



BRANSON, MISSOURI 65616

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1968

# Aged Man Murdered, Search Continuing

## Coody's Billfold Found Tuesday Near Spokane

The late John W. Coody's billfold was found along the highway near Spokane Tuesday morning by Gene Gilmore, a resident there, who was walking to the store.

Sheriff Lyman Cardwell said that he and State Patrol Sergeant Wayne Ferguson went to Spokane Tuesday morning to take a look at the scene and pick up the billfold. It contained identification papers, but no money.

An intensive investigation has been underway since Feb. 12 to try to find the killer of John Coody who was found dead with three bullet wounds in the chest shortly after noon that date.

Coody, 70, lived at Gretna. He was working at the dump for another employee when he was gunned down.

The Sheriff and his deputies, the State Patrol officers and the Prosecuting Attorney have worked every day and many nights since the crime, questioning and checking out several suspects. Cardwell said that this process is continuing.

Several leads have been systematically investigated by law officers of the county since Monday noon when John Coody, 70, of Gretna was murdered at the Branson city dump.

At presstime Wednesday the 24-hour a-day investigation was continuing without an arrest in sight. Coody was found dead but still bleeding at 12:30 Monday by Perry Shepherd and Mar-

vin Kindell, employees of Sun-ray Sanitation Co. who were taking a load of trash to the large sanitary fill. He had been shot three times in the chest with a .22 caliber weapon from about 15 feet and was lying at the rear of his 1959 Dodge automobile.

Sheriff Lyman Cardwell said Coody was filling in for another employee at the dump and apparently his slayer surprised him as he worked. There was no sign of a struggle at the scene.

Coody's billfold, believed to have contained several dollars was missing.

A bulletin went out shortly after the crime describing a youngish man wearing glasses and driving a yellowish-white 1965 Chevrolet. This description came from persons who were near the dump shortly before and shortly after the shooting occurred. Several leads were received as a result of the bulletin, but as yet none has checked out conclusively.

Involved in the investigation are all officers of the Taney County sheriff's department, State Highway Patrol, Branson Police department and the Prosecuting attorney. Due to some evidence found at the death scene, officers have speculated that robbery may not be a clear-cut motive for the crime.

Funeral services for the victim have been set for Saturday with the time remaining open pending the arrival of two of Coody's sons who live in California. Another son lives in Texas.

## Billfold of Murder Victim Found on Road

FORSYTH (Special) — The billfold of murder victim John W. Coody, 70, Gretna, turned up along a highway near Spokane recently, providing a clue in the Feb. 12 shooting.

The billfold, found by Gene Gilmore, Spokane, as he was walking to a nearby store, is being studied by Taney County Sheriff Lyman Cardwell.

A part-time employe at the Branson city dump, Coody was found dead at the dump with three bullet wounds in the chest.

We wish to thank all the friends and neighbors for their kindness, sympathy and their many floral offerings after the recent death of our father.  
The John W. Coody Family.  
22/21p

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