

Elmore County Man Charged On Murder

WETUMPKA, Ala. (AP) - A 32-year-old Elmore County Negro has been charged with murder in the Dec. 23rd slaying of an Auburn Negro.

Sheriff Sidney Thrash said Luke Welcher, 32, of the Fleahop community near Eclectic, is being held here on the charge.

Welcher is charged in the slaying of Norman Dowdell, 40, an employe of the U.S. Agriculture Department's regional laboratory near Auburn.

Officials said Welcher worked for an Auburn tire recapping service during the week and lived in Auburn except on weekends when he returned home.

Dowdell's body was found beneath a bridge near the Fleahop community Sunday. He had been stabbed in the chest four times the night of Dec. 23.