

Koethe Death Still Mystery; Man Quizzed

The death of Times Herald reporter James F. Koethe remained a mystery Tuesday as police continued to question a 23-year-old ex-convict in connection with the case.

A 24-year-old electric company employe who had been arrested last Friday was released from custody Monday night.

A hearing on a request for a writ of habeas corpus to free the 23-year-old ex convict from police custody was postponed Tuesday by Dist. Judge John Mead on the request of Detective Capt. Will Fritz.

Judge Mead scheduled the hearing for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. It originally had been set for Tuesday.

A third man still is being sought for questioning.

Capt. Fritz said both men knew the 30-year-old newsman whose body was found under a blanket eight days ago in his San Jacinto Street apartment.

A medical report revealed that the reporter died from a broken bone in his neck. What caused the fracture remains a mystery.

The young jobless ex-convict was snared by detectives Sunday afternoon in an alley in East Dallas not far from Mr. Koethe's apartment. He said he knew the Times Herald SUNDAY Magazine writer.

Under questioning by Capt. Fritz, the man said he accompanied Mr. Koethe to the San Jacinto Street apartment and drank beer on Friday night a week ago. He said the newsman later drove him home.

Detectives said the apartment in which the newsman's body was found was in disarray as if a fight had taken place there before he died. Three guns—two rifles and a pistol—a wrist watch, and money were taken from the apartment.

Mr. Koethe's automobile was also reported missing the morning his body was found. It was later discovered parked at Worth and Carroll, some 10 blocks away.