Autopsy Shows Youth Was Choked, Drowned

By WILLIAM E. ANDERSON

An autopsy showed a 15-year-old John Marshall High School freshman, Robert Jackson Jr., was strangled before being drowned, it was disclosed last night.

Sgt. John M. Petty, Indiana State Police detective, declared, "This is a definite murder."

The autopsy also indicated the youth, who lived at 3507 Jerome Court, was alive before he was pushed or thrown into Buck Creek near Cumberland where his body was found at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

DR. JAMES BENZ, a forensic surgeon, who performed the autopsy at Marion County General Hospital, told Sgt. Petty the boy had been sexually molested and bruises were found inside his throat and on both wrists.

The exact cause of death, time of death and a complete autopsy report will not be known for a few days because of blood and other tests Sgt. Petty said.

The detective also revealed the youth's hands had been tied with a yellow boot or jacket string. The string was found on his right wrist, Petty said, and indicated the youth, because of the bruises on his left wrist, had broken the bonds.

Petty added the autopsy also disclosed a cut on the right side of his face and creek gravel was found in his lungs.

Petty and Trooper Paul C. Weiler

Turn to Page 8, Column 3