impermissible" under certain U.S. Supreme Court cases.

Illinois law allows prosecutors to request a judicial hearing to ask the court to impose the death sentence upon certain convicted felons. Cousins did not elaborate on the constitutional infirmities of such a law.

Cousins' decision came during the sentencing hearing of

Ronald P. Brown, 19, of 8735 S. Justine, who was convicted in December of murder.

Immediately after the ruling, Martin Berry, assistant state's attorney, said in court that he would appeal it.

Berry said the Illinois Supreme Court, under its rules, could hear an appeal directly, without an intervening decision by the Appellate Court. A hearing could come within a month or two, he said.

Brown was convicted of the shooting death of Charles H. McGee, 27, whose body was found in alley behind 8920 S. Bishop on July 1, 1978.

According to court records, Brown was free on bond in another murder case at the time of the McGee killing.

Berry said Brown's fate is uncertain because further action on sentencing will be delayed until the appeal of Cousins' ruling is concluded.

The only other practical effect of Cousins' decision, Berry said, will be that the state's attorney's office will not seek the death penalty in Cousins' courtroom.

Suspect's lie test results 'inconclusive'

A SUSPECT in the disappearance of a 22-year-old Loyola University graduate was given a lie detector test Thursday, but the results proved inconclusive.

The test was given to Jerry Jackson, 26, of 6215 S. Wabash Av., whose bond was set at \$20,000 after he was arrested while driving the missing man's car in Missouri. He is charged with possession of a stolen auto.

Jackson was taken into custody in Ca-

ruthersville, Mo., last week, where he allegedly tried to pawn a citizen's band radio taken from the car of Edward Beaudion.

Beaudion, of 3834 N. Francisco Av., has not been seen since he dropped off his date July 23 after attending a wedding in Oak Lawn.

POLICE SAID detectives searched fruitlessly Thursday along portions of I-

55 in Du Page and Will counties after receiving a tip that the missing man's body might be found there. The sources said another search may be made Friday, using a helicopter.

Beaudion's wallet, credit cards, and coat were found in the car when Jackson was arrested. He told investigators that he found the vehicle on lower Wacker Drive with the keys in the ignition.

Lie test asked for S. Sider in missing teacher case

By Jim Casey

Chicago police said they will seek to give a lie-detector test to a South Side man arrested in Missouri last week driving the car in which a missing Loyola University graduate was last seen.

Area 5 homicide investigators said the suspect, Jerry Jackson, 26, of 6215 S. Wabash, is their only lead in the disappearance a month ago of Edward Beaudion.

Beaudion, 22, of 3834 N. Francisco, has not been seen or heard from by his family or friends since he took home a date, Carol Walot, 19, from a wedding they had attended July 22.

JACKSON WAS arrested last Wednesday at Caruthersville, Mo., when he allegedly tried to sell to a pawn shop operator there the citizens band radio from the auto Beau-



EDWARD BEAUDION



JERRY JACKSON

dion had borrowed from his sister to attend the wedding.

Jackson was extradited to Chicago and was charged in Auto Theft Court Monday

with possession of a stolen auto.

He told Chicago police investigators that he found the auto abandoned on the lower level of Wacker Dr. near the Chicago River. The keys were in the auto and he had to go to his mother's funeral in Missouri, so he took the car, Jackson reportedly said.

In the car at the time he found it, Jackson told police, were Beaudion's suit coat, his wallet and his credit cards. Jackson said he used the credit cards to buy gasoline and sold the coat in St. Louis for \$10, according to police.

In addition to questioning Jackson further and asking to give him a polygraph test, police said they also are considering dragging the Chicago River.

POLICE SUSPECT foul play because of the car and because they can find nothing in Beaudion's background to indicate he had

reason to disappear voluntarily.

A recent Loyola graduate with a degree in education, Beaudion was to begin teaching next month at St. Andrews School, 1710 W. Addison.

He taught catechism and sang in the choir at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3834 N. Spaulding. He was described by those who knew him as a well-liked, well-adjusted young man whose hobbies included listening to music and raising plants.

"He didn't run away," his mother, Alta, asserted Tuesday. "If he wanted to run away, he wouldn't run away without his clothes. All he had with him was what he had on his back."

"Oh, God," she cried, "I pray he'll be all right."