

Body of Negro Believed Lynched Found In Gully

Columbus, GA., November 9- Police are investigating the discovery of the body of a negro near the city today on the theory that he was lynched because of an alleged attack on a white woman here sometime ago.

The negro, Joe Lockhart, according to police, was spirited away from his home the night of October 30, by several men and no trace was obtained until today when his body, containing bullet holes, was found in a gully.

According to police, Lockhart was twice taken before the woman, who was attacked and that she filed to identify him. No arrests have been made in connection with the negro's death.

Body Discovered Hidden in Gully Near Roadside

November 10, 1926- Negress Makes Find Tuesday Seven Miles From Here in Alabama-Bullet Holes in His head.

Kidnapped From Home October 30.

Authorities Hold to Theory That Joe Lockhart Was Lynched as Assailant Of White Woman.

The discovery in an Alabama gully yesterday of the body of Joe Lockhart, pierced by bullets hassled to an investigation on the theory that the negro was lynched by white men as the black who criminally assaulted a white woman in Columbus several weeks ago.

Lockhart's body was found near the roadside about seven miles from Columbus, on the Fort Mitchell road, in Russell county. He was spirited away from his home October 30.

Solicitor General Walker R. Flournoy and local city police detectives are proceeding on the theory that the negro was kidnapped from his home by the white men, who believed that Lockhart was the negro who attacked the woman in her home on Eleventh avenue the night of October 8. No arrests have yet been made.

Carried Before Woman.

In explaining the theory, the officials pointed out that shortly after the attack, Lockhart was twice carried before the woman for identification. Each time, however, she failed to identify the negro, it was stated.

The negro's body was found by a negress, who informed a negro man of her discovery. The negro then notified police headquarters yesterday afternoon. Chief of Detectives A.G. Reese and Solicitor General Flournoy immediately went to the scene, and viewed the decomposed body of the negro. The condition

was such, it was explained that the exact number of bullet holes could not be determined, but it was stated that two were found in the top of the head. One hole was found on the negro's hat near the band.

Mark's on the head indicated that he had been burned, according to the solicitor general, but he said he was not positive of that because of the condition of the body. There was but little hair on the head. It appeared also that there were bruises on the negro's wrists.

Dragged From Road.

Solicitor General Flournoy and Chief Reese described the physical signs between the road and the place where the body was found. The condition of the weeds, it was stated, indicated that the road and over a hill to the gully, where it was secreted.

There was no indication, according to the Solicitor general that the body was scuffle near the place, where the body was. It is his opinion, he said, that the negro was killed in an automobile, either at the place where the body was taken from the car, or before it reached there.

The body was found about a hundred yards from the roadside.

There were rumors last night the body found in Alabama was that of Lockhart, but the police are confident it was the negro who spirited away from his home. Chief Reese said that the body had been identified as that of Lockhart by the negro's relatives. The condition of the body made identification of the body difficult but the clothes they said to have been Lockhart's. It was also said to have been identified by a ring on a finger of the dead man.

Kidnapped From Home.

According to the police, the negro was spirited away from his home by white men. It is believed that three were in the party. The police were told that two men entered the negro's home at 1138 Thirty-eighth street the night of Saturday, October 30. The house was occupied by two families. The men went into one side and ordered a negro to go with them. They learned, however, that he was not Lockhart. They then knocked down the door to Lockhart's side of the house, and ordered him from his bed, according to the information in the hands of the police.

When Lockhart asked what they wanted with him, one of the men is said to have uttered an oath and stated that it was the same thing "we got you for before".

Carried in Automobile.

An automobile carried the white men and the negro from the house. The motor had been left running, the police were told.

Chief Reese and other city detectives and Solicitor General Flournoy have instigated and exhaustive investigation into the kidnapping since the disappearance of the negro.

Although the kidnapping occurred in Columbus, the solicitor general last night expressed the opinion that Lockhart was slain in Alabama. He said that a thorough investigation had been made into any possible shooting on this side of the river the night that the negro was spirited away from his home and that no evidence of such a thing has been revealed. He is of the opinion that the negro was killed in the automobile in Alabama.

The local authorities yesterday notified Sheriff Pal. M. Daniel, of Russell county, of the discovery of the body, and the sheriff immediately began an investigation.

Grand Jury may Act.

If there are no development sin Alabama, it is expected that the matter will be given an exhaustive investigation by the Muscogee county grand jury.

The Lockhart negro, according to the police had been and employee of the Columbus Electric and Power company ten or twelve years.

Information as to the kidnapping was given to police by the negroes who lived in the house where Lockhart resided.