

Man Charged In Slaying Of Negro

A 32-year-old transient worker of Auburn and Flea Hop has been charged with murdering Norman Dowdell, an Auburn Negro, whose body was found Sunday under a bridge in Elmore County, according to Auburn Police Chief Fred Hammock.

Hammock identified the suspect as Luke Welcher, also a Negro.

Elmore County Sheriff Sidney Thrash said the suspect is in the county jail and the investigation is continuing.

Dowdell, according to Hammock, had been missing since Dec. 23 and a missing persons complaint was filed on the 27th. He said a dispatch had been put out but they did not know if there had been any foul play.

Hammock said the investigation was headed by Auburn Police Lt. Frank DeGraffenried, state investigators Sgts. Herman Chapman and B. D. Prescott, and Elmore County officials.

Dowdell had been stabbed in the chest several times, according to Hammock.