

# Lowell Boy Died From Strangling

**LOWELL** — A 15-year-old Tewksbury boy, whose bound and gagged body was discovered in an abandoned railroad freight yard Saturday, was strangled to death, a medical examiner ruled yesterday.

Dr. John Karbowniczak, Jr., Lowell medical examiner, ruled in his autopsy that John J. McCabe, 15, of 10 Pocahontas dr., died "by strangulation by ligature."

McCabe had been reported missing by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. McCabe, early Saturday morning after he failed to return from a teen-age dance. He was found in a field off Maple street, Lowell, about nine miles from where the dance was held.

Police theorize that McCabe was left dead in the field at about 7 a.m. Saturday since his body was dry and it had stopped raining in the area three hours earlier.

His hands were tied behind his back and his feet were bound together with coarse rope. Adhesive tape was wrapped over his eyes and mouth and a rope was knotted around his neck, police said.

Three youngsters who had been playing on the field found the body at 9:50 a.m. Saturday. Capt. Richard A. Cullen, head of the Lowell Criminal Bureau, said the youth's body showed no signs of physical violence other than red marks around the neck.

Dr. Karbowniczak said McCabe was killed six to eight hours before the body was found. Police, who spent most of yesterday questioning friends of the youth, said he left the dance on Main st., Tewksbury, at about 11 p.m. Friday.

The red-haired, freckled-faced boy was a student at Tewksbury Junior High School.

His funeral Mass will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. William's Church, Tewksbury.