

-60-25

## WHIGHAM-GORDON LABORATORIES

TELEPHONE MI 6-3711  
412 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
MCALLEN, TEXAS

Garza, Irene, age 25  
Service: Medico-Legal  
Date of death: Unknown  
Autopsy: 10:00 a.m. 4/21/60

By: Drs. C. E. Gordon and H. E. Whigham  
at Kreidler Mortuary, McAllen, Texas

## CLINICAL SUMMARY:

This 25 year old school teacher left her home late in the afternoon of April 16th to go to church and was never seen by her family, thereafter. A body later identified as hers was found floating in a canal, early in the morning of April 21, 1960.

## ANATOMICAL EXAMINATION:

## 1. External appearance:

The body was first seen on the preparation table at the mortuary. It was clothed in a blouse, brassiere, skirt and slip. The shoes and stockings were absent as were the panties. No rings were present and no wrist watch was present. The body was partially decomposed, although the skin was largely intact, but peeling over the hands. A large amount of mud was present over the lower body and extremities. The body was still recognizable, however, as that of a young woman. The scalp was covered with a large amount of black hair. The skin around both eyes was swollen and reddish in color, this was more marked around the right eye. The scalp, over the anterior and right side of the head, was edematous. No other abnormalities were made out about the head. The tongue protruded from the mouth. The skin of the neck was carefully examined and no bruises were found. No fractures of the larynx were found by palpation. The chest was symmetrical. The breasts were very small and non-parous in type. No scars were present. The pubic hair was female in type. The genitalia were those of an adult female and the introitus was virginal. There was marked bruising of the tissues around the vaginal introitus. Definite bruising could not be made out around the anus. The extremities were symmetrical.

## 2. Serous cavities:

The body was opened with the usual y-shaped incision. A moderate amount of subcutaneous fat was present. Although considerable post-mortem decomposition of the organs was present, the abdominal organs appeared to be normally located and showed no gross abnormalities. The internal genitalia were examined and a small fibromyoma of the uterus was noted, on the surface of the fundus. The vagina was examined from the inside and vaginal mucosa, especially the posterior wall, likewise appeared contused.

## 3. Mediastinum:

The heart appeared normal in size and shape and the great vessels arose in a normal manner. The other mediastinal organs appeared grossly normal, although considerable post-mortem decomposition was present.

## 4. Heart:

As noted above, the heart appeared normal in size and shape and position. The valves were well formed and essentially normal. The chambers contained only small amounts of post-mortem blood clot. The cut surface of the myocardium was softened.

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## 5. Lungs:

The right lung was divided into 3 lobes. Considerable post-mortem change was present, although the lung retained its normal size and shape. The bronchi were opened and carefully searched and no debris or foreign material were found in the bronchi. Several apparent hemorrhages were noted on the cut surface. The left lung was similar to the right.

## 6. Liver:

The liver appeared grossly normal.

## 7. Spleen:

The spleen appeared grossly normal.

## 8. Pancreas:

The pancreas appeared grossly normal.

## 9. Cranium:

On reflecting the scalp, marked hemorrhage was noted, in the scalp, especially in the anterior portion on the right side. No fractures of the skull were noted, however. The brain showed no gross hemorrhage but was greatly decomposed, being almost fluid in consistency.

## MICROSCOPIC:

## Scalp:

Sections show marked post-mortem autolysis, but edema and old hemorrhage can be seen.

## Lungs:

Sections of right and left lung show marked post-mortem autolysis. No foreign debris, however, can be seen in the bronchi or alveolar spaces.

## Vulva:

A section from the vaginal introitus also shows marked autolysis, however, a definite hyperemia of the capillary vessels can be recognized, and also edema of the stroma.

## SPECIAL STUDIES:

Examination of smears stained with Wright's stain, from the fingernail scrapings, show only ~~no~~ unrecognizable debris. Blood grouping was attempted from the sutures used by the Mortician, in repairing the body, and a weak anti B red cell reaction was elicited indicating the patient was probably of blood group A.

The fingernails were all carefully examined and were quite short. Material was scraped from under all of these but grossly appeared to be only mud.

## FINAL DIAGNOSIS:

1. Contusion of soft tissues of scalp over right side of cranium and around both eyes.
2. Contusions of vaginal introitus.
3. Marked post-mortem autolysis of all viscera.

## AGENDUM TO SPECIAL STUDIES:

Smears taken from the vagina failed to reveal spermatozoa.

## FINAL SUMMARY:

Autopsy on this partially decomposed body, revealed the findings as listed. These permit the conclusion that the subject was dead when placed into the canal. It is also concluded that the subject had had recent trauma sexual intercourse and the failure to demonstrate spermatozoa was expected due to the probable long time interval. There was also evidence of trauma to the head, as noted, although this may not have been the cause of death. Evidence of strangulation could not be found but suffocation could have been carried out by placing a cloth over the mouth and nose, especially ~~if~~ the subject was unconscious.

*[Handwritten signature]*

M.D.

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