

# NEGRO HELD IN BRANDON CASE

## Helper On Ice Wagon Ac- cused Of Murdering Annapolis Woman.

### NOW IN BALTIMORE FOR SAFE KEEPING

### Statement Of Two Colored Girls Responsible For Man's Arrest.

[From a Staff Correspondent.]

Annapolis, Md., Aug. 13.—John Snowden, colored, alias "Zep" and "Scoops," a helper on an ice wagon of the firm of Parlett & Parlett, this city, was arrested tonight and charged with murdering last Wednesday Mrs. Lottie May Haislup Brandon, the young wife of "Val" Brandon, Government employe here.

#### SEEN ENTERING HOUSE.

Snowden, grilled in the office of Sheriff John R. Sullivan, with several other negroes, by Headquarters Detectives Pohler, Kratz and Dougherty denied the charge. Two colored women, however, told the authorities they saw Snowden go into the house and take a bottle of beer from his pocket, and later saw a chair thrown in the front room of the house.

The statement of the colored women is given weight by the Baltimore detectives, as well as by State's Attorney Nicholas H. Green.

Fearing that the negro would be lynched by the mob of more than 1,000 people who gathered about the Courthouse when he was being questioned, State's Attorney Green, Mayor James F. Strange and Sheriff John R. Sullivan advised that Snowden be taken to Baltimore and locked up in the city jail or penitentiary for safety.

#### ARREST IS SURPRISE.

The arrest of Snowden came as a surprise. State's Attorney Green received information this afternoon from Mrs. J. Spencer Murray that two daughters of a colored maid in her employ were in terror of a negro suspected of having murdered Mrs. Brandon.

The State's Attorney admitted tonight that he was not convinced that the accused negro was responsible for the murder of Mrs. Brandon, but said it was his opinion that Snowden should be taken to Baltimore while detectives here investigated his alibi.

Snowden admitted that he was within a stone's throw of the Brandon home on the day the woman was murdered. He further told the detectives he was in the saloon of Charles B. Martin, Second and West streets, which is near the murdered woman's home, on the morning she was found dead.

#### NEGRO DAILY IN NEIGHBORHOOD.

Snowden was in the neighborhood of the Brandon home every day. Ice served from a wagon to which he worked was delivered to the house by a white boy, Charles Dietz. On the day that Mrs. Brandon was found dead young Dietz went to the Brandon home with a five-cent piece of ice. He stated that the rear part of the house was closed, the doors leading into the yard being locked, and that the blinds were drawn.

That the murdered woman had been attacked by a powerful man has been asserted by Dr. J. C. Joyce, who said that the bruises and marks, including many lacerations on her body, could not have been inflicted by a man of slight strength. Dr. Joyce admitted, however, that there was a possibility that the woman could have fallen and received the cuts, bruises and lacerations.

The arrest of Snowden came about through Margaret Queen, the negress in the employ of Mrs. Murray. Her two daughters, Ruth Green and Mary Perkins, said that about 11 o'clock on the day of the murder they saw Snowden walk into the Brandon home.

## STORY OF NEGRO WOMAN.

Here is the story that the Perkins woman told:

"My sister and I were sitting on the porch of our home, which is near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brandon. We saw Snowden go into the house. He had a bottle in his pocket and I saw him take it out and put it in another pocket. He then disappeared. A few minutes later I saw a chair flung across the room. We did not see Snowden come out of the house."

### AFRAID OF SNOWDEN.

The woman told the detectives and State's Attorney Green that when she and her sister heard that evening of the murder of Mrs. Brandon they were afraid to make public what they knew of the actions of Snowden, but confided in their mother, who told Mrs. Murray of their having seen Snowden go into the house.

Snowden, when put through the third degree, admitted that on Wednesday he did not report for work. He stated he was in the neighborhood of the Brandon home.

The two colored girls trembled in the office of Sheriff Sullivan when they were confronted by Snowden. They seemed terror-stricken, and after they had been questioned they were taken to their homes by deputy sheriffs and detectives.

Bernard Chambers, who works on the ice wagon with Snowden, told the detectives that on Wednesday the negro helper did not report for work.

### BIG MOB GATHERS.

As soon as it was learned that Snowden had been identified by the two women as having entered the Brandon home, a large mob gathered, including many soldiers.

Major Hugh R. Riley, who has command of the soldiers stationed here, was on hand and assisted the police and deputy sheriffs to keep the crowd back. So excited was the mob when Chambers left the Courthouse that State's Attorney Green shouted:

"This is not the guilty pass!"

A number of policemen crowded back, while the negro tried to edge his way from the mob with violence.

When Snowden was taken to Sheriff Sullivan's office, a mob gathered around the negro. He was spirited into an automobile by detectives Pohler, Kratz and others and rushed out of the city.

### LYNCHING FEARED.

State's Attorney Green said that the detectives had driven away from the Courthouse when Snowden had not made a confession. He was being held on the premises made by the two women who had seen him enter the house. It was the day that she had

Asked whether he feared a lynch mob in Annapolis were aroused by the confession, Mr. Green said he had this fear, and that he had ordered the de-

# SNOWDEN SAFE IN CELL

## Negro Accused Of Mrs. Brandon's Murder Brought To This City.

Snowden reached police headquarters at 10.15 o'clock. He was brought to this city in an automobile driven by John Strange and was guarded by Headquarters Detectives Pohler, Kratz and Dougherty and Sheriff Sullivan. Marshal Carter and Detective Captain McGovern arrived a few minutes later, and the negro was taken to the Marshal's private office.

He was handcuffed, and when told to stand he collapsed against the wall. Detective Pohler caught and steadied him. Nothing was said to Snowden by Marshal Carter about the murder. The negro glanced furtively from one detective to another.

He brightened up somewhat when Marshal Carter asked him when he last had anything to eat. He said that he had not eaten since noon.

"Well, we will get you a meal," said Carter.

"Thank yuh, boss," replied Snowden. Pohler and Kratz took the negro to the Central Station. He was placed in Cell No. 1, a guard was placed over him and Marshal Carter instructed Acting Lieutenant Hood to permit no one to see him. The negro was questioned on the way to the city, but he continued to deny the murder.

Marshal Carter paid a compliment to the work of the Baltimore detectives. For two days they had been seriously hampered in their work by amateur and professional detectives from Washington and New York. The efforts of the outside investigators beclouded the case and caused countless rumors to be run down. Several attempts were made, according to Kratz and Pohler, to fasten the crime on persons who were eliminated from the case as early as Friday.