

M 968150

A U T O P S Y P R O T O C O L

Name: WHITMAN, Charles Joseph; Race: WM 23; Case No.: MLS-624966
Time of autopsy: August 2; 1966; 8:55 AM
Autopsy performed at: Cook Funeral Home
Autopsy authorized by: Judge Jerry A. Dellana
Justice of the Peace
Ex-Officio Coroner, Travis County

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External Examination:

Proportionally developed, well nourished body of the muscular type. The hair is light yellowish brown. The skin is rather pale, with a tan pigmentation on exposed areas. The pupils are round, moderately widened and equal. The visible mucous membranes, after previously completed embalming, are pale. Deeply in the nasal and pharyngeal cavities, a layer of clotted blood is visible. Dentition is well preserved. Rigor mortis, after injection, is present; lividity is absent.

Injuries: Head: Between the eyes, across the nose, are three entry holes of pellets; two more around the left eye and three in the left temporal region.

Neck and Chest: On the left side of the neck, around the collar bone, are four penetrations; two on the right side at the same level; one in the left 4th intercostal space close to the sternum bone (at the center of the heart); and four in the left axillary region. One, under the arm, is of larger diameter, close to 1 cm.

Left shoulder and Arm: Around the shoulder, about a dozen of grazing or penetrating injuries. The left arm bone (humerus) is severely destroyed by several large caliber penetrations, the arm is shortened and swollen, deformed.

Internal Examination:

The blood is clotted in all blood vessels and chambers of the heart, after the complete injection.

The skull is unusually thin, 2 to 4 mm. Over the hemispheres of the brain, there is no change, however, on the left deep temporal region and in the anterior and median thirds of the base of the skull, there are numerous lines of fractures. The lower half of the temporal bone is splintered; the frontal, temporal and sphenoidal bones over the eyes show a 'network' of fracture lines. - Under the outer covering membrane of the brain is an extensive bleeding, originating from ruptured venous sinuses and arteries. - The brain is symmetrically developed, without anomalies. The left frontal and temporal lobes are partially destroyed by penetrating bone pieces, some of those reach the posterior regions. The cerebrospinal fluid is mixed with blood. The ventricles are symmetrical. In the middle part of the brain, above the red nucleus, in the white matter below the gray center thalamus, is a fairly well outlined tumor about 2x1.5x1 cm in dimensions, grayish-yellow, with peripheral areas of red as blood.

The organs of the neck, besides injuries in the region, are unchanged. The level of the diaphragm is at the 6th rib on the right and above the 4th rib on the left side.

Circulatory Organs: The covering membranes of the heart are smooth, the cavity is filled with blood, originating from a penetrating wound into the right ventricle, around which the heart muscle is hemorrhagic. The heart is collapsed, its inner membrane and valves are smooth, the coronary arteries, aorta and large arteries are unchanged.

Respiratory Organs: The lining membrane of the right chest cavity is smooth, there is no fluid. The lung contains a diminished amount of blood; the tracheo-bronchial channels are filled with frothy blood. The left chest cavity contains some 50 ml of blood and a considerable amount of air, originating from the lateral aspect of the lobes which were penetrated by projectiles. Several areas of both lobes are hemorrhagic, so are all the air channels.

Abdomen: The lining membrane is smooth, the cavity contains embalming fluid mixed with blood and gastrointestinal contents, after cavity embalming. Besides perforations by the embalming instrument, the stomach and intestines show no change. The spleen is of average size, the capsule is corrugated, due to some loss of blood. - The liver is proportionally large, its capsule is smooth, its inner matter is pale brownish-yellow, with decreased amount of blood. The gall bladder is unchanged. - The pancreas and suprarenal glands are unchanged. - The kidneys are relatively large, their surface is smooth, both cortex and medulla are wide, with some congestion along the borderline of the two layers. The bladder and reproductive organs show no pathological change.

Histological Findings: The tumor of the brain is composed of elements of the connective tissue of the brain (glia) and of blood vessels of enlarged calibers. Some of these blood vessels have thick walls, others thin ones, with defective construction of the layers and microscopically small bleedings into the surrounding intercellular spaces, however, only a dozen or less red blood cells enter those spaces around. The cells are rather small, round or elongated, with a small amount of cytoplasm and mostly well staining nucleus. The chromatin substance of the nucleus is well organized, round or somewhat elongated or in some places, vesicular. Cell divisions occur only very exceptionally, indicating a minimal level of activity, just on the borderline to malignant formations. There are areas of cell death (necrosis), surrounded by a fence-like arrangement (palisade formation) of elongated cells.

Diagnosis: Fatal injuries to the head and to the heart.

Additional finding: a small brain tumor in the white matter above the brain stem, composed of connective tissue elements of the brain, mixed with numerous enlarged blood vessels; no evidence of malignantly fast growth, but that of partial tissue death, necrosis. (Astrocytoma). No correlation to psychosis or permanent pains.

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