

July 20, 1930

An unknown Mexican about 25 years of age went to an unknown grave this morning, following the finding of his body in the little reservoir eight miles south of town yesterday about 3:30.

The body was discovered floating near the shore of the east end of the reservoir by several Mexicans who had gone there to swim. They then went to the M.E. Hutchinson home nearby and Mr. Hutchinson phoned the sheriff's office while the Mexican boys came to town and reported in person to Sheriff Wain.

Coroner H.G. Watson was then called. Prior to his arrival at the scene, Sheriff Wain and Sid Magee brought the body to the beach. The body being clothed only in a pair of shorts.

Unable to find anybody who knew the man, Sheriff Wain and others completely circled the body of water in an effort to find the dead man's clothing. The search was unsuccessful and it was impossible to establish his identity.

A postmortem was performed at the Watson mortuary and nothing indicated the possibility of foul play. The body was then turned over to the Longwith-Richards Funeral home for burial at the county's expense.

The condition of the corpse was such that immediate burial was necessary. Interment was made in the local potter's field this morning, Thursday.

According to Coroner Watson, the body gave the appearance of having been in the water from forty-eight to seventy hours.

With no known source of information available, it is probable the man's identity will never be established.

The body of the Mexican removed from the little reservoir Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and which was buried the following day in the local potter's field after the authorities were unable to establish his identity, was removed from the grave Monday, and on Tuesday he was identified by Mexican friends as Jose Villapando, a beet worker employed on the Wayne Pense farm.

The body was exhumed after it was learned that Villapando had been absent from his work for some time, and a coroner's jury Tuesday rendered a verdict of "death from suffocation by party or parties unknown", the supposition being that his assailants suffocated their victim and threw the body in the reservoir.

X-rays taken of the body revealed old injuries to the man's legs which he was known to have and which had left their marks. The findings of his overcoat in a car belonging to another Mexican with whom he was known to have associated also, and information that he had had differences and fistic encounters with some of his associates further completed identification.

At this time authorities are holding a Mexican as a witness in the case.