

Suspects in Police Deaths Viewed in Coast Line-Up

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Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23—

Five witnesses flown here from New York City viewed two suspects in the slaying of two patrolmen in Harlem last May in a tense, two-hour line-up here today and an assistant district attorney said afterward there was a "strong possibility" that grand jury indictments would be sought.

The assistant district attorney from New York, Roderick Lankler, offered no other comment and other officials declined to make formal statements about the results of the line-up, which was held amid unusually tight security.

The two men who were the attention of the lineup are not only suspects in the New York City shootings but are also accused of attempting to murder a local policeman.

It was the attempted killing here, the police said, that eventually linked the suspects with the Harlem one.

Circumstances of Shooting

The New York City patrolmen—Joseph Piagentini, 28 years old, and Waverly M. Jones, 33—were shot from behind and killed on May 21 while answering a legitimate sick call at a housing project. After they were shot, authorities said that the killers took the service revolvers from both of them. One of those guns was used by the police to link the suspects in the line-up to the New York City slayings.

The two suspects, both black, have been identified as Tony Boettom, 19, and Robert Johnson, 21. Both live here.

They were arrested here before dawn on Aug. 28, after allegedly attempting to kill an officer in a patrol car here.

The officer, Sgt. George Kowalski, said that shortly after midnight a car with two men in it pulled alongside him at a traffic signal. One of the men, he said, pointed a machine gun out the window and pulled the trigger.

Sergeant Kowalski said that the gun did not fire and that the car sped off. After a high-speed chase, in which a number of police units were involved and shots were exchanged, the car being pursued

crashed into another vehicle and the suspects were caught.

Two other officers who arrived at the scene exchanged shots with the suspects before they surrendered. Mr. Bottom was shot twice and was wounded in the neck and calf, the police said.

Weapons found in the suspects' car included a .38-caliber revolver, later identified as Patrolman Piagentini's missing service revolver.

New York Police Department officials subsequently flew here to join in the investigation. In addition to Mr. Lankler, the group that came here included Capt. Arthur Young, com-

mander of the 32d Precinct detective squad. The slain patrolmen were assigned to the 32d Precinct.

Captain Young arrived yesterday but two other detectives from New York have been here since last week.

Arriving with the captain were five witnesses, all black, who observed the line-up that was conducted today behind unusually tight security on the sixth floor of the Hall of Justice.

Material Witness

It was learned from reliable sources that one of the witnesses was 18-year-old Clarence Lee, who has been held by material witness in the case.

Mr. Lee was reported to have been a witness to the shootings, and authorities have said that he spoke to the killers shortly after the incident.

At the Hall of Justice today, the witnesses were brought in through a rear tunnel and taken to the sixth floor on a private elevator.

The New York City policemen handled the line-up and did so in a manner that differed markedly from the procedure normally here used.

Line-Up Procedure

The suspects were put on a stage behind bright lights with six men of similar builds and descriptions. Each witness viewed the line-up separately.

Normally, line-ups here are conducted in a theaterlike setting with the witnesses in the audience and the suspects on stage. The bright lights keep the suspects from seeing the witnesses.