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## Singer's body theft probed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The theft of a body and apparent burning of the corpse of a young rock singer has left authorities in two sections of Southern California searching for clues.

"It looks like something out of Transylvania, out of the legend of Count Dracula," one police official said Friday of the theft of **Gram** Parson's body.

The remains were taken in a hearse from a loading dock at Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday.

San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies reported that a partially burned body and a casket were found 200 miles away Friday at a remote desert site near the Joshua Tree National Monument. A spokesman said the body was identified tentatively as Parson's.

Even the death of the 27-year-old rock singer and musician — who played with such groups as The Byrds, the Flying Burrito Brothers and the



**GRAM PARSONS**

International Submarine Band — has been shrouded in mystery.

Parsons was pronounced dead Wednesday at a hospital near the site where the body believed to be his was found.

An autopsy was performed, but authorities said its results were inconclusive.

The casket was taken from the airport while awaiting a flight to New Orleans for burial. Two men arrived at the dock in an old hearse and told attendants that Parson's family had changed its mind and wanted the body flown from nearby Van Nuys airport, police said.

The body was turned over to the two men after they signed receipts for it, police added.

Parson's relatives said later they had not changed their plans, said Los Angeles police Sgt. John Hamilton.

The burned body was discovered in the Mojave Desert after authorities were alerted by campers that "a log was burning near the monument."

Frank Barbary, owner of the Joshua Tree Inn, said **Parsons** had been staying there "to get away from the smog. . . . He just comes out for a few days and uses the pool and relaxes."

Barbary said that on Wednesday a couple who had accompanied Parsons and a girl to the inn told him Parsons "was breathing funny in his room."

He said efforts at mouth to mouth resuscitation failed.

The three persons with Parsons were not identified.

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