

BRANDON PROBE GOES ON

Negro Snowden Maintains Innocence Under "Third Degree."

NEIGHBORS ARE QUESTIONED

Police Officers Have Not Finally Abandoned Theory That Woman Committed The Murder.

John Snowden, alias "Scops" and "Zep," who was arrested by Headquarters Detectives Dougherty, Kratz and Pohler on the charge of murdering Mrs. May Lottie Haislup Brandon in Annapolis Wednesday a week ago, still insists that he is innocent of the crime. He was quizzed for several hours yesterday by Marshal Carter, Deputy Marshal House and the detectives, but could not be led any nearer a confession than his previous admissions have carried him. In the afternoon, his attorney, Jerry L. Smith, of Annapolis, and Henry H. Dinneen, of this city, attempted to obtain his release on a writ of habeas corpus, but they could not reach Judge Duffy on the telephone. It is understood that they will apply this morning for the writ. The police authorities say they will make a determined stand against any such legal move.

Detectives Dougherty, Kratz and Pohler yesterday were in Annapolis running down the statements made by Snowden as to where he was on the day of the murder. They say he has made conflicting statements, and that when they finish their investigation any alibi he may offer will be broken down. The detectives also say that the substance, supposed to be the cuticle of a negro which was found under the finger nails of Mrs. Brandon, will help to convict Snowden.

Has Withstood "Third Degree."

In the history of the Baltimore Police Department, no negro has been grilled so severely as has Snowden. He has stood out against a corps of skilled detectives, and still persists in his innocence. Persons familiar with the "third degree" methods have been amazed at the negro's endurance, if he really did commit the crime. On the night before he was brought from Annapolis by Sheriff John Sullivan and the detectives, he was questioned for more than two hours in the Annapolis courthouse and on the way here he was continually quizzed. When he reached police headquarters he was again questioned. And every day since for hours, he has withstood the gruelling probe of police officers, who are adept in breaking down stubborn criminals. He has been caught in lies, and more lies, but has not yet made an admission that would connect him directly with the murder.

The people of Annapolis, who have followed every detail of the case closely, do not believe that a negro committed the crime. It is their opinion that Mrs. Brandon was murdered by a woman in a fit of jealousy.

Marshal Carter was asked, in the presence of Police Commissioner Edward F. Burke, who has taken great interest in the investigation, whether he would make the positive statement that Mrs. Brandon had been killed by Snowden. He said "there is strong evidence against him."

"Have you eliminated the theory of a woman?" he was asked.

"No," he replied.

"Is a woman to be arrested?" he was asked. But he would not answer that question directly.

"Is there a possibility that a woman will be arrested?" he was asked.

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"Is there a possibility that a woman will be arrested?" he was asked.

"I cannot answer that question," said the Marshal.

From the information given out by persons in close touch with the Police Department the "woman in the case" has not been eliminated. Conflicting statements by a woman have caused the detectives to believe that she knows more about Mrs. Brandon's death than she has told.

Still Quizzing Neighbors.

Yesterday Thomas A. King, who with his wife lives in house adjoining that occupied by the Brandons, was questioned in the office of State's Attorney Green in Annapolis. Mrs. King, who has been prostrated since the murder, is in Washington, and had been asked to go to Annapolis so she could be questioned by State's Attorney Green and the detectives. She sent word that she was too ill to go. Mrs. King will be asked by Marshal Carter to come to Baltimore today.

Mrs. King reached her home in Annapolis on the Monday before the murder. Her husband arrived there on July 17. He said he had been in the Brandon house on two occasions, Mr. Brandon being present each time. Mr. and Mrs. Brandon and Mr. King sat on the porch of the Brandons' home Tuesday night before the murder for several hours. Mrs. King remaining at home, it is said.

Mrs. King's story of the next morning, as told to the detectives, follows:

"My husband and I were at our breakfast table at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Brandon talked across the yard to us. My husband left about 8.50 o'clock for his office. I talked to Mrs. Brandon until after 9 o'clock. I then went about my household duties, and that was the last I saw of Mrs. Brandon alive."

Mrs. King stated that she noticed in the afternoon that the shades in the kitchen were down and that the back door was locked and that she thought this unusual.

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It is the theory of many persons in Annapolis that if a negro had killed Mrs. Brandon he would not have pulled down the shades and locked the kitchen door, leaving behind considerable jewelry on the bureau and a diamond ring on her finger.

Husband Again Questioned.

Brandon came to Baltimore yesterday and was questioned by Marshal Carter and Deputy State's Attorney Roland R. Marchant. Mrs. Grace Humiston also was at police headquarters in conference with the police authorities. She complained of the action of Detective Dougherty in refusing her an interview in Annapolis with a negro woman witness in the case.

What is puzzling the detectives is why Mrs. King, when she was first questioned, said that she did not hear screams on the morning that Mrs. Brandon was murdered. It was not until Wednesday, when she was asked to appear at State's Attorney Green's office, that she admitted she had heard screams between 11 and 12 o'clock on the day of the murder. She said she did not investigate the screams. Five other residents of the neighborhood stated they heard screams, and went to their front doors to investigate, but saw nothing unusual.