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Police Glimpse Vehicle, Hunt Body Snatcher

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After getting a glimpse of what they thought might be the getaway vehicle, authorities were still searching today for the two men believed responsible for stealing the corpse of rock singer Gram Parsons.

A helicopter unit spotted a black hearse Sunday on California 30 in the San Bernardino mountains, about 40 miles west of Joshua Tree National Monument, authorities said. But they lost track of the car before police ground units could get to it.

Parsons, 27, once a member of the rock group The Byrds, died Wednesday at a motel in the Joshua Tree area. His family had planned to send the body to New Orleans for burial today, but the corpse was stolen Thursday night from a loading dock at Los Angeles International Airport.

The following day, San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies reported finding Parson's burned body and coffin near the Joshua Tree desert monument.

Authorities said they were told by persons at the airport that Parsons' body was picked up by two men driving a hearse. One of the men, they said, was wearing a jacket bearing the words "Sin City." Parsons had co-authored a song with that title.