

# Did slain boy have drug news?

TEWKSBURY — Fifteen-year-old John McCabe may have been murdered Sept. 27 because he was about to supply police with data concerning illegal use of drugs.

This theory concerning the mysterious death of the high school student found bound and gaged in a field in Lowell the morning after a dance was expressed yesterday by Lowell Police Lt. Philip Bradnick.

Bradnick said new data suggest that the question of drug use may have been involved in the murder and police now appear to be moving toward a solution of the crime.

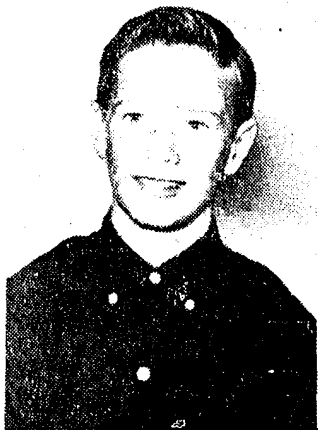
He said an arrest may be made during the next two weeks.

The Elks lodge has offered a \$1000 reward for information which would lead to a solution to the crime.

McCabe's body was found off Maple Street in Lowell by three youngsters playing in a field.

He had attended a Knights of Columbus dance in Tewksbury the previous night and failed to return home.

His hands were tied behind his back and his feet by a coarse rope. Adhesive tape was over his mouth and eyes.



JOHN J. McCABE  
... knew too much?

A medical examiner said he died of strangulation.

Shortly after the murder McCabe's father expressed fear that he was killed because he knew something and someone was trying to shut him up.

He left a sister, 17, and a brother.