

Murder unlikely in man's death

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

A man found dead in a driveway south of Ballantrae Friday morning was probably not murdered, say police.

But investigators won't speculate on the cause of death until an autopsy is conducted over the weekend.

"We are not treating it as a homicide," said Const. Steve Morrell. "We are not ruling anything out, but there are no obvious signs of foul play."

A worker arriving at 14699 McCowan Road, a vacant home just north of Vandorf Road, about 10:15 a.m. found the man lying dead in the driveway and called police.

Const. Morrell said police believe

they know who the man is, although he did not have identification. He's described as a white male, between 25 and 35 years old.

"We have an indication of who this gentleman might be but we are waiting for someone to actually identify the body or for the identification to be determined at the post mortem," he said.

He added police believe the man died no more than 24 hours before he was discovered and that they don't think his body was dumped at the house after death.

Homicide detectives spent about two hours at the house before clearing the scene about 12:30 p.m.

A light blue, older model car was towed from the residence about 2 p.m.

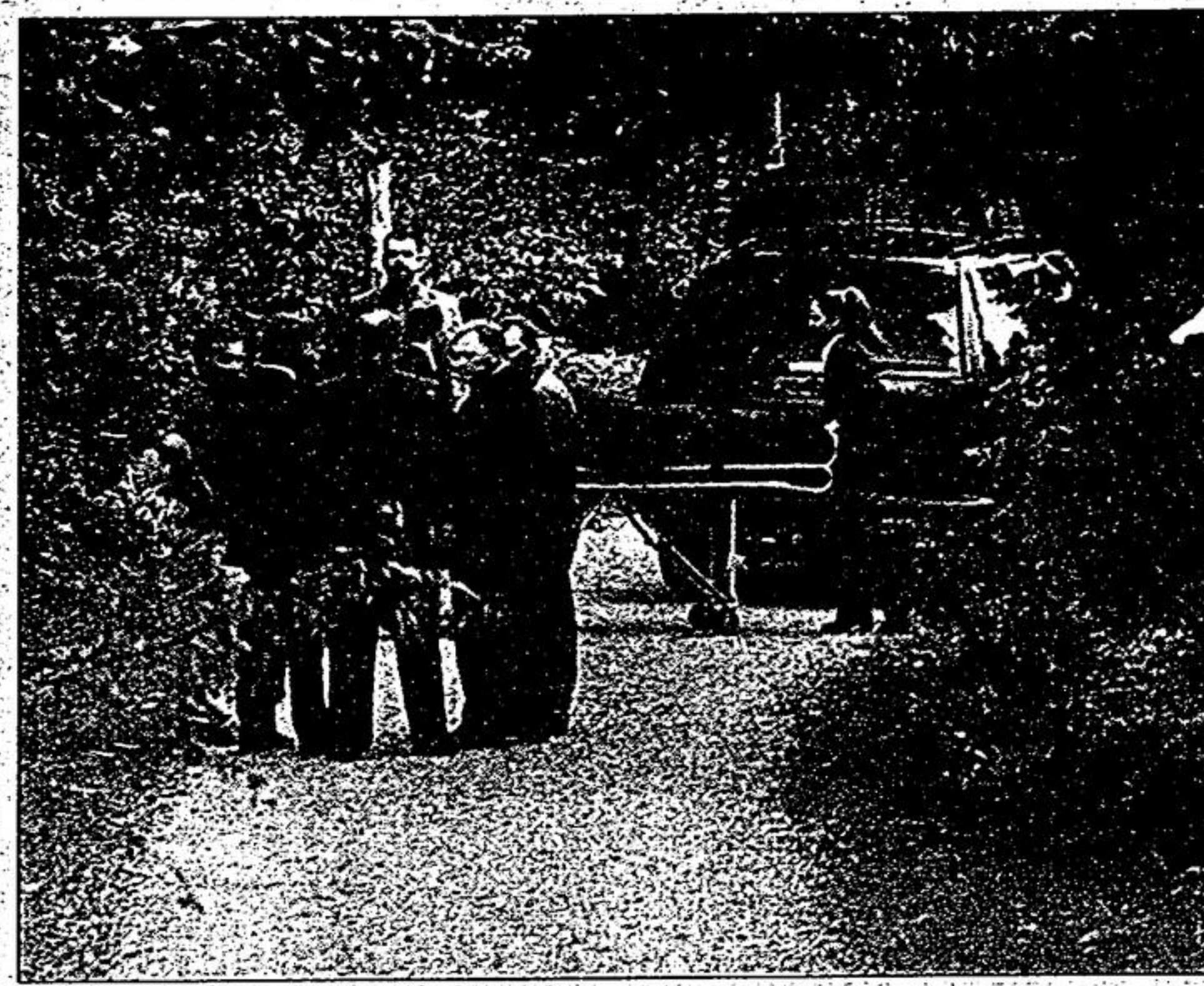
"He was not a resident of this house, which is vacant at the moment," Const. Morrell said.

The area was blocked off by police for more than three hours and curious residents were forced to detour around the scene.

The house, set well back from the road in the quiet, rural neighbourhood, had a wooden sign by the roadside reading The Jacobi's, although police said the home has been vacant for some time and was likely undergoing renovations.

Several neighbours who wandered by said they did not know the former occupants.

Anyone with information is asked to call 905-881-1221, ext. 7100 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

The body of a man found outside a Ballantrae-area home is removed Friday morning. Foul play is not suspected.

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