



JOHN McCABE
... tied and killed

Dead Boy Found Gagged In Lowell

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Globe Correspondent

LOWELL — The bound and gagged body of a 15-year-old Tewksbury boy was found yesterday in a field off Maple street here, an apparent murder victim.

The body of John McCabe, 15, of 10 Pocahontas drive, Tewksbury, was bound face-down at the bottom of a sandy hill 200 feet from the road by three youngsters who had been playing in the field.

The boy had been reported missing early yesterday morning by his parents after he failed to return home from a Knights of Columbus dance in Tewksbury. He was a student at Tewksbury High School.

The youth's hands were tied behind his back and his feet were bound together with coarse rope, police said. Adhesive tape was wrapped over his eyes and mouth. He was clad in a maroon shirt and green pants and his brown sports jacket was partly tucked under his face.

Identification of the body was made by the youth's father, William McCabe, at the O'Donnell funeral home in Lowell, where the body was taken for autopsy. The autopsy was performed by Medical Examiner Dr. John Karbowniczak along with a state pathologist and a doctor from the Harvard School of Legal Medicine.

Police said that a girl who attended the weekly teen-age dance last night had also been reported missing, but they said she was safe and they knew of her whereabouts.

McCabe's body was discovered at 10:10 a.m. by 9-year-old Robert Bastien of 437 Lincoln st., as he returned from the field with his sister, Donna, 5, and Dennis Cole, 7, of 433 Lincoln st.

Near their home, the youngsters summoned patrolman Palmer LaCrosse as he patrolled the neighborhood in his cruiser.

Captain Richard A. Cullen, head of Lowell's Criminal Bureau, sealed off the area and called State Police, the Middlesex County District Attorney's office and the Wilmington Police Dept.'s canine corps for assistance.

Tewksbury Police Chief John Sullivan described the McCabe youth as "a good boy who was never in trouble." He said the youth had been seen at the dance by the officer on duty there.

The dance was held in a hall on Main st., about nine miles from where the body was found.