Years later, the man in Room 21 at the Strathmore Hotel on North Tce became the centre of attention. The hotel's receptionist at the time was puzzled by a well-dressed, well-spoken guest.

Her suspicions saw her order a search of his room. It contained only a black medical case, containing what seemed like a hypodermic syringe. The mysterious guest checked out the day before the body at Somerton was discovered.

Why had she not come forward at the time, when police were crying out for clues?

"I had no conclusive proof," she said in a newspaper interview in 1982. "And hotel receptionists had to be discreet."

Mysteries thrive behind such discretions – much to the frustration of police, unable to close the bulging file on just one body at Somerton beach.

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I found the article by Derek Pedley (The Advertiser, 4/11/95) about the Somerton Beach body most interesting reading as it brought back memories of my involvement in the story.

Working then as a library assistant in the Reference Section of the Public Library on North Tce, I was asked to find the meaning of the words Taman Shud. Being told how it was used, I took what I thought was the obvious step and looked up "the end" in an English/Persian dictionary to find Taman Shud meant "the end".

I well remember being summoned to the office of Mr George H. Pitt, the principal librarian, being asked how I had found out the meaning and then being complimented on my "logical thinking".

LUCY F. ASHTON, Belair.