



Garza led from city jail by Sgt. Paul Rivera (left)

(Photo by Norm Tindell)

County grand jury indicts man for beating death of woman

by CHRISTY HOPPE
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Jesus Garza, 19, was indicted yesterday by the Nueces County grand jury for the Nov. 20 murder of a 27-year-old woman found dead in a van with her sleeping 2-year-old daughter beside her.

Garza, of 2522 Dunbar, was arrested Thursday night outside his home in connection with the death of Dalia Saucedo, who lived with her husband and two children in the 1800 block of Cliff Maus.

Garza is currently being held in Nueces County jail on \$50,000 bond.

Two school boys discovered Mrs. Saucedo's nude body in the rear of her brown van parked in a vacant lot near Mexico and Mussett streets. Her young daughter, Delia, was found unharmed.

An autopsy later revealed Mrs. Saucedo was eaten to death.

Garza and Mrs. Saucedo had known each other several days before she was discovered dead, Lt. Malcolm Pace said yesterday.

He said the two had met at a local night club, but declined further comments on where the two might have been seen together the night of her death.

cutable crime is connected with the murder. If Mrs. Saucedo, for example, had been robbed and killed, the convicted killer could have been given the death sentence.

Pace said Garza's arrest was the culmination of nine days of investigation. Police questioned acquaintances and friends who had seen her at particular times and places during the last three days of her life, Pace said.

Another city man was held in city jail Thursday on possible homicide charges in connection with the murder. Police officials said the man provided information concerning the killing, but was not directly involved and will not be charged.

Pace asked for citizens' help to finish tying down the case. Investigators wish to obtain a statement from the driver of an older model, rusty, white mustang with no rear windshield.

The driver, an Anglo male, about 25 years old, with brownish-blond hair and a bushy mustache, was seen by witnesses picking up two hitchhikers on Texas Highway 286 near the murder scene.

One of those hitchhikers picked up around 2:30 a.m. Nov. 20 is believed to have been Garza.