



Murchison: His rise and fall

Westward



Hawaii: American paradise

Travel, Page I-D



'Space': Series fails to take off

Art/Leisure, Page I-C

SUNDAY			
INDEX			
Arts/Leisure	1-C	Horoscope	42-F
Books	9-C	Metro	35-A
Business	1-H	People	2-A
Classified	44-F	Southwest	43-A
Crossword	42-F	Sports	1-B
Editorials	32-A	Travel	1-D

Dallas Times Herald

SUNDAY APRIL 14, 1985

10 Sections 75 Cents

Henry Lee Lucas

Mass murderer or massive hoax?

He is said to have killed more than 210 people during an eight-year crime spree that touched nearly every state. But new evidence suggests that Henry Lee Lucas may have conned lawmen in 26 states into accepting bogus confessions. Privately, Lucas says he perpetrated the hoax to embarrass authorities. It also served another purpose. It has kept Lucas off death row.

© 1985, Dallas Times Herald

By HUGH AYNESWORTH
and JIM HENDERSON

Staff Writers

By his public admissions, he is the most prolific serial murderer in U.S. history — admissions taken seriously by authorities in 26 states. But Henry Lee Lucas instead may be the perpetrator of the largest hoax in law enforcement annals, a lengthy Times Herald investigation reveals.

In the two years since he was arrested in Texas for the murder of an elderly Montague County woman, the 48-year-old, one-eyed drifter says he has confessed to an incredible 600 killings in the United States and five foreign countries, and law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have closed the books on more than 210 murders based on his confessions.

But a Times Herald investigation — more than 100 interviews with those whose paths Lucas has crossed in the past 10 years, more than 60 hours of interviews with Lucas, examinations of court records, work records, rental receipts and other documents left by a series of personal transactions — suggests that Lucas could not have been responsible for most, perhaps no more than three, of the slayings credited to him.

The evidence strongly suggests that the authorities, particularly the gubernatorial Homicide Task Force headed by Texas Rangers, had information that would have exonerated Lucas from many of the murders, but ignored or failed to pursue leads that would have proven the deceit of his confessions.

In some cases, in declining to accept documents such as prison records and em-

ployment records as accurate, authorities actually amended information to conform to Lucas' confessions.

Twice in the past 15 months, task force members, aware of increasing skepticism of Lucas' confessions, have made videotapes of him reiterating that all his confessions are true. The first occurred in February 1984, after Lucas wrote to a Fort Worth reporter, Gayle Reaves, hinting that everything he had claimed was not fact. The task force taped him recanting that letter and affirming his guilt in all the crimes he had claimed.

A few weeks ago, the task force had Lucas make a similar videotape. Lucas again said his confessions were accurate and he had not been coerced or threatened.

Eager to close their books on unsolved slayings, investigators from 35 states have come to Texas to interview Lucas, and he has visited several states to plead guilty or testify in trials and hearings. The more than 210 cases subsequently "cleared" or declared closed were done so solely on the strength of Lucas' confessions, with no physical evidence or eyewitnesses to place him at the scene of the crimes.

Sometimes, there was evidence that placed Lucas in one state on the same day that he supposedly committed murder in another state halfway across the country. In other cases, Lucas was known to be thousands of miles away the day before or the day after a slaying, he supposedly committed.

For example:

✓ According to a chronology of Lucas' activities prepared by the Texas Rangers, Lucas made an application for unemployment benefits or food stamps in Decatur, Ill., on Oct. 1, 1982. Yet the Homicide



Michael S. Wirtz / Dallas Times Herald

HENRY LEE LUCAS, who had confessed to more than 200 murders but now claims all but three of the confessions are bogus, says: "I'm gonna show 'em. They think I'm stupid, but before all this is over, everyone will know who's really stupid. And we'll see who the real criminals are."

Task Force has credited him with the murder of a woman in Conroe, Texas, nearly 1,000 miles away, on the same day. Her body was found the following morning.

✓ The Texas Rangers and authorities in Tyler accepted Lucas' confession to a murder there of a 69-year-old man on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1975. But records of the Kaolin Mushroom Farms in Avondale, Pa., show that Lucas had picked up a paycheck for work at the farm the day before, and was doing farm work on the same day he supposedly committed the murder in Texas. Pennsylvania State Police, who had the same information, said they reported it to the Texas Rangers.

✓ During most of 1980 and 1981, Lucas made a meager living selling junk and scrap metal to Commercial Metals Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla. The Times Herald has obtained details of more than 100 of those

sales. In some cases, the records show that Lucas was in Jacksonville on the same day that he is alleged to have committed murder thousands of miles away. The Homicide Task Force has credited him with a murder in Douglas County, Nev., sometime between Feb. 26-28, 1981. Lucas sold scrap metal in Jacksonville on all three days. He is alleged to have killed a woman in Baytown, Texas, on June 23, 1981. He sold metal in Jacksonville that day and, in fact, nearly every day that week. The task force never requested those records.

✓ Telephone records and witness statements place Lucas in the area of Indiana and Missouri between Oct. 5-16, 1982. He made a collect call from Indiana to Ruben Moore at the House of Prayer in Stoneburg, Texas, and asked for money to get

See LUCAS' on Page 22

Madrid blast kills 17

Several Americans
hurt in steakhouse

United Press International

MADRID, Spain — An explosion ripped through a restaurant near a U.S. Air Force base Friday night, and government officials said at least 17 people were killed and 82 injured. U.S. officials said at least 10 U.S. citizens were among the wounded.

Madrid's police chief, Antonio Garrido, told a radio station that there was a possibility the blast was caused by a bomb.

The restaurant, located on the main Madrid-Barcelona highway, is 9 miles northeast of Madrid near the U.S. Air Force base at Torrejon de Ardoz.

Six people were reported buried in the rubble of the three-story building housing the Descanso restaurant, which is popular with American servicemen.

Garrido ruled out the possibility that the explosion was caused by a gas leak, noting that propane canisters in the restaurant kitchen were undamaged.

"There is a 50 percent chance it was an accident and 50 percent that it was an attack," he said.

U.S. base press officer Capt. Lou Figueroa said he did not know how many Americans were at the restaurant, popularly known as "The Ribhouse."

He said Americans treated for injuries at the base hospital had been released, and added he believed two Americans injured were treated in Madrid. He declined to comment on reports that the explosion may have been caused by a bomb.

A caller to a local radio station said the explosion was a bombing by the Basque separatist group ETA, but a police expert said the call was a hoax.

Those injured included at least 12 Americans, most from the U.S. base, who suffered only minor injuries, authorities said.

The Descanso was filled with 200 patrons, about half of them Americans, at the time of the blast. Witnesses reported hearing an explosion seconds before the walls and ceiling came crashing down.

The explosion blew the facade off the building, collapsing the roof and two upper floors.

"I was serving and I heard an explosion and I ran out because the walls were collapsing," said Jose Sanchez, a waiter.

"It was terrible; the explosion was very violent," said an employee of a nearby hotel who witnessed the blast.

Beaumont loss of \$20 million not written off

By PETER LARSON

Staff Writer

BEAUMONT — "Who's got our \$20 million?"

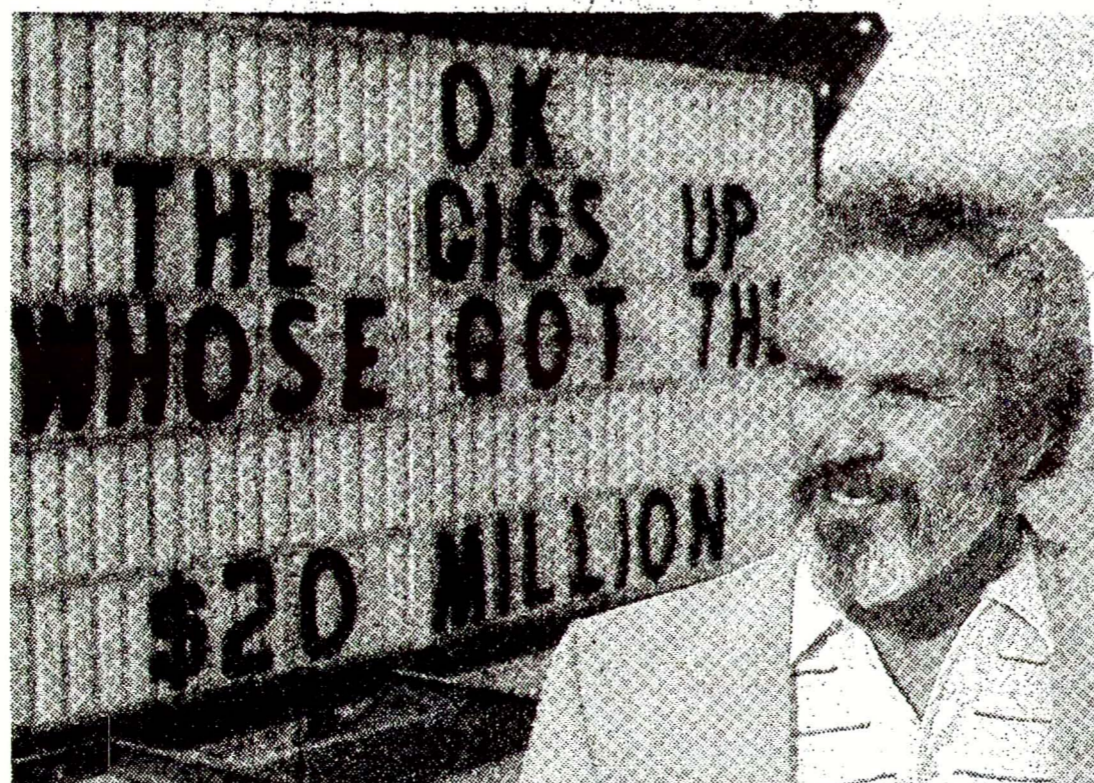
Over cold beer and boiled crawfish, the crowded honky-tonk roars with laughter. By now, everyone knows the joke: the City of Beaumont invested \$20 million in treasury bills without getting a receipt.

And lost it all.

"We got gyped," says Johnny Lisotta, a regular customer at Get Down Browns nightclub, where the city's fiscal policies are loudly debated. "How smart do you have to be to lose \$20 million?"

The collapse of ESM Government Securities, stunned this Texas city of 115,000. Federal investigators believe the Florida firm, forced to declare bankruptcy, owed \$315 million to five savings and loans and 16 cities,

See BEAUMONT on Page 28



Peter Larson / Dallas Times Herald

BEAUMONT RESIDENT Johnny Lisotta stands in front of a sign protesting the city's loss of \$20 million after investing in

treasury bills without getting a receipt. "Most people would like to see city manager resign. They're fed up," Lisotta says.

Let's make a deal

IRS lets strapped taxpayers
strike bargains on huge bills

By PETER HECHT

Staff Writer

In his last months, 91-year-old Louis J. Reicher, the first bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Austin, was confined to a wheelchair, partially blind and barely able to speak because of a stroke he'd suffered several years before.

But before his death, he still had a debt to settle with the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS wanted \$431,331 in an unresolved dispute over whether the bishop could be taxed on church property and investments listed in his name.

Finally, in 1982, an IRS field agent rummaged through the bishop's old furniture, tools, two cars and a 29-year-old tractor and assessed his belongings at \$16,909.

A compromise was struck for \$400 less than assessment.

Under a system that annually requires us to pay taxes by April 15 or face stiff penalty fees and interest charges, Reicher was one of a small number of Americans who used a little known wrinkle in the process to try to escape tax bills that often exceed everything they own.

The IRS program, known as the "offer in compromise" option, allows taxpayers to make an offer to buy full absolution and the agency to decide how much it thinks they are worth.

Public files documenting the IRS negotiations reveal stories of suffering and salvation among people whose lives were literally reduced to the sum of their net worth.

See STRAPPE' on Page 16

HENRY LEE LUCAS: MASS MURDERER OR MASSIVE HOAX?

Lucas' confessions closed books on 210 murders

LUCAS' — From Page One

back to Texas. He called again from Joplin, Mo., on Oct. 15, and Moore wired \$100 that Lucas picked up in Joplin the next day. Yet, authorities accepted his confessions to murders in New Mexico and Texas during that period. To believe those confessions, authorities had to believe that even though Lucas was broke and without transportation in Indiana on Oct. 5, he somehow got to New Mexico (Oct. 6), Albany, Ga. (Oct. 8) and Texas (Oct. 11) to kill three people, and then returned to Joplin, where he was again broke and without transportation on Oct. 15.

Two killings in Oklahoma and Colorado have been attributed to Lucas and his homosexual traveling companion, Otis Toole, between June 30 and July 22, 1981, a period when there is evidence they were in Delaware and Maryland. On July 1, they spent the night in a Wilmington motel after stealing a car from Toole's relatives in Jacksonville. On July 8, one day after the slaying in Tulsa, Okla., the car they had been using was found abandoned in Delaware. On July 11, Lucas and Toole were questioned by Delaware police, who learned that they were living in the woods outside Wilmington, yet they were credited with a murder in Golden, Colo., on July 13.

Based on his confession, authorities in Houston cleared a slaying that occurred there on Sept. 12, 1981, while Lucas was in jail 1,400 miles away. Lucas was arrested in Pikesville, Md., on July 22, 1981, and was not released until Oct. 7.

On Nov. 6, 1981, Lucas was in Jacksonville, Fla. He registered an automobile and bought insurance for it. At 4:20 p.m. that day, a convenience store clerk, Betty Thornton, was shot to death in Little Rock, Ark. The son of a former state policeman was later convicted of her murder. However, after Lucas confessed to that crime, the convicted man was granted a new trial.

While he was publicly confessing to the string of crimes, Lucas was telling a different story to his lawyers — Tom Whitlock of Denton, Parker McCollough and Don Higgenbotham of Georgetown, Max Parker of San Angelo and Marvin Williams of Lubbock — and a Times Herald reporter. To them, he maintained consistently that the confessions were a hoax "to show that law enforcement doesn't do its job."

"I'm gonna show 'em. They think I'm stupid, but before all this is over, everyone will know who's really stupid," he said in an interview.

However, even Lucas expresses surprise that the charade has been carried to the dimensions it has reached.

"Now we'll see who the real criminals are," he said.

Lucas said he would have stopped the hoax months ago, but was told by Ranger Sgt. Bob Prince and Williamson County Sheriff Jim Boutwell, whose jail is Lucas' temporary home, that if he stopped "clearing cases" he would be sent immediately to Death Row at the state penitentiary in Huntsville.

(Since last April, Lucas has been under a death-by-injection sentence for the murder of an unidentified hitchhiker near Georgetown on Halloween night in 1979, a killing that occurred while Lucas, according to records of the Southeast Color Coat roofing company, was working in Jacksonville, Fla.)

Although Homicide Task Force members express certainty that Lucas and Toole were responsible for the 210 cases "cleared" so far — the waiting list for investigators who still want to see Lucas is several months long — the Times Herald has verified much of his private account of his whereabouts from the time he was released from a Michigan prison in August 1975 until his arrest in Texas in June 1983, a private account that rarely meshes with the official scenario sketched by the clearing of murder cases in 26 states.

Lucas' private version of his travels is largely documented by work records, the logs of missions where he occasionally stayed, Travelers Aid he sometimes received, traffic violations, records of automobile and insurance purchases, arrest reports, statements from employers and landlords, the records of blood banks he occasionally visited and other clues left in his years of drifting.

To accept that Lucas could kill 210 people in an eight-year period, authorities had to accept that he was not just an idle drifter, but a maniacal nomad, racing at nearly impossible speeds from one side of the country to the other, careening without direction along the interstate highways in dilapidated automobiles, compulsively driving for days without sleep and finding victims conveniently waiting at every junction.

To clear six killings and one attempted kidnapping between



RELATIVES STAND over the grave of Kate Rich of Ringgold, Texas. Rich's murder in 1982 is one of only three Henry Lee Lucas now claims he is responsible for.

Oct. 2 and Nov. 2, 1978, the authorities have Lucas driving more than 11,000 miles in one month in a 13-year-old Ford station wagon. He would have had to have committed a murder in Spokane, Wash., on Oct. 2, driven more than 2,000 miles to High Island, Texas, for an attempted abduction on Oct. 4, driven 600 miles to kill in Saline County, Ark., on Oct. 7, traveled 950 miles to kill in Lincoln County, N.M., on Oct. 16, driven another 1,000 miles to kill in Washoe County, Nev., on Oct. 27, made the 1,600 miles to kill in Bossier City, La., on Oct. 29 and gotten back to Kennewick, Wash., 2,100 miles way, to kill two days later, and back to Jefferson City, Mo., another 2,000 miles, to kill two days after that.

According to Rand McNally Road Atlas estimates, Lucas would have to have driven 4,100 miles in the last four days of that journey alone. To accomplish such a feat, he would have had to average nearly 50 mph even if he had gone without sleep. If Lucas drove at breakneck speeds to give himself a few hours' sleep each night and a little time to eat and refuel his car, he was remarkably fortunate. In addition to leaving no clues at any of those hurriedly executed crimes, he didn't even receive a speeding ticket.

Aug. 22, 1975 to December 1977

During this 28-month period, beginning with his release from prison in Michigan, Henry Lee Lucas is alleged to have killed 30 people in 10 states. The likelihood that he was involved in any of them is remote.

As far back as 1983, shortly after Lucas, in custody for the murder of Kate Rich in Montague County, blurted out that he "had a hundred (victims) out there," the Texas Rangers began receiving information that would have negated the possibility that Lucas could have been involved in the killings that were credited to him during that time.

Authorities in Maryland and Pennsylvania had tracked Lucas' whereabouts during that crucial period and informed the Texas Rangers that it was "unlikely" he had left that area for a protracted period of time.

Fran Dixon, a 17-year veteran of the Maryland State Police based in North East, Md., says he interviewed Lucas' relatives on several occasions and believed them when they told him Lucas was in the Maryland-Pennsylvania area almost the entire time.

"I've talked to them quite often," Dixon says, "and I feel they've been sincere. They are not particularly fond of Lucas, and I really don't think they have any reason

to lie about him."

Dixon says his investigation revealed that Lucas lived with his wife, Betty Crawford, and several other relatives during that time and Lucas left the area only twice — once on an overnight trip to Rhode Island and once on a week-long visit to his mother-in-law in Hurst, Texas, when he was accompanied by his wife, two stepdaughters and two friends.

In June 1983, Dixon says, he sent a lengthy report to the Texas Rangers indicating that he thought Lucas was in Maryland during that 28 months. The following year he responded to an inquiry from the Lubbock Police Department with the same report on Lucas's whereabouts.

"They inquired about those specific dates, and I sent the reports, and I never heard anything more about them," Dixon says.

John Campbell, a Pennsylvania state trooper based in Avondale, says he, too, questioned members of Lucas' family in the area and checked records at several places where Lucas worked. Relatives with whom Lucas lived had told Campbell that Lucas was in the area the entire time, and he says he has no reason to doubt them.

"They've been very helpful," he says, "and their remembrances coincide with what records I've been able to accumulate."

Campbell says he sent reports to the Texas Rangers and was never asked for follow-up information. He is skeptical that Lucas could have committed the crimes to which he has confessed.

"I find it somewhat hard to believe," he says.

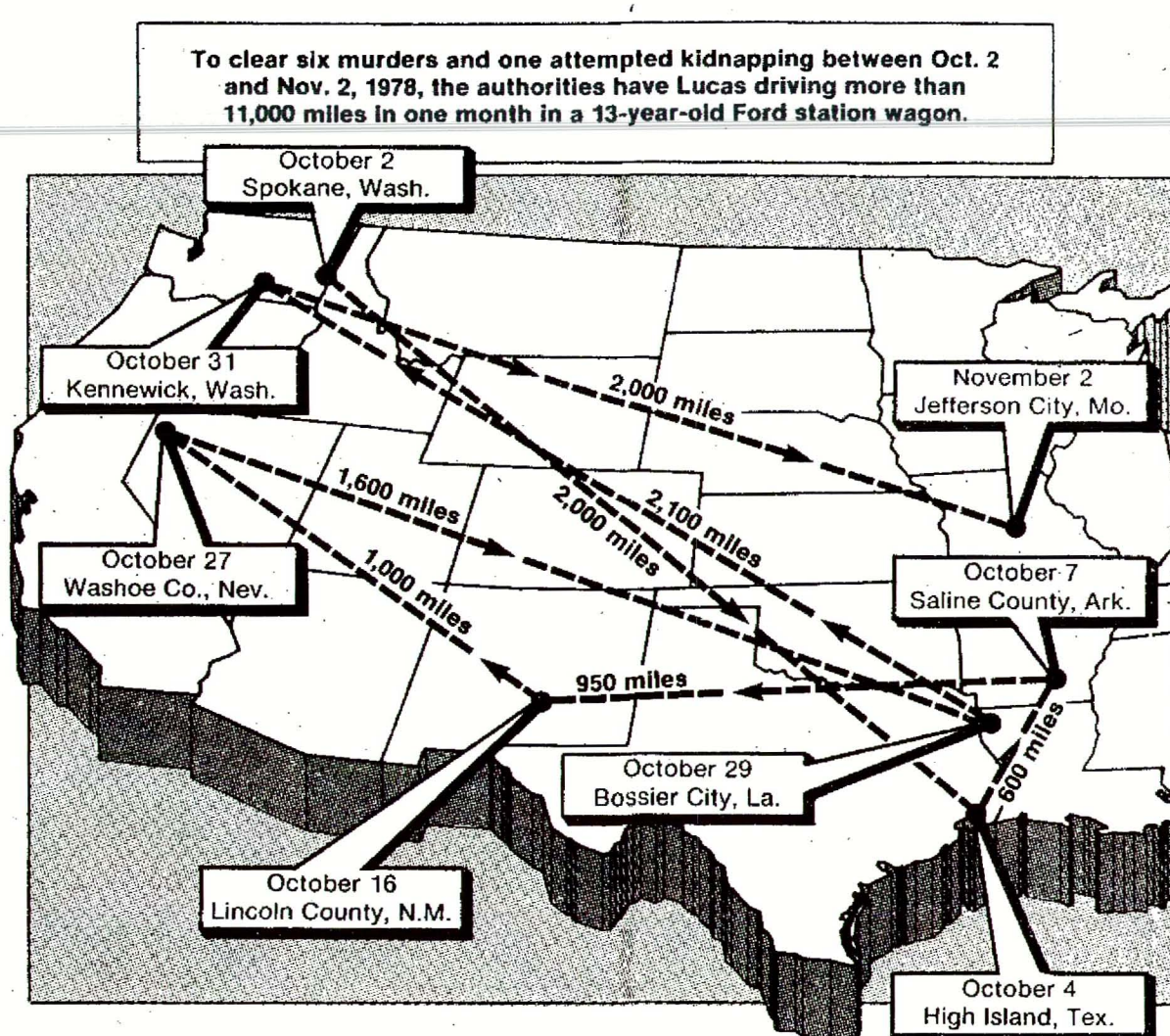
The Times Herald's investigation of Lucas' activities through the end of 1977 produced results similar to those obtained by the Maryland and Pennsylvania state troopers.

Lucas was freed from state prison in Michigan on the morning of Aug. 22, 1975, and flew to Baltimore, Md. The next day, he took a bus to Perryville, Pa., where he was met by his sister, Almida Kiser, and niece, Aomi Pierce.

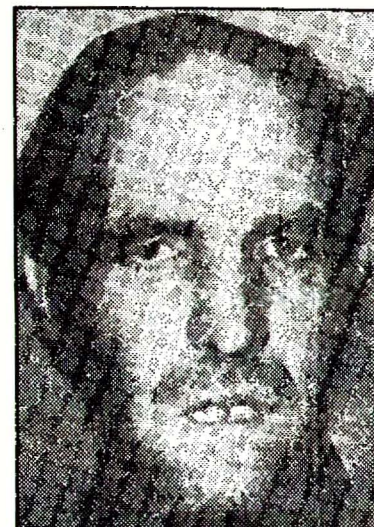
On Aug. 25, he was driven to Avondale by Pierce and her husband, with whom he lived for two or three months. During that time, he worked at a mushroom company in Avondale.

On Dec. 5, he married Betty Crawford in Elkton, Md., and shortly afterward they bought a trailer house and moved to Benjamin's Trailer Park in Port Deposit. They lived there until Lucas left on July 7, 1977.

"I was glad to see him go," says Crawford, who uses her former name even though her marriage to Lucas was never legally dissolved. "He was always hanging around the house. I tried to get him to get



To accept that Henry Lee Lucas could kill 210 people in an eight-year period, authorities had to accept that he was not just an idle drifter, but a maniacal nomad, racing at nearly impossible speeds from one side of the country to the other, careening without direction along the interstate highways in dilapidated automobiles, compulsively driving for days without sleep and finding victims conveniently waiting at every junction.



Otis Toole — Relatives say 1979 was when Toole and Henry Lee Lucas first met.

out and get a job, but he didn't like to work."

During their year and a half together, she says, Lucas was away from home overnight only twice and she scoffs at his confessions to nearly 30 murders in 10 states during that time.

"He was always around here," she says.

Mike Veasey, who still lives in the Benjamin Trailer Park, says he and Lucas were friends and spent a lot of time together. Veasey says he does not recall Lucas being away from home for any length of time.

"I saw him every day," Veasey says. "He was always tearing something apart. He kept that trailer tore up all the time or he was always out there working on his car. I'd go up there just about every day, and we'd have a couple of beers or I'd have him give me a ride to the store. I don't think he ever left that house, except to go grocery shopping with her (Betty)."

While living at the trailer park, Lucas made monthly rent payments and occasionally borrowed money from his landlords. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benjamin kept records of the rental payments and the loans (along with the dates they were repaid), but the Homicide Task Force in Texas never asked to see them. The Benjamins readily gave the records to the Times Herald, when a reporter asked for them.

After leaving his wife on July 7, 1977, Lucas moved back in with his sister, Almida, and remained there until the end of the year.

While Texas Rangers Bob Prince and Clayton Smith and Sheriff Boutwell made numerous trips to other states with Lucas, as he visited crime scenes and confessed to scores of murders, none of them apparently thought it necessary to visit Maryland or Pennsylvania to follow up on reports indicating that many of Lucas' confessions might be false. Moreover, they never asked authorities in those areas to investigate further.

January 1978 to February 1979

Lucas' whereabouts for much of 1978 are more vague, but the Homicide Task Force places him in 13 states and attributes 24 killings to him, some of which supposedly were carried out with the help of Otis Toole.

The Times Herald has learned that after leaving the Maryland area at year's end, Lucas drifted to Hinton, W.Va., where he met and moved in with Rhonda Knuckles in January 1978. For nearly three months, until late March when the relationship ended, Knuckles says, Lucas was with her all the time, did not have access to an automobile, and rode in a car pool with his

two nephews to a job with the Beckley Carpet Co. in Beckley, 23 miles away. The authorities, however, have accepted his confession to a murder in Wyoming on Feb. 7.

After March, he is believed to have been living in Maryland, although he made one three-day trip to West Virginia and Tennessee. Wade Kiser, Lucas' brother-in-law, says he and Lucas were together in Charles Town, W.Va., in July 1978. During the March-July period, the Homicide Task Force has Lucas roaming from Florida to Wisconsin, from Wisconsin to Utah, and from Utah to Texas, committing more than a half-dozen murders.

For two reasons, 1978 is a crucial period in the Lucas scenario. That was the year during which Lucas would have had to have driven more than 11,000 miles and killed six people (and tried to abduct a seventh) in a single month. Also, as in the previous three years, Toole often is listed as an accomplice.

Lucas originally told investigators that he and Toole first met in February 1979 in Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Police Department, checking the backgrounds of both men, determined that was when they met. An investigation by the Times Herald also turned up no evidence that Lucas and Toole knew each other before 1979.

February 1979 to March 1980

Although there are gaps in the 1978 chronology, Lucas began leaving large footprints again early in 1979. On Feb. 9, five days after he allegedly killed a woman in Dade County, Fla., he stole a nephew's pickup truck in Maryland, drove it to Jacksonville, Fla., and abandoned it the following day. (The authorities accepted the unlikely notion that he would kill a woman in Miami, flee to Maryland, steal a truck and drive back to Florida, the state that he had fled, all in a six-day period.)

Lucas apparently met Toole on Feb. 11, while he was walking the streets of downtown Jacksonville. Otis Toole, married to a woman 20 years his senior, was a known homosexual who often cruised for male sexual partners.

Toole's wife and neighbors have stated that the winter of 1979 was when Toole and Lucas first met, even though police have them committing murders together at least 28 times before their first reported encounter. Philomena Breuer, who lived next door to the Tooles, recalls when Toole first brought Lucas home with him.

"I didn't even know them (the Tooles)," she says. "First thing I know, she shows up at my door with a suitcase in one hand and a little television set in the other and asks if she can stay with me. She

told me Otis had brought home a boarder and moved him into their bedroom."

She got to know the Tooles and Lucas very well after that.

"Every time they'd have a little fuss," Breuer says, "she'd come running down to my house with her little suitcase."

Two days after Toole moved Lucas into his home and his bed, Lucas began working as a laborer for Southeast Color Coat, a roofing company where Toole had been employed for more than a year.

For the next 14 months, there are detailed work records that place Lucas and Toole in Jacksonville almost constantly. There also are records — accepted as accurate by the Homicide Task Force — of Lucas having cashed 43 payroll checks during that period and statements from the grocer who cashed the checks at the end of nearly every week.

But during that time, according to Lucas' confessions, which the task force and local authorities accepted, he and Toole killed 36 people in 13 states, ranging from New York to Nevada, from Florida to Wisconsin, from Mississippi to Utah.

How do the authorities explain away the alibi provided by the work records? "Inaccurate work records." The Homicide Task Force's chronology describes the work records for the entire 14 months as "inaccurate" because Lucas told them he bribed his foreman on the job to falsify them.

There is an interesting irony to Lucas' Jacksonville years.

From February 1979 through May 1981, when he is known to have been in that area, there were eight unsolved slayings in Jacksonville. Although the Homicide Task Force records show that they were "cleared" by Lucas and Toole, the Jacksonville police deny they have closed those cases. They are not buying Lucas' confessions to the crimes.

"There's no way we're gonna clear any Lucas cases," homicide Detective Jim Suber says.

In December 1983, Lucas was taken to Jacksonville for questioning and was driven around the city and county. But, Suber says, "he couldn't find a thing that made us believe he knew anything about our cases," even though he confessed to committing them.

Suber says Lucas seemed to know some of the facts about one of the eight murder cases. But in a second interview, Lucas changed his story in "important areas," and the police department refused to clear the case.

As Lucas was leaving Jacksonville, he confided to Suber that he had lied in the confessions.

See LUCAS on Page 23

HENRY LEE LUCAS: MASS MURDERER OR MASSIVE HOAX?

Lubbock murder not resolved in many minds

By JIM HENDERSON

Staff Writer

LUBBOCK — The only interstate highway that comes here seems to have been added as an afterthought. It drops down from Amarillo and enters Lubbock but doesn't leave. Instead, it connects to a beltway around the city and, on U.S. maps, Lubbock appears to be caught in a noose at the end of a short rope.

Lubbock is not on the road to anywhere. Mile after mile of flat, monotonous farmland separates it from the worn paths and population centers of the Southwest.

"I went to school at (Texas Tech)," says Georgetown lawyer Don Higgenbotham, "and I can tell you, you only go to Lubbock for a specific purpose. You don't drift through there."

But a grand jury last year believed not only that Henry Lee Lucas drifted through here in August 1975, but that he sprinted here within 60 hours of being released from prison in Michigan, 1,500 miles away.

The grand jury indicted him for the murder of 18-year-old Deborah Sue Williamson, who was stabbed to death at her home on the outskirts of town between 9 p.m. and midnight Aug. 24, 1975.

It has become one of the most controversial of the hundreds of Lucas' murder confessions. After hearing tapes of Lucas' confession, the parents of the slain woman refused to believe that Lucas was the killer.

The local newspaper has published information that raises questions about the validity of the confession, and Lucas' court-appointed defense attorney, Marvin Williams, has done little to prepare for trial.

"I think I can just play that confession to the jury and win the case," Williams says.

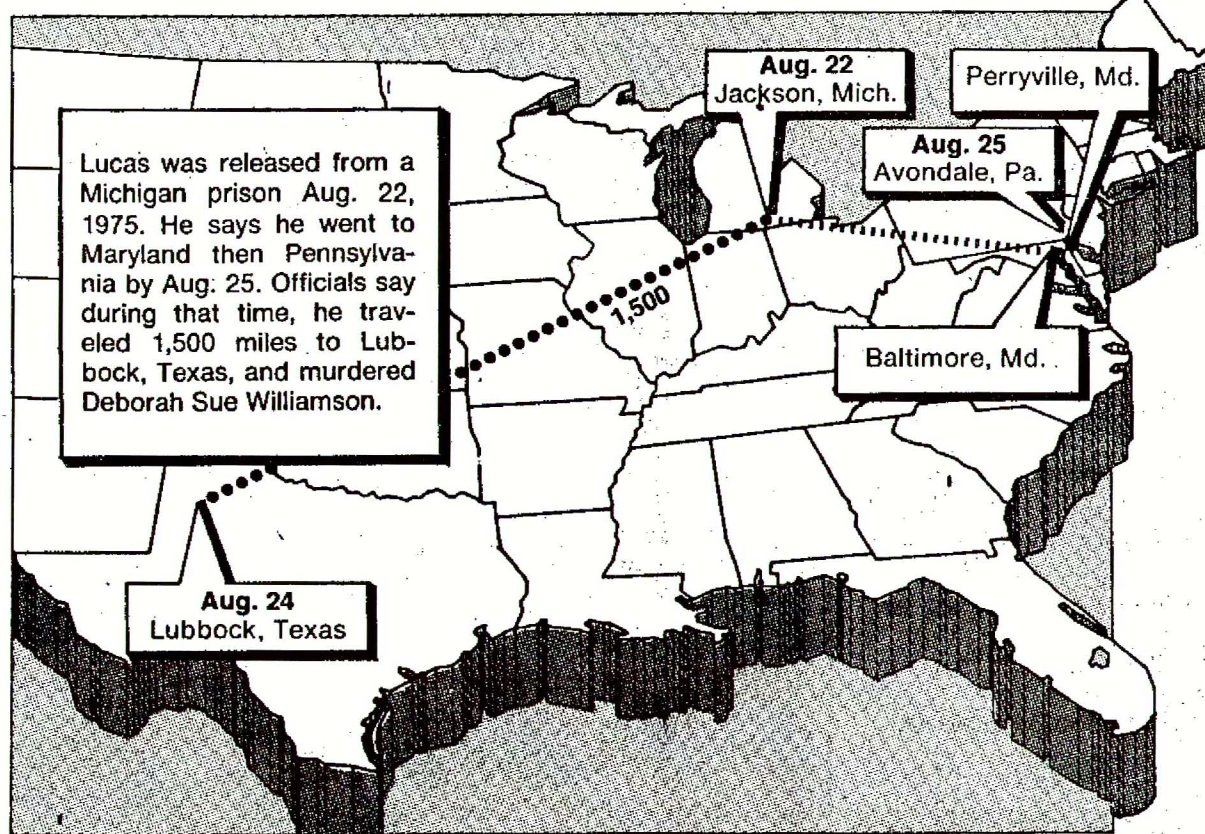
Lucas has confessed to three murders in Lubbock — one as far back as 1971 — and discrepancies have appeared in each. But the Williamson case has attracted the most attention for two reasons: the timing of his release from prison and the fact that during several hours of questioning, he appeared to know little about what happened that night in Lubbock.

"When I first heard about it (Lucas' confession), I felt good," says Bob Lemons, Williamson's stepfather. "I thought, 'this thing is finally over.'"

The nine years that had elapsed since their daughter's murder had been an exhausting ordeal for the entire family.

For a month after the murder, Lemons says, the family was harassed by burglaries and anonymous phone calls threatening their other two daughters.

"The school called and told us the girls couldn't go to school there anymore because they



Chris Butler / Dallas Times Herald

Deborah Sue Williamson was stabbed to death at her home in Lubbock between 9 p.m. and midnight Aug. 24, 1975. Last year, a Lubbock grand jury indicted Henry Lee Lucas in the case despite evidence that showed he would have had to arrive in Lubbock only 60 hours after being released from prison in Michigan and a confession that did not match the circumstances of the killing.



Deborah Sue Williamson — 18-year-old a 1975 stabbing victim.

(school officials) couldn't protect them," Lemons says. "The police said they couldn't protect us. We packed up what we could get in the car and left town."

Lemons moved his family to Gainesville, where they lived in relative anonymity, keeping their telephone number unlisted until recently and declining to discuss the episode with their new friends.

Last May 17, while Lemons and his wife were entertaining friends at a pool party, he re-



DEBORAH'S PARENTS, Bob and Joyce Lemons, listened to tapes of Henry Lee Lucas talking about their daughter's death and said his confession was wrong on virtually every point.

ceived a telephone call from the police in Lubbock.

"They told me Lucas and (Otis) Toole had killed Debbie," he says.

He went to Lubbock the next day to talk with the district attorney's staff.

"They handed us the confession Henry had made," Lemons recalls. "I told them it was not right, that everything says it is wrong."

The Lemonses were permitted to listen to taped interviews with

Lucas, from which the confession was distilled, and became more convinced that Lucas was not the killer.

His confession was wrong on virtually every point, Lemons says.

Lucas described the house as white. It was olive green. Lucas said he entered through a patio door. The patio door was sealed shut. Lucas said he chased the woman through the house before raping her and killing her in a bedroom. There was no blood in

the house. She was killed outside, under a carport. Lucas said he stole expensive jewelry from the house. Nothing was missing but a photograph album containing the pictures from Deborah's wedding to Douglas Williamson two months earlier.

Lemons says the tapes he heard indicated that Lucas was unable to direct officers to the house and that they actually drove him there. In a subsequent interview with the Times Herald, Lucas said the police drove him to the house, rather than him directing them to it.

"I wasn't telling them where to go," he said. "They were driving."

Once they were in the neighborhood, Lucas tried to identify a white, "farm-type" house at the end of a street behind the house where Williamson lived. Lemons says the tape indicated that Lucas picked the "right" house only after the officers made a U-turn and drove him back by the Williamson house, which sat by itself facing a busy thoroughfare.

Lemons' dispute with the district attorney's office began immediately. There was more than the discrepancies in the confession to convince Lemons that Lucas was lying.

The date of Lucas' release from prison in Michigan was a compelling argument against his involvement in the Lubbock murder.

Lemons obtained a letter from officials of the state prison in Jackson, Mich., stating that Lucas was released Aug. 22, probably about 8 a.m., the customary time for prisoner discharge.

Lemons' wife, Joyce, began contacting Lucas' relatives in Pennsylvania and Maryland and learned that Lucas had, indeed, come to that area immediately after he got out of prison.

He obtained an airplane ticket to Baltimore, Md., and from there took a bus to Perryville, where he was met at the bus station by his sister, Almeda Kiser, and his niece, Aomi Pierce, according to the two relatives.

On Aug. 25, Pierce and her husband, Darrell, drove Lucas to their home in Avondale, Pa., where he stayed and worked, off and on, for two months.

Even without the alibi supplied by his relatives, Lucas' confession to the Lubbock murder was shaky. To have committed the murder, Lucas would have to have been released at 8 a.m. on Aug. 22 and, without a car, made the 1,500 mile trip to Lubbock and find a victim to kill in less than 60 hours. The driving time alone would require about 30 hours.

To sell his confession to the Lubbock police and Texas Rangers, Lucas said he linked up with Toole immediately after he got out of prison and they came here together.

However, shortly after he be-

gan confessing to crimes across the country, Lucas told investigators he and Toole first met in February 1979 in Jacksonville, Fla. — three and a half years after the Williamson slaying.

A Times Herald investigation — including extensive interviews with Lucas' relatives and neighbors in Maryland and Pennsylvania, where he lived for 2½ years after leaving prison, and with Toole's wife and neighbors in Jacksonville — turned up no evidence that the two had known each other before 1979.

The Georgetown-based Homicide Task Force, headed by the Texas Rangers and Williamson County Sheriff Jim Boutwell, acknowledges that it has only Lucas' word for when the two met.

As for the prison release date, Boutwell and Task Force director Bob Warner said as recently as last month that they cannot be certain it was Aug. 22.

Both said they thought the release date was not firm because some prison records were destroyed by a fire, and they think Lucas may have been released on Aug. 7, which is the date Lucas told them to bolster his confession.

"We're confident of that Lubbock case," said Warner, who is the assistant chief of law enforcement for the Department of Public Safety.

The Times Herald has learned that whenever a prisoner is discharged, a letter is sent routinely to all Michigan police agencies notifying them that the inmate is back on the streets.

According to Michigan State Police officials, it normally takes about four days for them to receive that notification.

They received the letter advising them of Lucas' release on Aug. 26, 1975, four days after prison records show he was released.

Three weeks after Lemons received the phone call telling him his daughter's murder had been solved, Lucas was indicted by a grand jury. Lemons persisted in protesting the action, but last December, in his final conversation with the district attorney's office, he says he was told, "This thing is closed. ... It's over. ... It's done."

Davis Hess, the assistant prosecutor who is handling the case, says the grand jury was aware of factual inconsistencies in Lucas' statements.

"We are comfortable with the fact that the grand jury had all the evidence available to them at the time," Hess says.

But, he says his office has not closed the file on the Williamson case or the other two Lubbock murders Lucas has been charged with.

"We stand ready to present it to the grand jury again if any evidence turns up that we can take to them," he says.

Lucas now claims he only committed three murders

LUCAS — From Page 22
April 1980
to February 1982

During this period, the Homicide Task Force believes, Lucas and Toole killed more than 50 people in 11 states. Witnesses interviewed by the Times Herald, and documents in the Homicide Task Force's possession, shed serious doubt on Lucas' and Toole's involvement in those crimes.

After quitting his Florida roofing job in March 1980, Lucas drifted occasionally, but he apparently spent most of his time in the Jacksonville area, living with Toole and earning a meager income from selling junk he would scrounge on the city's streets and alleys.

There is documentation that places him in that area through most of 1981 and early 1982. There is 4 years' worth of records of his sales to junk dealers, records no law enforcement agency ever bothered to request.

Late in February 1981, he bought a car in Jacksonville. On Feb. 26, the same day he supposedly was killing a woman in Nevada, he bought insurance on the car in Jacksonville.

Lucas and Toole are known to have been in Jacksonville on May 16, 1981 — the day Toole's mother died. They were still there when she was buried on May 19. And on May 22, Lucas bought a car in Jacksonville.

In the last half of 1981, the whereabouts of Lucas and Toole are easier to document. The list of "cleared" cases places them in Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas and California during that time, but other documents and witnesses contradict that scenario.

For example:
✓ In June 1981 Lucas, Toole

and Becky Powell, Toole's 13-year-old niece, and her dog left Jacksonville after a dispute with other relatives over custody of the girl. They drove west to Del Rio, Texas, where they sold their car (on June 4 or 5) and took a train to Tucson, Ariz., where Lucas received a citation for violating the city's dog leash law on June 9. They took the train back to Del Rio, and records show that Lucas sold blood there on June 11. Lucas and Becky Powell then hitchhiked to Houston, where he again sold blood on June 15. Despite that chronology, authorities in Garvin County, Okla., cleared a slaying that occurred there on June 7. That would mean Lucas and Toole would have sold their car on one day, gotten to Oklahoma to kill on the next, and went back to Del Rio to catch a train the next day.

✓ After selling blood in Houston on June 15, Lucas and Becky Powell hitchhiked to New Orleans, where records show he sold blood on June 16. That is the same day the Homicide Task Force task force has credited Lucas and Toole with a killing in Grimes County, Texas, 60 miles northwest of Houston. If he left Houston on June 15, he would have had to have hitchhiked to Grimes County, committed a murder, and then hitchhiked back to New Orleans — a distance of nearly 500 miles, all in less than 24 hours.

✓ From late June to Oct. 10, Lucas' and Toole's activities are solidly documented. Lucas and Becky Powell had returned to Jacksonville from New Orleans. About June 29, they, along with Toole, took a car belonging to one of Toole's relatives and headed to Delaware, where they spent the night of June 30 in a motel. Their car was found abandoned on July 8.

Lucas, Toole and the girl remained in Delaware several days, according to Delaware police who checked them out July 11 after someone reported they were camping in the woods. On July 22, they were en route back to Jacksonville when Lucas was arrested in Pikesville, Md., on an old auto theft warrant. During July, when they were known to have been in Delaware and Maryland, they are credited with two killings in Colorado and Oklahoma.

✓ From July 22 to Oct. 7, Lucas was in jail in Pikesville. Still, a Sept. 12 slaying in Houston was cleared by his confession. While Lucas was in jail, Toole returned to Jacksonville and on July 31 rented an apartment for himself and his wife. On Aug. 1, according to police records there, he was the victim of an assault. On Aug. 4, Toole is alleged to have killed a woman in Cherry Hill, Colo.

After Lucas was released from jail in Pikesville on Oct. 7, he went back to Jacksonville, spent the night at Trinity Baptist Mission and the next day moved in again with Toole and his wife.

They lived in an aging rooming house owned by Betty Goodyear, who can verify their presence in Jacksonville until the middle of January 1982. Lucas and Toole both worked for her until January. Besides Goodyear's statements, there are records of auto and insurance purchases and a traffic violation to verify that Lucas was in that area.

But during that three-month period, they are credited with eight murders in Texas, California and Florida.

Late in January, Lucas and Becky Powell left Jacksonville, and left a trail as they made their way across the South: Lucas sold blood

in Houston, and abandoned his car in Kerrville. Around Feb. 10, they were hitchhiking near Beaumont, Calif., and were picked up by Jack Smart, a used-furniture dealer from Hemet, Calif.

February 1982
to June 1983

For nearly four months, Lucas and Becky Powell lived with Smart and his wife. Lucas worked in Smart's furniture business and did not leave Hemet the entire time, according to Smart.

"He was here 100 percent of the time," Smart says. "There was no way he would have gotten away from here. He was on foot. He never went no place without one of us."

Lucas and Becky Powell shared a room in Smart's house.

"We could hear them through the walls," Smart says. "We always knew when they were in there. There were no secrets."

Despite the alibi Smart provided, the Homicide Task Force attributed four slayings — in Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana — to Lucas during that time. (The Texas Rangers, without explanation, later removed one murder from the "solved" list).

On May 22, 1982, according to a Texas Rangers report dated Oct. 8, 1982, Smart put Lucas and Becky Powell on a bus in California bound for Ringgold, Texas, where Lucas was to do some work for Kate Rich, Smart's mother-in-law. But while he was still in California, a Clay County, Texas, man was killed. A Wichita Falls police report said the victim was seen alive at 1 a.m. on May 22 and his body was found at 3 a.m., hours before the Rangers have Lucas leaving California. Nonetheless, the Rangers and the Wichita Falls police accept-

ed Lucas' confession in that case.

Lucas had lived with and worked for Rich only a few days before one of Rich's daughters, distrustful of Lucas, forced him to leave the house. He and Becky Powell were hitchhiking when they were picked up by Ruben Moore, who ran the House of Prayer, a sort of religious commune in Stoneburg.

From mid-May until Sept. 17, Moore says, Lucas was away from the House of Prayer for only two nights, but the authorities have attributed 13 killings in Texas and Oklahoma to him during that period.

In only two of those cases is there solid evidence linking Lucas to the crimes. Becky Powell was killed on Aug. 24. Kate Rich was killed on Sept. 16. Lucas confessed to both and led authorities to the bodies. They are the only bodies he has ever led law enforcement officials to in his two years of confessing to mass murder.

After he killed Rich, Lucas left the House of Prayer and headed to California. He abandoned a car in Needles and hitchhiked east again. He surfaced in Oklahoma and Illinois and Indiana, leaving a trail that could be traced through traffic tickets, Travelers' Aid and telephone calls. With money Moore wired to him in Joplin, Mo., Lucas returned to the House of Prayer on Oct. 17 and was arrested Oct. 18 for questioning in Rich's slaying. He remained in jail until Nov. 1.

Although Lucas knew he was under suspicion for murder, and there is evidence that placed him repeatedly in the area of Stoneburg from November 1982 until summer 1983, authorities in California, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico accepted his con-

fessions to 19 slayings that occurred during that time.

In private conversations with a Times Herald reporter and with his court-appointed defense lawyers, Lucas has consistently maintained that he has killed only three people in his life: His mother in 1960 and Becky Powell and Kate Rich in 1982.

"There are only three," he said in an interview last year. "There ain't no more. I only done those three."

He may have "done" more than three, but he almost certainly did not commit the 600 he has publicly claimed or even the 210 that authorities in 26 states have bought.

Don Higgenbotham, Lucas' court-appointed attorney in Georgetown, believes the investigators who have talked with Lucas are too willing to accept his confessions, many of which are highly inaccurate.

"There is a synergetic relationship between Lucas and the cops," Higgenbotham says. "Both are getting what they want."

The hoax that Lucas has perpetrated on law enforcement agencies across the country has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and it is continuing. The cops are still waiting in line to talk to him — and they will be waiting for several more months.

Monday

■ Lucas confession kept convicted murderer from going to jail.
■ To avoid the death penalty, all Lucas had to do was plead guilty to one more murder.

HENRY LEE LUCAS: MASS MURDERER OR MASSIVE HOAX?

Chronology

Henry Lee Lucas claims to have killed more than 210 people. The following chart lists the crimes connected with Lucas and the dates.

However, evidence on the right column of the chart indicates that he may not have committed all the crimes he has claimed.

The crimes

Lucas' whereabouts

1975	
Aug. 24: Lubbock, Texas; Deborah Williamson; L-T	Aug. 22: Released from prison in Jackson, Mich., took plane to Baltimore, Md.
Sept. 9: Smith Co., Texas; Curby Reeves; L-T	Aug. 23: Took bus to Perryville, Md., met by sister and niece.
Dec. 12: Baltimore Co., Md.; James Carpellotti; L-T	Aug. 25: Driven to Avondale, Pa., by niece. Lived there off and on for about two months, worked for a mushroom farm in nearby West Grove, Pa.
Dec. 30: Corpus Christi, Texas; Katherine Robinson; L-T	Sept. 8, 15: Received paycheck
	Dec. 5: Married Betty Crawford in Elkton, Md.
	Dec. 5-July 7, 1977: Lived with wife in Port Deposit, Md.; was away from home overnight twice
1976	
Jan. 27: Bastrop Co., Texas; John/Faye Whatley; L-T	Feb. 6: Bought car in Perryville, Md.
April 10: Lubbock, Texas; Elizabeth Price; L-T	Feb. 14, April 15-16: Borrowed money from landlord.
April 12: El Paso, Texas; Sima Warren; L-T	
June 30: Eureka, Calif.; Vickie Schneider; L-T	Aug. 5: Witnesses say Lucas was shopping with wife and niece in Oxford, Pa.
July 31: Milwaukee; Alice Daubon; T	Sept. 15: Worked on roofing job in Oxford, Pa.
Aug. 3: Huntington, W. Va.; Clemmie Curtis; L-T	
Aug. 17: Pueblo, Colo.; Sharon Copp; L-T	Nov. 15: Borrowed \$20 from landlord in Port Deposit.
Oct. 12: North Carolina; Carol Lane; L	
Oct. 25: Oklahoma City; Virginia Kegans; L	
Dec. 7: Hinesville, Ga.; victim unidentified; L-T	
Dec. 17: Bexar Co., Texas; Nancy Freese; L-T	
Dec. 26: Arapahoe, Colo.; Holly Andrews; L	
1977	
Jan. 8: Kingfisher, Okla.; Mary Harrison; L-T	June 3: Family trip to Texas to visit in-laws.
Feb. 12: Houston; Bernice Erdman; L-T	June 10: Returned from Texas trip.
Feb. 25: Cactus City, Calif.; Unknown female; L	July 7: Left wife, moved in with sister in Port Deposit.
March 11: Smyth Co., Va.; S. Blankenbeckler; L-T	
April 27: Bexar Co., Texas; Linda Hopwood; L-T	
May 21: Galveston, Texas; Suzanne Bowers; L-T	
June 10: Polk Co., Texas; Stephanie Smith; L	
July 10: Rogers Co., Okla.; Laura Long; L-T	
July 31: Bexar Co., Texas; Elsa Gonzales; L	
Aug. 2: Chassapeake, Va.; Debra Eason; L	
Aug. 7: Windy Point, Calif.; Steph Driscoll(+); L	
Aug. 24: Lake Co., Ill.; Lisa Ann Stusser; L	
Sept. 4: Davis, Calif.; Mary Elizabeth Wolf; L	
Sept. 6: Houston; Glenda Goff; L	
Oct. 22: Bellmead, Texas; Glen Parks; L	
Nov. 1: Harrison Co., Texas; Lillie Pearl Darty; L-T	
Nov. 30: Oklahoma City; Tina Williams; L-T	
Dec. 19: Houston; John Swint; T	December (last week): Left Maryland for Hinton, W. Va.
1978	
Feb. 7: Platt Co., Wyo.; Stella McLean; L-T	Jan. (early): Moved in with Rhonda Knuckles.
April 13: Austin, Texas; Billy Mitchell; L-T	March (early): Left Knuckles, returned to Maryland and lived with sister, Almeda Kiser.
May 7: Harris Co., Texas; Susan Minnick; L-T	
May 17: Houston; Tina Carr; T	June (day unknown): Was in Charlestown, W. Va., with brother-in-law, Wade Kiser.
June 1: Slidell, La.; Claudia Favia; L-T	
June 3: Covington, La.; Louis Wagner; L-T	
June 7: Abilene, Texas; William Favors; T	
June 17: Waunakee, Wis.; Julie Hall; L-T	
June 27: Plano, Texas; Mystis Thomas; L-T	
June 30: Provo, Utah; Maria Schap; L-T	
July 4: Little Rock, Ark.; Elizabeth Taylor; L	
July 6: Montgomery, Ala.; Gladys Gilmora; L	
July 17: Hemet, Calif.; DeAnna Nuzquist(++); L	
July 24: San Jon, N.M.; Elizabeth Bull; L	July 28: With Kiser at races in Charlestown.
Aug. 13: Oklahoma City; Betty Ann Coons; L	
Aug. 23: Milwaukee; Mark Ridyard; T	
Sept. 17: North Sparks, Nev.; Robert Ridley; L	
Sept. 7: Pecos, Texas; Robert Hie; L-T	
Oct. 2: Spokane, Wash.; Kristann Baxter; L	
Oct. 4: High Island, Texas; D. Sheppard (kidnap); L	
Oct. 7: Saline Co., Ark.; Doris Litherland; L-T	
Oct. 16: Lincoln Co., N.M.; Pam Nolen; L-T	
Oct. 27: Washoe Co., Nev.; Jeanie Smith; L-T	
Oct. 29: Bossier City, La.; Dollie Huckaby Demet; L	
Nov. 1: Kennewick, Wash.; Lisa Martini; L	
Nov. 3: Jefferson City, Mo.; Leigh Ann Wilson; L	
Nov. 5: Williamson Co., Texas; Frank Key; L-T	
Nov. 5: McLennan Co., Texas; Rita Salazar; L-T	
Nov. 15: Grand Island, Neb.; Janet Callies; L-T	
Nov. 24: Arlington, Texas; Pat Rau; L-T	
Dec. 2: San Diego, Calif.; (3 children molested); L	
1979	
Jan. 1: Houston; Alfredo Trevizo; T	Feb. 9: Stole a truck in Maryland.
Jan. 11: Bakersfield, Calif.; Linda Adkins; L-T	Feb. 10: Truck found in Jacksonville, Fla.
Jan. 18: Marion Co., Texas; Cecil Mayley; L-T	Feb. 11: Met Otis Toole at rescue mission in Jacksonville. Moved into Toole's house.
Feb. 4: Dade Co., Fla.; Unidentified female; L-T	Feb. 12: Started work for Southeast Color Coat Roofing Co., where Toole was employed.
March 11: Tulsa, Okla.; Pamela Tolett; L	Feb. 15, 19, 20, 28: Paychecks issued.
March 25: Jackson, Miss.; John Noyes; L-T	Feb. 21, 26, 29: March 6: Paychecks cleared.
March 28: Madison, Wis.; J. Speersneider; L-T	March (middle of month): Visited Hinton, W. Va., got in fight and returned to Jacksonville.
April 1: Stony Creek, Va.; Unidentified male; L-T	March 8, 15, 21: Paychecks issued.
April 7: Houston; Jean Luther Mills; L-T	March 15, 19, 30: Paychecks cleared.
April 18: Uvalde, Texas; Yolandia Hernandez; L-T	March (late): Bought a car in Jacksonville.
April 19: Oklahoma City; Arley Killiam; L-T	April 5, 12, 13, 19, 28: Paychecks issued.
May 8: Jacksonville, Fla.; Deborah O'Quinn(+); L	April 9, 16, 23, 30: Paychecks cleared.
May 18: Houston; Charlotte Wallis; L	May 3, 10, 17, 24: Paychecks issued.
June 21: Elgin, Texas; Unidentified white female; L	May 7, 14, 21, 28: Paychecks cleared.
July 20: Covington, La.; John Matter (attempt); L-T	June 1, 7, 14: Paychecks issued.
July 22: Jefferson Parish, La.; Unknown female; L-T	June 1, 11, 18: Paychecks cleared.
July 27: Bexar Co., Texas; Kathryn O'Conner; L-T	Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Paychecks issued.
Aug. 15: Jefferson Co., Colo.; Linda Hutchins; L	Aug. 8, 13, 18, 27: Sept. 5: Paychecks cleared.
Aug. 18: Millard Co., Utah; Unknown female(+); L-T	Sept. 5, 6, 13, 19, 28: Paychecks issued.
Aug. 24: Douthan, Ala.; Laura Fulford; T	Sept. 10, 10, 17, 24: Oct. 1: Paychecks cleared.
Sept. 3: Austin, Texas; Sharon Schillings; T	Oct. 4, 11, 17, 24: Paychecks issued.
Oct. 10: Humble, Texas; Russell King; L-T	Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29: Paychecks cleared.
Oct. 2: Travis Co., Texas; Sandra Dubbs; L-T	
Oct. 4: Donaldsonville, Ga.; Mazie Seymour; L-T	
Oct. 5: Hamilton Co., Neb.; Brian Byrum(++); L-T	
Oct. 8: Brunswick, Ga.; William Willis; L	
Oct. 20: Dublin, Ga.; Martin Wilkins; L-T	
Oct. 23: Travis Co., Texas; H. A. M. Schlessinger; L-T	
Oct. 31: Williamson Co., Texas; Unknown hitchhiker; L-T	
Nov. 10: Livingston, N.Y.; Unknown female; L-T	
Nov. 7: Junction, Texas; Unknown female; L-T	
Nov. 24: Jacksonville, Fla.; Melody Husk(+); L-T	Nov. 1, 8, 15, 20, 28: Paycheck issued.
Nov. 27: Jacksonville, Fla.; Elizabeth Knotts(+); L	Nov. 2, 12, 19, 23: Dec. 3: Paycheck cleared.
Dec. 1: Washoe Co., Nev.; Michael Whitten; L-T	
Dec. 22: Arlington, Texas; Donaver Hanna; L-T	Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: Paychecks issued.
Dec. 25: Houston; Katie Dunham; L	Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31: Paychecks cleared.
1980	
Jan. 10: Cherokee Co., Texas; Burglary; L-T	Jan. 2, 9: Paychecks issued.
Jan. 16: Englewood, Colo.; Helen Pruszyński; L-T	Jan. 6, 14: Paychecks cleared.
Jan. 28: G. Prairie, Texas; B. Ragan (att. murd.); L-T	
Feb. 4: Smith Co., Texas; Nannette Warren; L-T	
Feb. 8: Chipley, Fla.; Scott Schaller; T	
Feb. 23: Galveston, Texas; Roy Hallmark; L-T	
March 8: Granbury, Texas; Lillian Pert; L-T	
March 12: Ben Hill Co., Ga.; Vickie Aycock(+); L-T	
March 18: Abilene, Texas; Lynn Gray; L	March 19: Paycheck issued. Cleared March 25.
March 24: Harris Co., Texas; Sandra Alexander; L	March 19: Texas Rangers say Lucas and Toole spent most of the month traveling, spending time in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.
April 13: Winnie, Texas; Wilbert Meche; L-T	April 2-4, 8, 15, 18: Sold scrap metal to Commercial Metals Inc.
April 27: Jacksonville, Fla.; Jo C. Scheffer(+); L	



Rhonda Knuckles

The crimes

May 17: San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Two women; L-T
 June 11: Mont Belvieu, Texas; Betty Choate; L
 June 7: Live Oak, Texas; Unknown female; L
 July 12: Jacksonville, Fla.; Regina Campbell(+); L-T
 July 20: Jacksonville, Fla.; Tammi Connors(+); L-T
 July 28: Douglas Co., Ga.; Lonnie Wright; L
 Aug. 14: Millbrook, Ala.; Bernice Harris; L
 Sept. 1: Fallon, Nev.; Unidentified white male; L-T
 Sept. 9: Norfolk, Va.; Kathleen Doyle; L-T
 Oct. 4: Ozaukee, Wis.; Beth Umolac; L
 Oct. 16: Harris Co., Texas; Unknown female(+); L
 Oct. 22: Tonopah, Nev.; Unidentified male(+); L
 Oct. 25: Arapahoe, Colo.; Violet Newman; L-T
 Nov. 1: Walker Co., Texas; Unidentified female; L
 Nov. 4: Williamson Co., Texas; M. McKinney; L-T
 Nov. 14: Polk Co., Texas; Unidentified white male; L
 Nov. 7: Bossier, La.; Unknown female; L
 Dec. 7: Mustang, Okla.; Carl Garrison; L-T
 Dec. 22: Jacksonville, Fla.; Brenda Harden(+); L-T

Lucas' whereabouts

May 5, 19: Sold scrap metal.
 June 4-5, 15, 20, 23, 27: Sold scrap metal.
 July 1-3, 11, 14-18, 21-23, 28, 30-31: Sold scrap metal.

Aug. 1, 11-13, 15, 18, 22, 25, 28: Sold scrap metal.
 Sept. 2, 5, 10, 15, 19, 25-28, 30: Sold scrap metal.

Nov. 21, 24: Sold scrap metal.
 Dec. 4, 23-24, 29, 30: Sold scrap metal.

1981

Jan. 25: McLennan Co., Texas; D. Godbold; L-T
 Jan. 28: Bossier, La.; Unidentified female(+); L-T
 Feb. 28-29: Douglas Co., Nev.; Cora Carillo; L
 March 3: Odessa, Texas; Beverly Luttrell; L-T
 March 4: Fort Bend Co., Texas; Beion Wilkinson; L
 March 5: Corpus Christi, Texas; E. Montoya; L-T
 March 6: Georgetown, Ga.; victim unidentified; L
 March 21: Liberty Co., Texas; Patricia Jones(+); L
 April 1: Baytown, Texas; Lois Harris; L-T
 April 4: Monroe, La.; Kathy Whorton; L-T
 April 8: Baytown, Texas; Thelma Lopez; L-T
 April 14: Jacksonville, Fla.; Shirley Ogden(+); L-T
 April 18: Texarkana, Ark.; G. & K. Alexander; L
 April 27: Brownwood, Texas; Donna Mae Inlow; L
 May 1: Brownfield, Texas; Diana Bryant; L-T

Jan. 2, 5, 7-8, 18: Sold scrap metal.

Feb. 15, 20, 23, 26-28: Sold scrap metal.
 March 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 23, 25-27, 30-31: Sold scrap metal.

April 8, 10, 15-17, 20, 22, 26-27, 29: Sold scrap metal.

May 8: Sold scrap metal.

May 18: In Jacksonville; Toole's mother died
 May 19: In Jacksonville for funeral
 May 22: Bought a car in Jacksonville.
 May 28: Sold scrap metal.
 June 2-5: Sold car in Del Rio, Texas.

June 9: Cited by police in Tucson, Ariz., for violation of dog leash law.
 June 11: Sold blood in Del Rio, Texas.
 June 15: Sold blood in Houston, Texas.

June 20-21, 23-26: Sold scrap metal.
 June 28-29: Stole car from Toole's relatives in Jacksonville.
 June 30: Spent the night in motel in Wilmington, Del., with Toole, Becky Powell and Frank Powell.
 July 1: Toole's relatives reported car stolen.
 July 8: Stolen car found in Delaware.
 July 11: Lived in woods near Wilmington with Toole and Powell children for several days.
 July 22: Arrested in Pikesville, Md.

Aug. 14: Convicted in Pikesville.

Oct. 7: Released from jail in Pikesville and hitchhiked to Jacksonville.
 Oct. 10: Spent the night at Jacksonville mission.
 Oct. 11-12: Reunited with Toole. Moved into apartment owned by Betty Goodyear, with Toole and his wife. Began working for Goodyear.
 Oct. 17: Bought car in Jacksonville.
 Nov. 6: Bought insurance in Jacksonville.

Dec. 29: Got traffic ticket in Jacksonville.

1982

Jan. 4: Jacksonville, Fla.; George Sonnenberg; T
 Jan. 7: Harris Co., Texas; Margaret Bryant; L
 Jan. 28: Hale Co., Texas; Unidentified female; L

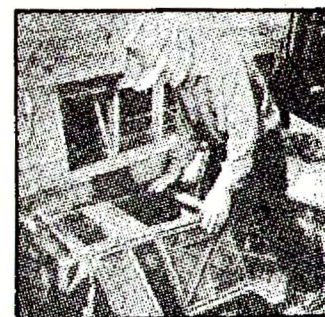
Jan. 4: Was in Jacksonville when fire occurred at one of Betty Goodyear's rooming houses.
 Jan. 9: Bought car in Jacksonville.
 Jan. 16: Transferred auto insurance and, with Becky Powell, left Jacksonville.
 Jan. 20: Sold blood in Houston.
 Jan. 21: Abandoned car near Kerrville, Texas.
 Feb. (first week): Picked up near near Beaumont, Calif., by Jack Smart of Hemet, Calif.
 Feb.-May 22: Lived with and worked for Smart in Hemet. Had no car. Never left town.

Feb. 1: Swartz, La.; Sherry Alford; T

Feb. 11: Flagstaff, Ariz.; Francis Capaldi; T
 Feb. 12: Covington, La.; Roxanne Sharp(+); L-T
 Feb. 18: Lake Charles, La.; Catherine Martin; T
 March 31: Monroe Co., Ga.; Roy Collins; T
 April 5: Sacramento, Calif.; Larvairno Chaves; T
 April 17: Hobbs, N.M.; Barbara Begley; L
 April 18: Fulton Co., Ga.; Paulette Dixon; L
 April 21: Corpus Christi, Texas; O. Obregon(+); L
 April 25: Odessa, Texas; Herman Brooks; T
 April 25: Big Spring, Texas; Happy Howry; L-T
 May 22: Clay Co., Texas; Daniel Garcia; L

May 22: Took bus, with Powell, for Ringgold, Texas, to work for Kate Rich, Smart's mother-in-law.

May (late): Moved out of Rich's house at insistence of her daughters. Was hitchhiking when picked up by Ruben Moore of the House of Prayer in Stoneburg.



Stove behind Lucas' apartment where bones of Kate Rich were found.

Aug. 24: Left House of Prayer for one night. Killed Becky Powell.
 Aug. 25: Returned to House of Prayer.
 Aug. 26: Left House of Prayer for one night.
 Aug. 27: Returned to House of Prayer.

Sept. (mid): Left House of Prayer, headed west.
 Sept. 20: Stopped by police in Flagstaff, Ariz.
 Sept. 21: Abandoned car in Needles, Calif.
 Sept. 22: Picked up motorists going east.

Sept. 24: Received travel aid in Oklahoma City.

Oct. 1: Applied for food stamps in Decatur, Ill.

Oct. 5: Collect call to Ruben Moore from Indiana, asked for travel money back to Stoneburg.

Oct. 15: Called Moore collect from Joplin, Mo.
 Oct. 16: Moore wired \$100 to Joplin.
 Oct. 17: Returned to House of Prayer.
 Oct. 18: Arrested for questioning in disappearance of Kate Rich. Jailed in Stoneburg.
 Nov. 1: Released from jail. Remained in Stoneburg area.

Dec. 12: Bakersfield, Calif.; Gayle Peterson; L
 Dec. 19: Hale Co., Texas; Glenna Biggers; L-T

1983

Feb. 10: Tallahassee, Fla.; Ada Johnson; T
 Feb. 15: Irving, Texas; Adrian Reed; L-T
 March 17: Montgomery Co., Texas; Unknown female; L
 March 20: Sunrise Butte, Calif.; Unknown female(+); L-T
 April 18: Montgomery Co., Texas; Lura Domez; L
 May 1: Blythe, Calif.; Unknown female(+); L
 May 15: Colton Co., Texas; Jacqueline Brandley; L
 May 26: St. Tammany, La.; Ruth Manguno; L
 May 27: El Paso, Texas; Librada Apodaca; L
 June 28: Yosemite Nat. Park, Calif.; Unk. female(+); L

March 23: Took polygraph test in Stoneburg.

May 18: Took driver's license test in Bowie, Texas.

June 6: Charged with murder of Kate Rich.

1984

April 4: Irving, Texas; Unknown female(+); L

(+) Decomposed body or skeletal remains found on the date listed.
 (++) Case later removed from the "cleared" list by Texas Rangers.
 (+++) Case later removed from the "cleared" list by local authorities.
 (*) Case listed as "cleared" by Texas Rangers but kept

open by Jacksonville police, who refused to accept Lucas' confessions.
 (**) Flower found on grave near Corona was used to attribute crime to Lucas. It would have put him in Corona not only in mid November, when the victim was killed, but again in December, three days after the body was found.

HENRY LEE LUCAS: MASS MURDERER OR MASSIVE HOAX?

Caught up in a web

Lucas: Police 'don't know how to turn loose' of confessions

By HUGH AYNESWORTH
Staff Writer

"I'm gonna show 'em. They think I'm stupid, but before all this is over, everyone will know who's really stupid. And we'll see who the real criminals are."

It was Henry Lee Lucas talking about police and other law enforcement officials who have victimized him his entire life, he says, and upon whom he is now wreaking his vengeance with what he says are bogus murder confessions.

A brown-toothed grin creased his now-famous face as he sat in a drab county jail cell in Denton. A lone ceiling fixture cast eerie shadows whenever Lucas moved about.

I hadn't been there an hour, though it seemed much longer. It was around 10 p.m. and we were holding our conversation to the accompaniment of shouts from inmates in nearby cells and the seemingly constant noise of flushing toilets. At least three different rock stations fought for prominence.

But Lucas wasn't the least bit distracted. He was an old pro at tuning out the rest of the jail. After all, by this time he had spent at least 18 of his 47 years behind bars.

He seemed vitally interested that I understood what he was saying. It was as though he was doing the most important thing in his life.

Although he would eventually confess to killing roughly 600 people, on that October night in 1983 Lucas insisted, "I only got three, really. But they're goin' wild every time I tell 'em about some more."

He swore that his only real victims had been his 15-year-old girlfriend, Frieda "Becky" Powell, 80-year-old Kate Rich of Ringgold, Texas, both of whom he killed in Texas in 1982, and his mother, Viola Lucas, whom he killed in 1960.

At that point, Lucas had told police that he had slain 156 women. In an interview with Williamson County Sheriff Jim Boutwell soon thereafter, it had suddenly jumped to 360.

But Lucas said he would talk to me and tell me the truth.

Having spent some time studying serial murderers as I researched material for a book about Theodore Bundy ("The Only Living Witness"), I did not expect to get the complete truth. But Lucas and his story intrigued me, so I decided to invest more time to see whether Lucas also might warrant a book.

Occasionally, during the first month of interviews, I would tell Lucas that I was convinced he had committed more than three murders.

"I told ya, I've been tellin' you for a month now, that all these others ain't so," he said once. "How am I gonna convince you?"

"Tell me where you've been, where you've worked, who you were with, what cars you owned, who knew you were wherever ... all that, and I'll try to check it all out," I replied.

"They won't let you," he said with finality. "They'll find out what you're doin' and they won't let me talk to you anymore."

He was almost right.

After Lucas' Nov. 10, 1983, conviction in Denton for killing Becky Powell, he was taken immediately to Georgetown in Central Texas, and it became harder and harder for me to see him.

I saw him only three times in the next three months, but they were good sessions because he had figured out a lot of times, places and people for me to check out.

His capital murder case — the murder of an unidentified hitchhiker in Georgetown on Oct. 31, 1979 — was upcoming, and while he had told me in Denton he didn't care whether he died, by now he had decided he definitely wanted to live and he strove to build a defense to show that he was in Jacksonville, Fla., not Georgetown, Texas, that Halloween.

"I know I was workin' down there at that time," Lucas said, as we talked privately through his Georgetown cell bars. "I told 'em I fixed those work records, but if you talk to them people, you'll find out I was there."

The records of a Jacksonville roofing company indeed indicated that Lucas was working there on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 1979, and cashed a payroll check at a grocery store there on Nov. 1. It seemed clear: If Lucas was in Jacksonville on the 31st and the 1st, he wouldn't have had time to have been anywhere near Texas.


"That's what I'm tellin' ya," he said.

I flew to Jacksonville and interviewed Lucas' foreman on those dates, Mac Caulder. Texas Rangers, he said, had interviewed him and accused him of falsifying the work records. Caulder, whose earnings were in part dependent on how fast he was able to get jobs completed, said he told the Rangers he had never done any such tinkering with the records; in fact, Oct. 31 was his very first day on the job, and he wasn't likely to excuse an unknown worker and risk his own job in the process.


But, said Caulder, "they didn't pay any attention. They had a reason, I guess, to want to believe Lucas," who was publicly maintaining that he managed to kill people as far away as Nevada while holding down a job in Florida by bribing his foreman to mark him present when he was really absent.

From February 1979 to March 1980, while he was working in Jacksonville, Lucas cashed 43


Henry Lee Lucas



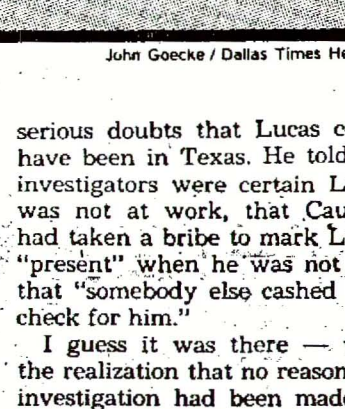
"I'm gonna show 'em. They think I'm stupid, but before all this is over, everyone will know who's really stupid."



"I only got three, really. But they're goin' wild every time I tell 'em about some more."



"I'll take anything as long as it proves the truth. That's what I want. I'm not interested in beatin' any crimes. I'm just interested in provin' that law enforcement has to be changed from what it is."



"I'm under one of the hardest mental strains there is in the country. I'm constantly questioned and constantly in maximum security. I'm constantly worried about bein' shot or killed, you know ... some idea some of 'em might get."

John Goecke / Dallas Times Herald

payroll checks — 41 of them going through the account of Munir Yazgi, owner of the Buy Rite food market at 21st Street and Haines. The one cashed Nov. 1, 1979, just hours after Lucas was supposed to have killed the unidentified hitchhiker in Georgetown, clearly had Yazgi's signature on it.

But Texas Rangers and Williamson County investigators, who had spent several days in Jacksonville, did not bother to question Lucas' grocer-banker. When I found Yazgi, who is listed in the Jacksonville phone book, just days before the trial, he had not been contacted by any police agency.

Yazgi said he recalled cashing Lucas' checks almost every week for a year or more and that he always made him sign the checks in person.

I returned to Georgetown a few days before the trial (it had been moved to San Angelo in April), and told Boutwell I had

serious doubts that Lucas could have been in Texas. He told me investigators were certain Lucas was not at work, that Caulder had taken a bribe to mark Lucas "present" when he was not and that "somebody else cashed that check for him."

I guess it was there — with the realization that no reasonable investigation had been made — that I began to believe Lucas' story that the whole thing was a massive hoax.

And, the evidence grew steadily that made me even more certain.

A couple of "cleared" cases were quietly "uncleared" later, when it was shown that Lucas was in jail or was 10 states away. I managed to peruse several confessions that revealed Lucas couldn't even get 10 percent of the facts right without coaching. Then there were scores of confessions in which Lucas implicated his homosexual lover, Otis Toole, some of them three or

four years before he even met Toole.

And I also encountered several police officers who told me point-blank why they wouldn't accept Lucas' confessions in their jurisdictions: "He couldn't show us anything that fit" or "he'd confess to killing the Lindbergh baby ... if he'd ever heard of it."

The trial — with the prosecution offering absolutely no evidence other than that supplied by the once-obliging Lucas himself — went rather rapidly. Lucas was convicted and given the death penalty.

A couple of days before the verdict, Lucas, Boutwell and I were spending a lengthy recess together in an office near the courtroom. Boutwell had just brought in a female television reporter to get Lucas' autograph. After she left, Lucas got serious for a moment.

"You know I didn't do that one, Jim," Lucas grinned to the sheriff.

"Well, I wish you had told me that before," Boutwell smiled back.

Lucas had told me he would take a polygraph, truth serum or any other test to show he hadn't done the crime. I mentioned it to Boutwell.

Boutwell said he would be glad to give Lucas a polygraph, as soon as he could arrange it.

"What will you do if he passes it and he's already got his death penalty?" I asked.

"I don't honestly know," Boutwell replied.

No polygraph was ever administered.

As the months wore on, the sheriff and the Rangers realized that I was not a believer. Once Boutwell called me and told me: "Henry says he doesn't want to see you anymore."

But I managed to stay in touch, visiting Lucas on weekends, when members of the Homicide Task Force formed by the governor were not around. Lucas seemed to be having fun at his "public vs. private" existence, but he was also getting increasingly nervous.

"You're the only one I can trust," he told me last November. "The more I keep givin' 'em, seems like the more excited they get. They don't really know what is happenin' to 'em."

I asked if he thought anybody suspected what he was doing.

"Yeah, I think they do, but they don't ... they're afraid to say anything. An' see, they got

their hands tied to it now and they don't know how to turn loose. I'm not gonna turn loose until they turn loose, you know. I feel they've got to turn loose sooner or later."

I asked him if he fully realized how deeply he was involved.

"Oh, I know what I'm involved in," he replied. "I'm involved in the whole world, you might as well say. To show how much crookedness there is in law enforcement."

Oddly enough, Lucas has always thought that at any given moment he could suddenly announce to the world that he was making everything up and that it would all go away. He suggested that polygraph tests or truth serum would prove him innocent.

"I'll take anything," he said, "as long as it proves the truth. That's what I want. I'm not interested in beatin' any crimes. I'm just interested in provin' that law enforcement has to be changed from what it is."

Lucas said he had been under extreme pressure for months.

"I'm under one of the hardest mental strains there is in the country," he said. "I'm constantly questioned and constantly in maximum security."

"I'm constantly worried about bein' shot or killed, you know ... an idea some of 'em might get."

"Why do you feel that way?" I asked.

"I don't know. If I get to showin', I think eventually if I get to showin' where they're bein', uh, what they've done, you know, there's gonna be a tremendous threat on me. And I'm gonna have a hard way to go, I know that."

Lucas said he was always shown case reports, pictures, sometimes even videotapes and often was able to elicit more facts from unsuspecting or overeager policemen.

Once, when he was complaining about having to go to a couple of more states, I asked him:

"If you keep giving them cases, how are you going to be able to stop?"

Often he would answer this type of question by pointing out that as soon as he stopped, he would likely be sent to Death Row in the state penitentiary at Huntsville. And, he has often expressed the opinion that he would be killed there.

"Too many people have too much to lose," he said.

On and on it went. Finally I stopped trying to visit him and just concentrated for months on investigating the evidence, or lack of it, that police had compiled in determining where Lucas really was from 1975 to 1983.

It will prove interesting what Henry says now. In all likelihood, many people will be asking him questions — not entirely about murder.

Tall tales

Sometimes, 'Henry gets a little carried away'

Law enforcement officials have been eager to believe Henry Lee Lucas' often incredible confessions to murder, but some were so ludicrous that one might wonder how anything he said could be taken seriously.

"Henry gets a little carried away sometimes," Texas Ranger Sgt. Bob Prince said on one occasion.

Lucas has told authorities that he and Otis Toole were members of a cult called "The Hands Of Death," whose 500 members nationwide traveled worldwide — to France, Switzerland, Japan and Mexico — killing "for hire," sacrificing humans and often eating their flesh.

Asked how the cultists, who he said are scattered throughout the United States and Canada, were summoned to the periodic sacrificial rites, he replied:

"We'd send each other post-cards."

Last June, a Japanese television

crew went to Georgetown to interview Lucas. He greeted them with a grin and said, "I've got one in your country."

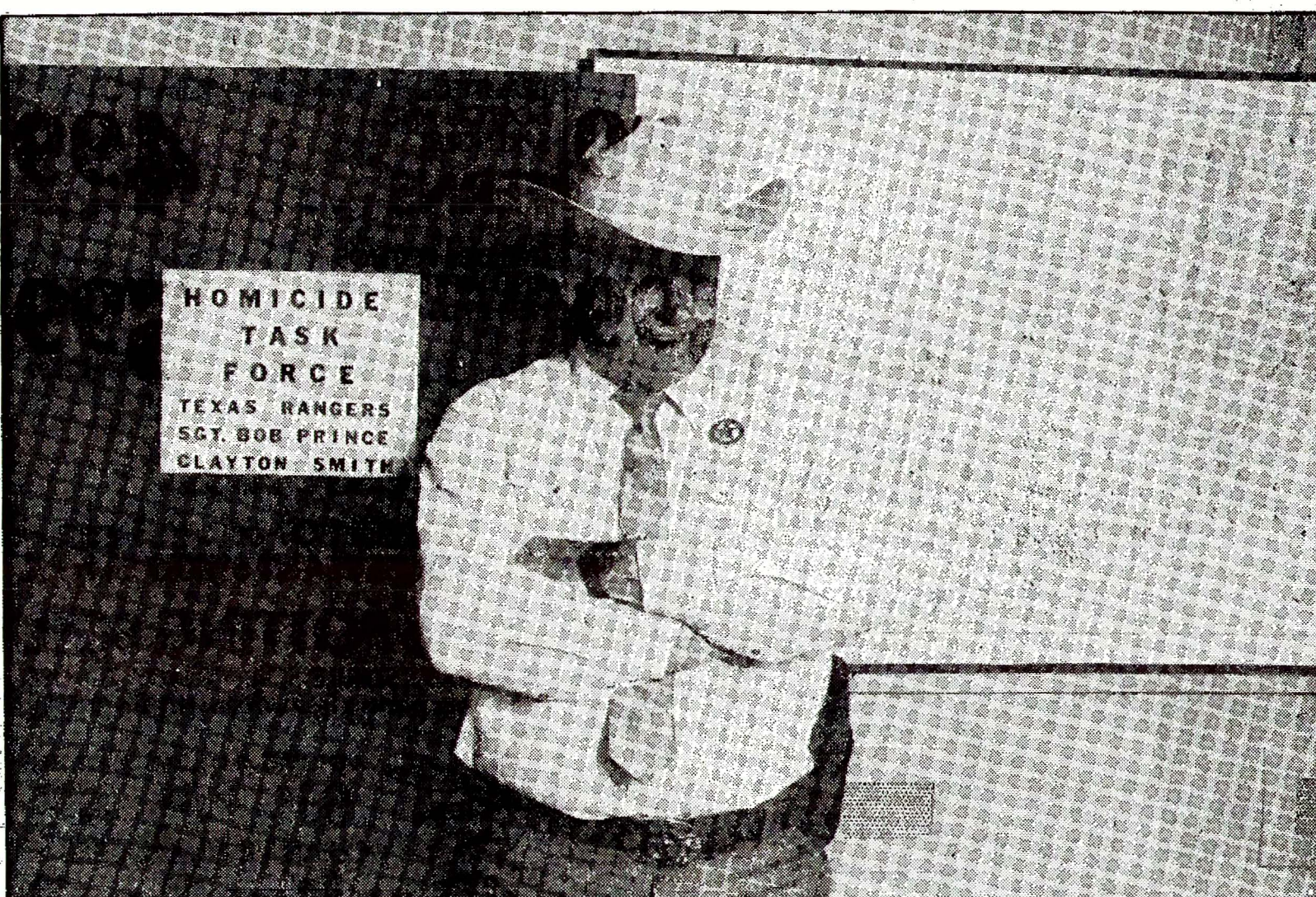
He once explained to a reporter that he had killed "every way known to man. Everything except poison. I never used poison; that's just too bad."

Asked how he knew the terrible effects of poison, Lucas grinned:

"You remember what happened in Guyana? I was the one that carried the poison to 'em."

Sometimes Lucas changes his story almost in the same breath. He once told a reporter that he and Toole "never left evidence, nothing anyone could ever find."

Moments later, he gleefully explained how he often teased the police. "We'd leave something a every site, usually something to confuse 'em."



TEXAS RANGER Sgt. Bob Prince, who been investigating several of the murders Henry Lee Lucas confessed to in Wil-

liamson County, says, "Henry gets a little carried away sometimes."

Michael S. Wirtz / Dallas Times Herald