

*Read this very close Tony.
Emotions ran very high, especially for a
Bad, Bad, Sheriff who can't legally close this*

TULSA WORLD

Hart Innocent; Case Won't Be Reopened

**By DOUG HICKS
Of the World Staff**
PRYOR — The investigation of the Girl Scout murders will not be reopened despite a jury's decision that Gene Leroy Hart is innocent of the slayings, Sheriff Pete Weaver said today.

One of the jurors, after being promised anonymity, said all 12 jurors agreed that Hart was innocent after only five minutes of deliberation.

Ser "Gene Hart Verdict"
 On A-10
 Related news on A-17, D-1

The jurors reviewed the case for four hours Thursday, decided to sleep on their decision, and then hurried only 40 minutes Friday before giving the decision to the court in a flight below the deliberation room.

"There was never any problem," the juror said. "We were all in agreement but we just wanted to be certain."

At one point during the Thursday deliberations concerning a evidence testimony concerning a Girl Scout Scout camp south of Lovett, Gene Hart was captured nearly 10 months after the sex slayings occurred.

"We just wanted to make sure we were straight on some dates," the juror said.

Several members of the prosecution team had taken that action as a sign the jury was nearing a guilty verdict. Guardedly optimistic, they had gathered at a motel south of Pryor Thursday night to sing, drink and talk about the case.

Friday morning, they and many others who believed Hart guilty were shocked.

"Weaver learned against a wall in the courthouse and admitted he was 'shit' and disgusted."

"I don't know and re-open the investigation," said Weaver, who had

been indirectly accused throughout the trial of planting evidence against Hart. One juror, whose name was not given, said Weaver had once checked for Weaver — put any credence in the accusation.

Another ex-jailer and Weaver had disputed that testimony.

"We had the man we were after," said Weaver, making it obvious he still believes Hart is guilty. He had said earlier he waited nearly two years to hear that one word — guilty — in the courtroom.

Ted Lemke, chief inspector of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation which spent countless man-hours tracking down Hart and developing the case, confirmed it will be reopened.

"I'm going to re-open it," said Lemke, who had traveled from his Oklahoma City office to hear the verdict. "Why should we? We had the right man."

Undersheriff Al Boyer — a longtime friend and employee of Weaver — vented his disappointment on a TV newsmen in the hallway.

"You boys get in every-body's

way," Boyer said, pushing the newsman against the wall.

Pandemonium broke out in the courtroom the instant Court Clerk Eugene Gist read the first of the three verdicts. Hart's supporters and relatives shouted and wept.

Chief defense attorney Garvin Hays pounded his fist on the table of his law partner, Gary Hutchinson, just as his left arm around an emotionally spent Hart.

"Everyone out of the courtroom!" Weaver shouted back at them. "Everyone out of the courtroom!"

Weaver and other officers escorted the group out of the courtroom.

"Upon hearing the first verdict, Hart placed his hands over his face and wept. He continued crying until the three verdicts were read.

The first verdict was in connection with the investigation death of Doris Donise Miller, 10.

Hier mother, Betty Miller, of Tulsa, remained composed until she left the courtroom and then broke into tears.

The next verdict Miss Gist read was in the death of Donase's son, Lori Farmer, 8, who was killed by a blow to the head.

Dr. Charles Farmer, husband of her wife, Sherri, hiding her tears with her hands. Later they walked across the street to the sheriff's office to pick up belongings Lori had with her the night of the June 13, 1977 murders.

The items included a letter Lori had written to her parents.

The third verdict was in connection with the girls' other teammate, Michele Guse, 9, who died of multiple blows to the head.

Richard Guse, his wife, GeorgeAnn, and their teen-aged son also quickly left the courthouse.

"It's not over," Guse later said from his Broken Arrow home. He did not explain what he meant and declined an interview.

As the jurors rose from their chairs and prepared to leave, Hart asked District Judge William J.



See Jury on A-1

Jury Took Only Five Minutes for Decision

Continued From A-1
Whistler, "Your honor, may I make a statement to the jury?"
"You may not," Whistler said.
While the jurors walked by him, Hart said, "Thanks ... thank you very much ... thanks; and often addressed them by name."

Three minutes after the trial was officially over, Hart was led handcuffed to a Highway Patrol cruiser and taken to the state penitentiary in McAlester where he faces from 145 to 305 years for rape, kidnapping and burglary sentences he received prior to his 1973 escape from Weaver's jail.

DEPUTY WARDEN BILL ARREDS said Hart was placed in "protective custody." But indicated he might soon be transferred into the prison's general population.
"Now that the trial is over and he has been acquitted, we don't feel like his safety is in jeopardy at this point," said Arreds, mentioning that Hart agreed to be interviewed early next week by the prison classification committee, which conceivably could give him some kind of job within the walls.

Arreds said Hart told him he was "anxious to get back into the routine of prison life."
"In any case, he's going to be here for a long, long time," Arreds said.

ISAACS HAS VOWED HE WILL immediately begin pushing for post-conviction relief on the string of sentences. Technically, he may have already served the rape-kidnapping sentence.

Hart committed four burglaries in Tulsa in May 1969 while on parole for the rape-kidnapping, records show. Tulsa County's chief prosecutor is S.M. Fallis Jr., who by request adopted the murder case and prosecuted Hart at the trial.

Fallis was not in the courthouse when the verdict was announced. His assistant, Ron Shaffer, dropped his head into his hands. The two prosecutors had worked together on the highly publicized case since last summer.

HART'S MOTHER, ELLA MAE Buckskin, was at her home in Locust Grove when the trial ended. Her niece, Tootsie Christie, left her teaching job at the Locust Grove elementary school and grove a weeping, rejoicing Mrs. Buckskin 18 miles to Pryor.

"The kids at the school cheered when they heard the news," Mrs. Christie said.

Earlier in the week at a Pryor grade school, she said, 32 of the 35 fourth-grade children had voted Hart innocent.

Mrs. Buckskin hurriedly walked the flight of stairs at the "Hart Hotel" — the defense headquarters — a half-block from the courthouse — and broke into tears again as she hugged Isaacs and Pritchlynn.

SHE TOLD ISAACS SHE "SAW A vision" at church Wednesday night that her son would be found innocent. After the crimes occurred 1 1/2 miles from her home at the time, she said another vision showed her that Hart had not committed the crimes.

"God is going to bring the boy home to me," Mrs. Buckskin said, hugging Isaacs again and again.
"I'm so happy," said Hart's sister, Nancy Baker.
"It's a miracle," said his other sister, Millie Leddave. "God did this."

ABOUT \$27,500 HAS BEEN spent to defend him, although more money is owed. As the family rejoiced Friday, they mentioned to many people that another fund-raising supper is scheduled April 5.

Isaacs may need some of the money to defend himself. Shortly after the jurors were dismissed, Whistler told Isaacs he was citing him for two counts of contempt of court.

Calling Isaacs' conduct "contemptuous and juvenile," Whistler said the 33-year-old defense attorney accused the judge and Fallis of "ganging up on him" while questioning a prospective juror.

Whistler said the other citation involved a flareup Thursday during closing arguments when Isaacs shouted three times that Fallis had lied regarding a piece of evidence brought up by the defense.

A HEARING ON THE CIVIL charges — which could carry jail time and a fine — is scheduled April 24. The hearing was to have taken place only hours after the trial, but Whistler postponed it at the request of David Poplin, one of three attorneys who came to the courtroom to defend Isaacs.

Poplin is from Pryor. The other two, D.C. Thomas and associate Jim Patterson, drove from their office in Oklahoma City.

Thomas defended former Gov. David Hall on bribery and extortion charges in 1976, and was the special prosecutor for the Oklahoma Court of the Judiciary in 1978. He proceeded against Durant Judge Sam Sullivan. Thomas and Patterson defended Norman Judge Elvin Brown in similar ouster proceedings.

THE TRIAL HERE LASTED three fewer days than Hart's 14-day-long preliminary hearing — reportedly the longest in state history.

Jury selection took as long as the trial. Isaacs and Hart said their jurist psychologist, Cathy Bennett, of Santa Barbara, Calif., had "been a real help" in gaining the verdict.

"She went beyond the questions we normally would have asked," Pritchlynn said. "She put special meaning on some of the answers and helped us tell who would hear the case with an open mind."

The jurors were George L. Kelly, the foreman and a Pryor plant manager; Jack Mitchell Jr., Adair basketball coach who lives in Pryor; Sandra Garrett, housewife, Spavinaw; Mrs. Melvin Young, housewife, Adair; Leita Ramsey, housewife, Pryor; Nauda Virgle Shipp, utility foreman, Pryor; Lawrence G. Berry, aircraft structure mechanic, Adair; Leota Maye Jackson, inventory clerk, Pryor; Wanda R. Hale, grocery store employee, Pryor; Oke D. Shamblin, pipefitter, Pryor; Marlon Richard, electrician, Adair, and Joan Littlefield, loader operator, Adair.

2 Charged in Tahlequah With Harboring Hart

By DOUG HICKS
Of the World Staff

TAHLEQUAH — A Cherokee medicine man and another full-blood Cherokee — who a deputy sheriff said were only "following the code of the hills" — were charged Wednesday with harboring accused Girl Scout slayer Gene Leroy Hart.

State Crime Bureau agents arrested Sam Pigeon Jr., 60, Wednesday

Related photos on E-1

morning at his job at the Ozark Nursery south of Tahlequah.

Pigeon has admitted to at least four newspaper reporters that he shared his home with Hart, but said he did so "cause I don't think he did it."

ALSO CHARGED BUT NOT ARRESTED was William Lee Smith, 58, a medicine man who is in Missouri working for the Kansas City Southern Railroad. Smith is expected to return to his home near Vian Friday, at which time he will be arrested, District Attorney John Russell Jr. said.

Russell alleges that Smith took Hart to Pigeon's home, located southeast of Tahlequah in the Cookson Hills, last August and returned from time to time with food and money.

Crime Bureau agents arrested Hart, charged with a trio of first-degree murder counts in the June 13 slayings of three Tulsa-area Girl Scouts last June near Locust Grove, at Pigeon's three-room shack April 6.

PIGEON, WHO WAS BORN AND REARED in the shack and who cannot read and can barely speak English, pleaded innocent to "harboring a fugitive from justice" through his attorney, John Ghostbear of Tulsa.

Associate District Judge Lynn Burris set preliminary hearing for April 28. Pigeon was released on a \$5,000 bond posted by his nephew, Ri-

chard Holcolm, who lives near the suspect in the Tailholt community near Weller.

Pigeon understands some English but usually speaks in Cherokee, according to Holcolm, who served as an interpreter during the brief arraignment.

"THIS AIN'T NO GOOD," HOLCOLM said, alluding to the charge against his uncle as the two emerged from the courtroom. "I don't like it."

Tears appeared to well in Pigeon's eyes as he left the courtroom, but Cherokee County sheriff's deputies —

attempting to cheer him up, joked with him and eventually caused him to smile.

"A lot of people like Sam Pigeon," said Deputy Sheriff Jack Broad.

Deputy Sheriff Scott Broad, a full blood Cherokee as is Hart, said the triple-murder suspect was provided help because "it's the code of the hills. They were only following the code... helping one of their own in a time of need. It has always been this way."

ANOTHER DEPUTY SHERIFF, who asked not to be identified, said...
See 2, Page 1, Column 1

NON-CLARE PEPER

2 Accused Of Hiding Gene Hart

Continued from A-1

time," said Pigeon was only doing what he had been taught to do all his life.

"If he had a garden and you had a garden and your garden failed," the deputy said, "he would give you half of his garden.

"If you wandered in there to his place he would do the same thing for you.

"If he owed you three cents he would walk 20 miles to pay you," the deputy added. "This is the kind of man Sam Pigeon is ... and 99 percent of the people around here will tell you the same thing."

DISTRICT ATTORNEY RUSSELL said he "had no choice" but to charge Smith and Pigeon.

"I would be derelict in my duties if I did not prosecute them," Russell said.

Russell said he will subpoena four newspaper reporters, Jerry Fink of the Tulsa World, Susan Witt of the Tulsa Tribune, Greg Hardin of the Muskogee Phoenix and Times-Democrat, and Jim Etter of the Daily Oklahoman, to testify at the preliminary hearing. Each spoke with Pigeon following Hart's arrest.

Fink, the first reporter to interview Pigeon, said Pigeon told him that Hart was brought to his home by a man from the other side of Vian, whom he later identified as William Smith.

FINK SAID PIGEON TOLD HIM that he had not met Hart before that time in August.

Assistant District Attorney Nathan Young III, who also is a Cherokee, said Pigeon and Smith belong to the Keetoowah band of the tribe. He said that band, which is also known as the Nighthawks, is "religious, highly conservative and traditionalist."

To not help a brother in need could be construed as not following the ways of the ancient band, it was indicated in various conversations here Wednesday.

PIGEON, WEARING A BASEBALL cap, overalls, work jacket and work boots, returned to his job as a field hand at the nursery following his release.

His lawyer said Pigeon has never been arrested before Wednesday.

Hart is being held in the Mayes County Jail in Pryor, where a preliminary hearing on the murder charges is scheduled June 6.

Wednesday, Hart's mother and two sisters, Ella Mae Sullatuskee Buckskin, Nancy Baker and Mille Little-dave, visited him in the jail.

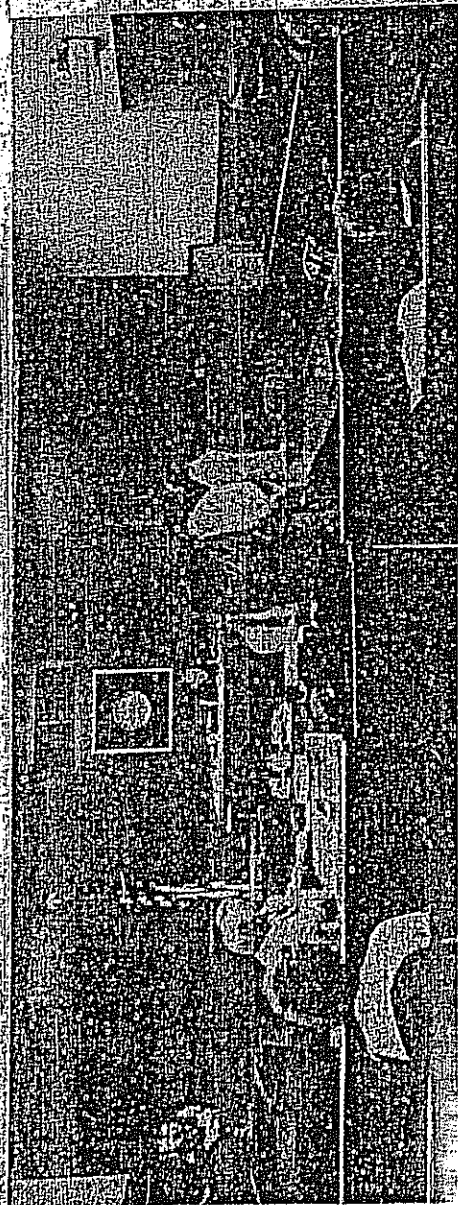
THE WOMEN, SEARCHED BY Deputy Sheriff Maxine Randolph, spoke to Hart through a narrow opening in his maximum security cell door.

After the one hour visit, they avoided the news media as they made their way to a car.

Hart is under extremely tight security. He broke out of the Mayes County jail twice in 1973.

TULSA CITY COUNTY LIBRARY,
REFERENCE DIVISION

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 HISTORICAL BUILDING
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. 73105



**Hart
 turns**

Gene Leroy Hart, indicted by attorneys Garvin J. Jett and Gary Pitchlym, stands before District Judge Byron Ed Williams as he is sentenced to three years in prison on seven charges including three burglaries, injury to a public building, escape and possession of a firearm after a former felony conviction. In Monday's short session, which was the first time all cameras were allowed during a Hart hearing, Jeffersonian Photo by Michael W. Jean

THE PRYOR JEFFERSONIAN

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FIVE SECTIONS
 54 PAGES
 THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1979
 PRYOR, OKLAHOMA 74361

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 15

Gets Three Years Hart Pleads to Seven Charges

Gene Leroy Hart made his last appearance in Mayes County Court Monday, pleading guilty to seven charges dating from his 1974 escape from the Mayes County Jail. In a plea arrangement between Hart's attorney Garvin J. Jett, Isaac and District Attorney Jack Graves, Hart received seven three-year sentences to be served concurrently. District Judge Byron Ed Williams told the attorneys and Hart that he was satisfied with the arrangement.

It was Hart's first appearance in court here since a six-year, six-month jury found Hart "not guilty" of the June 1977 assassinations of three Tulsa area Girl Scouts at Camp Scott.

After a request by a newsman, Judge Williams permitted photography in the courtroom.

that all cameras have been allowed during a Mayes County court session. The seven charges included three counts of second degree burglary, two counts of injury to a public building, one escape charge and one count of possession of a concealable weapon after former felony conviction.

Hart pleaded guilty to the May 25, 1978 burglaries of the Jim Yarborough, Locust Grove residence and the Hoyt DeArmond residence in Saltburg on the May 31, 1978 burglary of the Tom Jones residence in Stratton. Judge Williams asked Hart if he understood the charges and Hart answered "yes, sir."

Hart waived his rights to preliminary hearing and pre-sentence investigation and then Williams sentenced Hart to three years for the

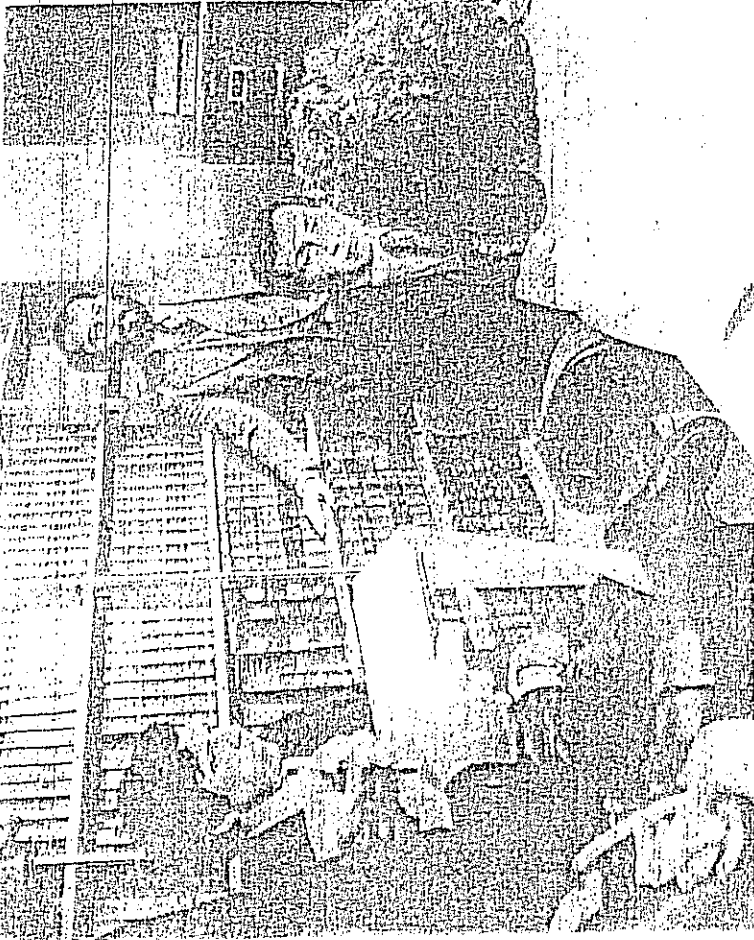
The three-year total will be added to the 46 to 505-year sentence Hart is presently serving for the rape of two Tulsa women and four Tulsa County burglaries.

After the short hearing, Hart was taken back to the state prison at McAlester. Several of Hart's friends and relatives attended the hearing, including his sisters Nancy Baker and Millie Littlepage. Hart received a new pair of shoes from the family after the hearing, as well as a new pocket watch.

Several local lawmen were critical of the plea arrangement on the ground that Hart could have received a total of 65 years if given the maximum sentences and three years for the minimum disposition term.

One critic predicted Hart could be free within three-

THE PRYOR POLICE SOCIETY
 100 N. WILSON
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. 73105



Hart
 interview

Services Friday in Locust Grove

Gene Hart Dies of Heart Attack at State Prison

Gene Leroy Hart, who was acquitted two months ago of the accusations of Gene Hart Scouts, died Monday night after suffering a heart attack at the state prison in McAlester.

Hart, 35, had been jogging and exercising at the prison when he collapsed. Efforts to revive him at a McAlester hospital failed, an autopsy performed in Oklahoma City Tuesday showed that Hart had serious heart damage, and that he probably suffered a heart attack within the past three years.

Two weeks ago Hart made his last appearance in court, pleading guilty to seven charges in connection with his 1970 escapes from the Mayes County jail. Hart received seven three-year sentences on the charges.

Hart's death ends one of Oklahoma's most notorious jail break manhunt and trials. He was charged with the murder of Leroy "Red" Carter.

Michelle Gusk, 9 and Doris Pernice Miller, 10, Girl Scouts who had started a week-long camping trip at Camp Wood near Locust Grove, Okla., were found about 10 years from their tent early on the morning of June 13.

The Locust Grove built school football team was charged with the murders in June 1977 and remained in custody until April 4, 1978, after conviction.

A predator, "running" seven years ago in Mayes County attracted dozens of newsmen from around the county. Ass-shack District Judge has called alleged a "predator" character in the court.

to allow persons in the Graham Community Hall, across the street, to hear the proceedings. The proceedings hearing resulted in the "predator" being sentenced to life in prison.

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he was arrested in Chesteen County.

Hart had escaped from the Mayes County jail in 1977 and was charged with the murders in June 1977 and remained in custody until April 4, 1978, after conviction.

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Truckers Shut Down Cherokee Truck Stop

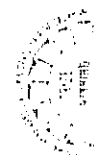
The independent truckers' protest against the Cherokee Truck Stop management. Marsh said "they" that all truck stops in the nation would be shut down early this week, but his plans have been thwarted by the state truck stop management.

Marsh said independent truckers want to see if they can shut down the Cherokee Truck Stop. Marsh said "they" that all truck stops in the nation would be shut down early this week, but his plans have been thwarted by the state truck stop management.

Marsh, who led a similar truck stop shut down in Tulsa last week, said independent truckers must make a living because of the high cost of fuel.

THE PRYOR

JEFFERSONIAN



Langley Police Chief

Langley Police Chief

Routine day

prison law library, ate in the dining room and exercised in the prison yard.

"Hart was well-regarded by the other inmates," Deputy Warden Bill Arends said.

"I have no desire to be a hero," the soft-spoken Cherokee said at a trial press conference. "Maybe I represent the fears and doubts that many people have about a case like this in the system that we have."

Hart crossed the rotunda Monday en route to breakfast

(Continued from Page 1)

and again on his way to work. Four stories above the red and white checkered floor of the 72-year-old rotunda, armed guards keep a constant vigil along a gunway. More guards watch from a bullet-proof cage centered on the rotunda floor above the control center for all of the prison's doors.

At about 7:30 a.m. each morning, Hart climbed four flights of stairs to work as a law library clerk. He did legal research for other inmates in the state-salaried position.

At 4:30 p.m. Monday, Hart's regular supper hour, he ate meatloaf and vegetables.

The former high school football star kept his 5-foot-9, 190-pound body fit. He exercised each evening after eating.

Wearing blue prison denim, Hart walked through the rotunda for the last time a few minutes after 5 p.m. on his way to the yard.

Unseen guards opened four

remotely controlled gates and doors allowing Hart to pass. It was in the 80s and the sun was low in the sky as he joined about 150 other inmates in the yard.

After lifting weights for 45 minutes, Hart continued his routine by running the perimeter of the yard.

Corrections Officer Paul Moody called the rotunda from his tower perch at 6:42 p.m. when he saw Hart collapse.

Corrections Lt. S.L. Key dispatched several guards with a stretcher. They found Hart immobile on the ground. He was taken to the nearby infirmary. Paramedics immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

They continued CPR as Hart was rushed in a green prison station wagon to McAlester Regional Hospital on the other side of town.

Hart was pronounced dead at 7:25 p.m. — 20 minutes after arriving — by Dr. Blake Berry, the attending physician.

Hart dies

(Continued from Page 1)

victims, said she wondered after hearing of Hart's death. "Has justice been done?"

"I still think he was the one who killed Lori, but I feel shaken about his death. I feel... torn," said Mrs. Farmer.

Members of Hart's family in the Locust Grove vicinity were in seclusion. Locust Grove minister Bill Grass was contacting family members, Weaver said.

Weaver, who led the probe into the Girl Scout slayings, said Hart's sudden death was "food for thought."

Jeff McLemore, editor of the Cherokee Advocate, an official tribal newspaper headquartered in Tahlequah, spoke with Hart at the prison for nearly five hours Friday.

It was the first broad-ranging interview granted by Hart, a full-blooded Cherokee. He spoke with newsmen during his March trial about topics other than the murder charges against him.

Hart requested the still-unpublished interview to speak with his people, McLemore said. He said Hart "seemed very at ease, very positive" during the interview.

Hart was a fugitive from a September 1973 escape from the Mayes County jail at the time he was charged with the slayings at Camp Scott near Locust Grove.

He pleaded guilty two weeks ago to charges of escape and burglary stemming from that escape and a May 1973 breakout at the same jail.

Hart was also serving state sentences on convictions of burglary, rape and kidnapping stemming from a 1967 incident. Isaacs had told jurors Hart owed the state more than 300 years on previous convictions. But prison officials said after Hart's acquittal in March his sentences, some of them to be served concurrently, would total about 90 years.

State investigators at first said they would not re-open their investigation into the slayings of the three young girls two years ago this month. But agents have done further work on the case since Hart was found innocent.

The bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guste, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10, were found with their sleeping bags 100 yards from their bloody platform tent. All had been sexually molested.

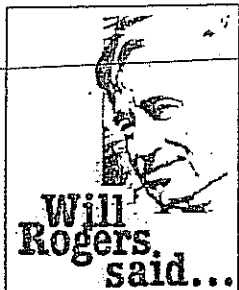
Authorities charged Hart with the slayings that occurred in the rugged hills near his boyhood home after finding photographs belonging to him alongside evidence connected with the slayings.

One of the largest manhunts in Oklahoma history failed to turn up a slayer in the snake and tick-infested hills. Nearly 10 months later, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents, acting on an informant's tip, burst into a shack 50 miles from the Girl Scout camp and arrested Hart.

He was taken directly to the state prison's death row, where he stayed except during court appearances until his acquittal.

Hart burst into sobs when the Mayes County District Court jury pronounced him innocent of the slayings. He asked to be allowed to address jurors, but was refused and was whisked back to the state prison to begin serving previous sentences.

Hart was moved back into the prison's general population a few days after he was sent back to the institution.

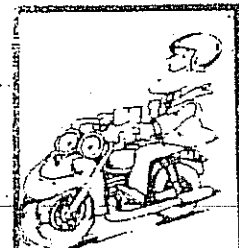


"I don't know about the other tribes, but I do know that the American race descended from the cow. And Wrigley was smart enough to furnish the cud. He has made the whole world chew for Democracy." — December 9, 1923.

"You never get so cold that somebody don't want you at a benefit, and they have always got audiences too." — February 3, 1935.

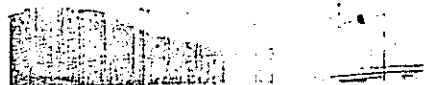
"Advice can get you in more trouble than a gun can." — August 20, 1933.

"That's what's the matter with this country. It's been advised to death. An editorial might explain the right course for everyone to pursue, but who wants to pursue it?" — November 23, 1930.



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BEN BOGGS REALTY is presented a certifi of Profit. Pryor Area Chamber of Com Williams (right) presents the certificate to a realty office located at 23 N. Adair opened Times Photo.

Foundry

(Continued from P

signatures was needed by Monday afternoon more than 100 signatures had been brought in to The Times office and workers say more will come in each day.

"We're strictly willing to stay out," Fairsheets declared. "We're after better benefits and more pay and better language in our contract."

Pryor Foundry Steelworkers voted to strike March 21 after rejecting a package which they say included only a 3.6 cent pay raise.

Chuck Willyard, local president, said in a March 21 interview that the company wanted to deduct a cost-of-living wage hike and increased insurance costs from the seven-percent wage increase limit President Carter had proposed.

He said that would leave the 3.8 cent raise. "All we're asking for is a fair break and 3.8 cents is not a fair break."

Nelson said Monday that the 350-member local union had voted "100 percent NO" on a \$2.80 package, which included a 20-cent raise, offered by the company at a May 15 meeting.

He said an overwhelming majority of the striking workers are prepared to stay out as long as it takes to get a contract "the people can live with."

Nelson, who has worked at the plant for three years, said most of the workers had

prepared for the str were able to withsu financial drain.

He criticized anonymous spok quoted in Sunday's "It needs help the at-ays ready to hel said.

Nelson is a membe negotiating committ said meeting is sol something this week. Bill Kannegiesse



GRAND PRIZE! Grand Opening Wards manager Mrs. William A. outside Locust G. table television.

Boys St

(Continued from P

Tahlequah's Northeastern State University to learn about city and county government.

Each dormitory was a county and each floor of each dormitory was a city. There were a total of four counties and 16 cities in Boys State.

There were no Democrats or Republicans during the week, but there were political parties. Once you entered Boys State you became a

boom or a Sooner. lived and died in politics.

City officials were first and once the city were taken care political parties from city joined to nomin elect county officials.

Several ordinance passed by the city including ordinances unruly noise, unruly while marching and

Peoples Bank

(Continued from Page 1)

its conclusion "

In a Petition for Certiorari filed May 25, State Attorney General Jan Eric Cartwright asks the Supreme Court to reverse or modify the Bank Review Board's decision.

The attorney general's petition says the Court of Bank Review based its decision on "erroneous conclusions" and "acted in excess of its authority."

The Court of Bank Review is made up of three district

Commission.

Local businessman Wilkerson, one organizers of People says he is confident will be chartered.

"We feel it is det our favor," he said. "We're satisfied t Supreme Court will the three-judge tribi

Wilkerson added, doubts the Suprem will even agree to case.

Primary Slated July 24 For Commissioner Post

A special primary election in the event of opposition for the nomination will be held throughout County Commissioner District One of Mayes County July 24.

The purpose of the election is to nominate candidates to fill the vacancy existing due to the death of H. N. "Major" Langley, Jr.

The filing period will open at 8 a.m. June 24 and close at 5 p.m. June 27. Declarations

of candidacy forms may be obtained at the county Election Board office in the Mayes County Courthouse.

Registration books for the following precincts will close July 18 and reopen July 28: Adair 1, Adair 2, Center, Rider, River 3, Pryor W-1, Pryor W-2 Precinct 1 and Pryor W-3 Precinct 1.

Requests for absentee ballots can be obtained at the Mayes County Election Board office.

Pryor Sales Tax Take Sets Record in April

Pryor merchants had a record month in April, according to the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

April business resulted in \$109,333 in city sales tax, money which was refunded to the city of Pryor during the June disbursement.

The record-setting total was \$25,000 ahead of April 1978, and about \$6,000 higher than the previous total set in December 1978.

Other area cities and towns had higher sales tax totals also, but nothing like the gain in Pryor.

Claremore business during April resulted in \$114,110 in city sales tax, compared with \$110,081 for April of 1978.

Vinita, which also has a two-cent city sales tax, gained \$52,234 in April of this year, compared with \$49,410

See TAX Page 4

1,000 Attend Hart Funeral

About 1,000 persons attended the funeral of Gene Leroy Hart Friday in the

Locust Grove High School gymnasium.

Hart, 35 died last week

after suffering a heart attack at the McAlester state prison. He was serving a 140-305 year

prison term for burglary, rape and kidnap.

Rev. Bill Grass said Hart "had a terrible time getting a good start, life was a struggle for him."

Hart's mother, Ella Mae Buckskin, and several other family members, sat on the front row, occasionally wiping away tears during the hour-long service.

"Sonny had to do the best he could do, and he had to rely on his mother," Rev. Grass said.

The Cherokee preacher recounted Hart's success as a football player at Locust Grove. "He could run like a deer with a football, and bring his team to victory. But he began running into man's laws."

Rev. Grass voiced the family's approval of those who came to his aid, including Ross Swimmer, principal chief of the Cherokee nation and attorneys Garvin Isaacs and Gary Pitchlynn.

Hart was acquitted of the June 1977 murders of three Tulsa area Girl Scouts after a month-long trial here this

See FUNERAL Page 4



Funeral
March

Led by Rev. Bill Grass, pallbearers carry the body of Gene Leroy Hart to a hearse following Hart's funeral service Friday at the Locust Grove High School Gymnasium. Hart was later buried in the Ballou Cemetery, not far from his boyhood home. (Jeffersonian Photo by Betty Smith)

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TAX —

for the same period last year. Adair's new two-cent city tax put \$1,004 into city coffers.

Chelsea showed slight gain from \$4,952 last April to \$5,110 in April 1970.

Chouteau had an increase from \$6,014 last April to \$7,597 this year.

Other area towns, showing this April's city sales tax income and April 1970 income in parenthesis include: Disney \$2,799 (\$2,002); Inola \$5,154 (\$4,790); Kansas \$1,124 (\$953); Ketchum \$3,658 and (\$2,339); Langley \$5,681 (\$2,309); Locust Grove \$9,428 (\$7,351); Salina \$4,802 (\$3,015); and Spavinaw \$1,521 (\$607).

FUNERAL —

Rev. Grass said "Sonny was gloriously saved by Jesus Christ three weeks ago."

He said that Hart believed "he has a better place to go."

"But God spoke for his life" Rev. Grass said. "You went through enough, I'll call you home now. You come and live with me."

Following the services, Hart's body was buried in the Ballew Cemetery, south of Locust Grove, near his boyhood home.

OSAGE —

been denied because the school is in poor financial condition. In a statement to the press, Alfred said the school will have less than \$1,000 in the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

The main argument put forth by the school board is "they made the choice where to live, not the school board."

But parents who want their children transferred away from Osage are convinced that they will either get transfers, or they will simply close the school.

"I'm not anxious to send our kid to Pryor," said one parent, "I'm just concerned with the quality of education at Osage."

COUNCIL —

about ninety percent of the complaints by eliminating the "deserving" category.



Current Needs

Paul Thomas, left, and James L. Gordon, Chief of the United Keetoowah Band discuss current needs of the Cherokee people. Gordon told Thomas, "I'm glad that a man of your caliber is seeking position on the Cherokee council."

Paul Thomas Seeks Slot On Cherokee Government

Paul B. Thomas, state parole officer here, is seeking election to the council of the Cherokee Nation.

Thomas, a member of the Keetoowah Band, and member of the band's council from Coo-wee-scoo-wee District, was born and educated in Adair.

If elected Thomas said he would settle the Arkansas

Riverbed issue, and provide a per-capita payment if Cherokees desire.

Thomas also pledged to work toward election of councilmen from districts rather than at-large election and secure funding for community representative organizations.

Other plans by Thomas include improvement of em-

ployment, housing, health and education of Cherokee special help for elderly youth, and using Indian hospitals for Indians.

Thomas was critical of slate of candidates proposed by Chief Ross Swimmer said the slate does not aid for representation of financial and social back-

"They are all well fed, housed and securely employed," Thomas said.

Thomas' grandfather, "Bud" Thomas, was an original Cherokee Chief before it was disbanded, 1907.

Thomas advocates control of the Arkansas River that sale to the federal government. "I think river bed will be a continuing source of income for the state. The water will be more precious than anything and god it will flow for 100 years."

Use Claim Number In Inquiries to SS

People getting social security checks who write or call about their monthly benefits should remember to always include their claim number in their inquiry a social security representative said recently.

What is being reported Date it happened The person's signature The person's address

Detailed information about what to report and how to report can be found in the booklet "What to Report to Social Security."

Company Pryor

and Dixie Borer. Barbara Briley has been named branch manager for the 2B S. Coo-Y-Yah office.

Alpha started in the small business, and later changed to real estate investments. Now, with the phenomenal growth of the company, Alpha is branching into consumer loans.

Stockholders of the company are "hand picked" and include doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, educators, industrialists, farmers and retailers.

The consumer loans will include appliances, cars, boats, mobile homes, home repair, motor bikes, consolidation loans and others. The decision was made to expand into consumer lending because of the "apparent shortage of capital in this area."

Alpha Investment remains a diversified company with interests in duplexes, retail commercial buildings, single family rentals, mortgage loans and undeveloped property.

Growing consistently since founding in 1966, the company paid ten percent dividends at the end of the first year of operation.

The board of directors of Alpha said, "The board feels a new financial service will be in competition with the present financial institutions."

rather will better the community availability and cost to the community."

Mitchell Seeks Commission Post

Mitchell, a long-time resident of Adair, announced today that he plans to run for county commissioner of Mayes County, in appointing special com-

missioner. Mitchell said that he would like to be as good next county commissioner and felt he was qualified by his experience in road building. A formal announcement will be made soon.

W. AMH...
SHE RISES...

last year the 35 cents per er month. tion Monday rd okayed a

data processing agreement for \$5,181.96 for next school year, up about \$300 from this year's contract; requisitions of \$1,107 and encumbrances of \$54,747.60.

OTHERING YOU?

Roberts

but He will intervention m of a strong ou should do commonplace dical care or from your for awhile Elijah did. It simple you ave imagined But you will his plan when

you begin to experience renewed strength and the will to live again.

Would you join me in this prayer? "Dear God, I am Yours and You are mine. Through faith, I am looking beyond my own natural ability to You and Your power. And I am expecting to receive absolutely the right help from You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

tesy Promotes eation Safety

courtesy, the right of respect for the go a long way pleasant sum-onal season," rector George Oklahoma De-ildlife Conser-

governing the use of public lands and waters that are covered in Department regulations and in the Federal Code," Wint observed, "and most sporting goods stores and hunting and fishing license vendors have state regulations. Federal regulations are available at all Corps of Engineers project offices."

Wint said the objective of all the regulations is to develop an awareness of the importance of conserving and maintaining these public areas and the wildlife found there. He added that picking up litter is an example of responsibly using a public area.

Show Features shing, Net Finding

and locating are featured is week's Okla-rs, which airs at day, June 7 and 1 a.m., Sunday, hn Lowrey and ll will join hosts and David War-ssing this week's o featured is the port, a timely hunting, fishing

and other outdoor activities. The program airs on Channel 11, Tulsa.

Survey is Completed A comprehensive historical and architectural survey of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge buildings and structures has been completed by the Oklahoma State Historical Preservation Office. The study identified five properties of National register quality

where I found her."

Would he go to war again? "I would rather do it as let my boy do it," Ingersoll said.

Ingersoll, who was awarded the Silver Star commented on President Carter's visit to Normandy recently. "Carter put a wreath on Omaha Beach. Somebody who gives amnesty to draft dodgers doesn't belong on Omaha Beach."

HOME —

56 permits issued for a total estimated construction cost of \$1,159,400.

May 1979 permits included one church addition for \$90,000, one commercial remodel for \$4,600 and eight residential remodel permits for \$35,700.

HART —

month of trial a six-man, six-women jury found Hart "not guilty" after five hours of deliberation.

Services for Hart are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday in the Locust Grove High School gymnasium with Rev. Bill Grass officiating.

The Jones - Wilson - Cunningham funeral home is conducting arrangements.

Hart is survived by his mother, Ella Mae Buckskin, of the home; a son, Donald Eugene Hart of Locust Grove; three brothers, Jimmy Buckskin, Altus, and Millard Johnson and Thurman Johnson, both of Locust Grove; a foster brother Kirby Vaughan, Locust Grove; three sisters, Millie Little-dave, Locust Grove, Nancy Baker, Salina and Tammy Buckskin of the home and a half-sister Rena Hart, Tahlequah.

Heritage Music Contest Underway

The Oklahoma Heritage Association is conducting its annual "Songs of Oklahoma Heritage" competition. The winner annually receives \$100 cash and a plaque. For details write the Heritage Association at 201 NW 14 Street, Oklahoma City 73103.

League Remodels Home

The Junior League of Oklahoma City is remodeling the Blinn House at 600 N. Western in Oklahoma City, to become its headquarters. The two story former home later used as a county home for girls is on the National Register of Historic Places.

electd a new chapter president and vice president at its final meeting of the school year last week.

The top two officers assumed their responsibilities June 1 and will serve during the summer months working with the faculty advisors and state officers in planning activities and programs for the 1979-80 school year. Other chapter officers will be elected when the fall term begins.

Elected as the new chapter president is Brenda Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith of Salina. The new FTA President has completed two years in the FTA program, winning recognition

She was one of five Salina FTA members to receive chapter scholarships which were awarded on the basis of meritorious participation in the total FTA program. Miss Smith will be a senior the next school term.

Tamara Holt was elected as the Salina FTA vice president. She is the daughter of Mrs. Anna Jones of Salina. Miss Holt also serves on the state OFTA Board of Directors as Northeastern District FTA Representative. She was elected to the district position at the state FTA Convention held this spring at OSU, Stillwater. She will be a junior at Salina High School this fall.

Kenneth Snelling

If you missed me last week, bless you. The truth is, my mind was a blank, I just couldn't fill in. I was unable to think of anything worth writing about.

In perspective, the trifling events of my childhood seem too insignificant to mention. I had most of the diseases, except smallpox. That, during that last epidemic, I handed magazines through doors to patients whose faces were a fright.

We keep hearing about the energy shortage. It occurs to me that we could all take longer steps. The saving of shoe leather to an individual would be small, but on a national scale think of the soles that would be saved.

I could discuss the weather, which will be with us whether or not. May was wetter and cooler than usual, but if June is not hotter and drier, Congress will consider repealing the law of averages. It is rumored that they intend to start summer on July 21 instead of June 21, which will extend warm weather to save fuel.

"Inflation will mean higher prices," an astute headline in the Tulsa paper the other day, is a conclusion easily reached by any six-year-old paying 25 cents for the same

kind of candy bar I used to get three for a dime at Skaggs. But then, I used to pay 20 cents for lunch - two hot dogs, a Coke and a piece of pie.

Of course, about the time our daughter was born, my salary was cut to \$111.25 per month. We hoped to have the quarter left over.

I have always considered it prudent to stay away from the subjects of religion and politics, although it is difficult to keep from hearing about them. My parents were from the south, Democrat and Methodist. When I determine this combination is a blessing or a handicap, I will exercise the option of commitment or rejection.

I promise not to talk about it.

I could talk about soap operas (detergent dramas) but the time this would consume could be better spent watching the darn things.

"All My Children" are married, I sure intend to stay out of "General Hospital," so with my "One Life to Live" I hope for a long one.

I may spend a few of my fleeting moments of inspiration writing.

About trivia, of course. Now that's something to get serious about.

Gene Hart death 'not surprising'

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Medical experts were to conduct an autopsy today to determine the cause of the sudden death of Gene Leroy Hart, who was killed in the 1977 slayings of three girls in McAlester.

Officials at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary said Hart died of an apparent heart attack after about an hour of lifting weights and jogging in the prison exercise yard.

Law officers had said privately they thought Hart's life would be in danger in the maximum security prison's general population, even though he was found innocent of the double crime.

"It was not surprising," said Mayes County Sheriff Peter Wenver after learning of Hart's death. "Even convicts have their code of honor."

Hart was serving sentences from Mayes County at the prison. Attorney Gary Hiebsman, who assisted in deterring Hart against three charges of first-degree murder, indicated he would be at the state medical examiner's office in Oklahoma City today.

"It's easy to suspect a heart attack, but we won't be satisfied until we get the results of the autopsy," Hiebsman said.

Hiebsman said Hart had no history of heart problems. Hart, 35, collapsed at 11:22 p.m. Monday after exercising with temporary nurses in the mid his name about 6 p.m. officials said.

State's Attorney: Corrections Department spokeswoman said doctors attempted to revive Hart for 20 minutes before pronouncing him dead at an apparent heart attack at 7:25 p.m. at a McAlester hospital.

Gene Hart death 'not surprising'

In Mike Perry, emergency room physician at the hospital, said Hart appeared to be dead on arrival after emergency transfer from the prison infirmary.

Sid Wise, former Mayes County district attorney who

A routine day for 'Big Mac' prisoner

McALESTER, Okla. — One cellblock following his acquittal March 30. He had been charged with murdering three girls in 1977. Much of his time since his April 3, 1978, capture was spent in the prison's death row.

Had Hart been found guilty, he might have remained on death row inmates there are not allowed in the exercise yard where he died.

Monday, as he did every day, Hart worked in the secondary of the west

Gene Leroy Hart, 35, followed the schedule of an average inmate at "Big Mac" for more than two months except for a trip to Mayes County May 22 to plead guilty to 1973 escape and burglary charges. He was housed in the secondary of the west

Hart in days after the June 13, 1977 slayings of a northwestern Oklahoma summer camp, said Hart's death reflected "the kind of fate."

"It reaffirms my belief that justice will prevail, even if you have to go higher than men and women sitting on a jury," said Wise. "The kind of fate or the Almighty steps in when the system fails."

Wise said he never doubted Hart's guilt. He said the investigation "always pointed positively" toward Hart and to one else.

But a Mayes County District Court jury acquitted Hart March 30 after a month-long trial. Jurors said they knew minutes after starting deliberations Hart would be found innocent.

Tulsa County District Attorney S.M. Falls Jr., who prosecuted Hart, said he "did not rejoice in the death of any individual."

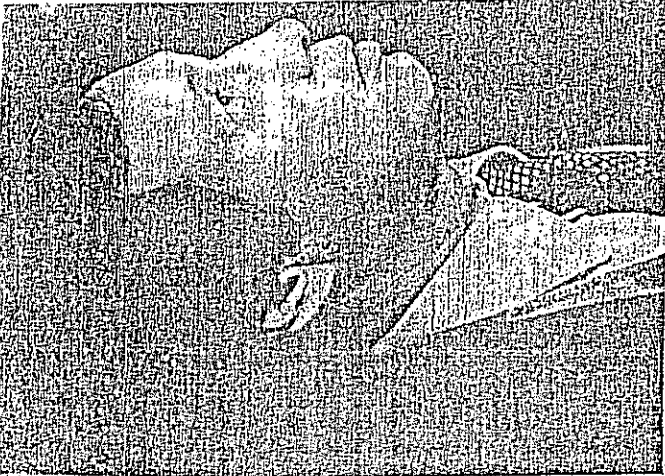
"To be candid and fair, though, I would have to say it is not the same feeling of sorrow I had at the announcement of the death of those three little girls," Falls said.

Garvin James, Hart's chief attorney, was unavailable for comment. Pitchlynn said Hart's relatives in the Locust Grove area were shocked.

"After all they've been through, to be asked to face this now is more than any family should be asked to bear," Pitchlynn said. "They fought long and hard to save this man. It's a shock."

Mrs. Short Partner of Tulsa, mother of the youngest of the

(Continued on Page 2)



The Daily Times Democrat

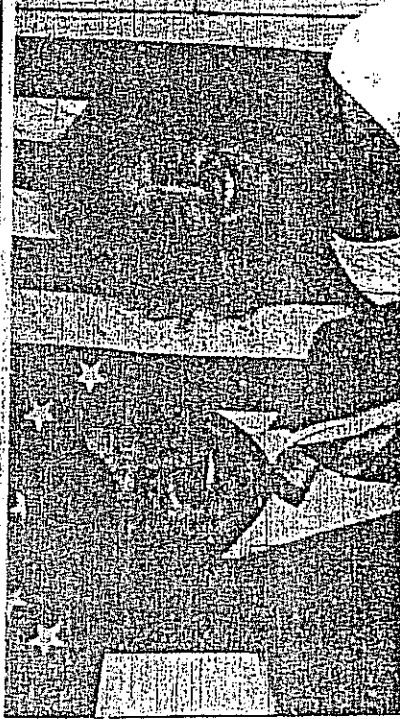
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Volume 46 Number 111

Tuesday, June 5, 1979, Tyler, Oklahoma, 74961

5 Pages

It's Tuesday
Indian Culture
 CLAREMORE — Combining a regular classroom setting with one of Oklahoma's finest and most-renowned museums will provide a very unique, experience for some of the students attending summer school at Claremore College.
 A course entitled "Field Research in American Indian Culture" will meet each Tuesday from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa and each Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. in a Claremore College classroom.



Foundry workers deny hard-luck story

Byron Foundry workers were up in arms Monday because of remarks by a member of the workers' union, one of the workers angered by the Times story striking workers are by financial difficulties at the 75-day old strike.

All my balls are paid and

People's Bank fate to Supreme Court

Supreme Court

August 31, 1979

Dewey woman, son bound over for trial

A Dewey woman and her son have been bound over for trial on perjury charges stemming from their testimony during the Gene Leroy Hart trial last March. Joyce Payne, 40, and her son, Larry Short, 19, were bound over for trial late Thursday afternoon by Associate District Judge William M. Thomas.

Both were released on \$8,000 each had previously posted.

Payne was one of the witnesses called by Hart defense attorney Garvin Isaacs during the month-long trial.

She testified that Bill Stevens, now an inmate at the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson and once a suspect in the Girl Scout slayings, came to her home "sometime before noon" on June 13, 1977, with "brownish-red stains on his boots."

Mrs. Payne told the jurors that Stevens "looked tired. His eyes were red and he had scratches on his arms."

Both Payne and Short testified they recognized a flashlight found next to the bodies of the girl scouts as being the same one they had given to Stevens to use to go fishing.

Shortly after the trial ended with Hart's acquittal, Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver received a call from Linda Stevens, sister of the suspect, telling Weaver she had proof that her brother was nowhere near Locust Grove on June 13, 1977.

Subsequent investigation established that Stevens was working in Seminole for an independent contractor on that date.

Payne's attorney, Lou Amberler of Bartlesville, became irritated several times at the response to questions put to Weaver and Larry Bowles, agent for the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation.

At one time, Amberler asked Judge Thomas to hold Bowles in contempt of court for not reviewing reports the agent had prepared on the

Payne-Stevens connection.

Thomas refused to cite Bowles saying the court did not have the right to do so in this instance.

Obviously frustrated, Amberler sat down and rested his case a short time later.

Authorities contend that testimony by Payne and Short was just a part of a much larger conspiracy involving Payne's common-law husband, Dewayne Peters, himself now an inmate at the prison where Stevens serves time.

The alleged conspiracy began to unwind when word surfaced as to Stevens' employment June 13, 1977. It further came apart at the seams when Peters changed his mind about a story he had told to authorities in which Stevens admitted being the killer of the three girl scouts.

A Kansas State Bureau of Investigation report concerning Peters' story was mentioned during the preliminary but was never

(Continued on Page 2)

— Perjury —

(Continued from Page 1)
introduced as evidence.

Judge Thomas ordered both defendants back to Mayes County on Sept. 18 for arraignment on the charges in District Court.

Apparently, Judge William Whistler, the same judge who presided over the Hart trial where the alleged perjury was to have been committed, will also preside over the Payne-Short trial.

8-31-74

Ex. Maudlin & Paine

Pair plotted perjury to get pardon?

By SUSAN WITT
Of The Tribune Staff

PRYOR — An Oklahoma woman charged with perjury in the murder trial for the slaying of Larry Short, plotted with her common-law husband, Bill Stevens, to pin the 1976 Girl Scout murders on another Kansas Scout murders on another Kansas inmate in hopes of gaining a pardon for the husband, according to a Kansas crime bureau report.

The woman, Mrs. Joyce Paine, and her son, Larry Short, were ordered Thursday to trial for perjury during the Hart trial for their testimony that Bill Stevens came to Mrs. Paine's home in Okmulgee with blood on his shoes and acting "jittery and nervous" a few hours after the girls were murdered at a camp near Locust Grove.

MRS. PAINE ALSO testified in the March trial, which ended in Hart's acquittal, that she had earlier given Stevens a flashlight found near the bodies of the three slain girls.

REFERENCE DIVISION
TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Hart, who died of a heart attack in June, was charged with first-degree murder in the beheading deaths of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guss, 9, and Doris Denise Mader, 10.

According to a Kansas Bureau of Investigation report filed by special agent E. Maudlin Jr. and agent Thomas B. Lyons, Mrs. Paine's common-law husband, Dewayne Peters, told KBI agents while he was in a Kansas prison that he and Mrs. Paine had conspired to get Stevens out of an Oklahoma prison and eventually pardoned for his testimony against Stevens.

THE KBI REPORT states that in December 1978 Peters told KBI agents that Stevens, a co-defendant with Peters in a Kansas rape-kidnapping, had told Peters he committed the Girl Scout murders.

On January 3, 1979, Peters reportedly gave the same story to an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

agent and Mrs. Paine's attorney, Lewis Ambler, according to the report.

On March 21, the day the jury for the Hart trial was sworn in, Maudlin reported that Peters retracted his earlier story and said Stevens had nothing to do with the Locust Grove slayings.

On March 21, Maudlin reported, Ambler contacted him and asked that agents give Peters a polygraph test.

THE KBI REPORT states that Peters told he and Mrs. Paine conspired to get Stevens out of an Oklahoma prison and eventually pardoned for his testimony against Stevens.

Mrs. Paine said she decided that since Stevens was from the general area of the murders and was subsequently involved in a violent sex offense, that the story would have credibility, the KBI agent reported.

Maudlin also reported that Peters said he had followed news accounts of the murders closely and knew many details of the offenses that

would enhance the credibility of the story.

The KBI agent said Peters told him he had envisioned being transferred to an Oklahoma prison during the investigation and trial of Stevens and eventually receiving a pardon in exchange for his testimony against Stevens.

The report stated that Peters said he was unable to get the information on the prison, so it was surmised by Oklahoma officials.

TESTIMONY BY the Hart trial lawyers, Maudlin and his wife, who testified Stevens was working for him June 13, 1976, that day of the slayings.

Short, said he never testified he was contacted by Stevens' attorney, Gary Isaacs.

The KBI report said Peters told the agents he had a "change of heart" and decided to retract the earlier story partly because he said he no longer trusted Mrs. Paine.

Peters, according to the report, said she had begun acting erratically and said he feared her only interest in him was his assets, in-

cluding holdings in the Yakima Indian tribe.

The polygraph examination indicated Peters was telling the truth, according to the KBI report. In a preliminary hearing on the perjury charges Thursday, defense attorneys called four witnesses who previously testified for the prosecution.

AMONG THEM WERE Gene Belter, a former Seminole contractor, and his wife, who testified Stevens was working for him June 13, 1976, that day of the slayings.

Short, said he never testified he was contacted by Stevens' attorney, Gary Isaacs.

The KBI report said Peters told the agents he had a "change of heart" and decided to retract the earlier story partly because he said he no longer trusted Mrs. Paine.

Peters, according to the report, said she had begun acting erratically and said he feared her only interest in him was his assets, in-

Perjury Trial Set For September 18

Trial will begin Sept. 18 for two persons accused of committing perjury during this spring's murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart.

Joyce Paine and Larry Short were bound over for trial on the perjury charges by Associate District Judge Bill Thomas at the conclusion of an often-delayed preliminary hearing Thursday.

Paine and Short testified during the trial that Bill Stevens had appeared at the Paine home in Okmulgee on the day of the Girl Scout killings, with scratches on his arms and red stains on his shoes.

Several witnesses at the preliminary hearing testified that Stevens was employed in Seminole at the time of the murders. They included Stevens' father, Charles and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Beller, a contractor who employed Stevens from June 13 to June

16, 1977. Stevens is currently serving a prison sentence for rape in Kansas.

Other witnesses at Thursday's hearing were Sheriff Pete Weaver and OSBI agent Larry Bowles.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1979

Paine Gets

New Attorney

Joyce Paine has a new attorney in the latest chapter of a perjury case connected with the murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart.

Mrs. Paine and her son, Larry Short, are accused of committing perjury during the Hart trial in March.

During Mrs. Paine's arraignment yesterday, her attorney, Lewis Ambler, withdrew because he may be called as a witness in the case. Ambler, acting as Mrs. Paine's attorney, had earlier called in the OSBI to investigate Mrs. Paine's testimony. Gary Jay was appointed to take Ambler's place as Mrs. Paine's lawyer.

Mrs. Paine and Short had testified that William Stevens came to the Paine home in Okmulgee on the day of the murders at Camp Scott. They said he had red stains on his shoes and scratches on his arms. Stevens is currently serving a prison sentence for

rape in Kansas.

Ambler and Short's attorney, Michael Fought, had filed motions seeking dismissal of the information filed against their clients. The charges had been filed by John Mahoney, then a legal intern in the district attorney's office. Ambler and Fought contended that a legal intern did not have the authority to initiate a felony action.

Assistant district attorney Austin O. Webb filed an amended information, which he had signed, yesterday afternoon.

Judge Byron Ed Williams ruled that from this time the district attorney or one of his assistants should be responsible for initiating felony procedures.

Since Mrs. Paine has a new attorney, the arraignment was continued to Oct. 16. The defendants will probably be tried in December.

— Perjury Trial —

(Continued from Page 1)

was and is my flashlight," Carey Thurmon, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent who was in charge of the investigation of the Girl Scout murders, testified this morning that he had ordered fingernail clippings taken from the victims.

Asked if any skin or blood was found on the clippings, he replied, "No."

G.B. Holt of Okmulgee was called by Webb. Holt's daughter, Iris, was Stevens' girl friend during part of the summer of 1977. Short said Stevens returned to his home in a black pick up owned by Ms. Holt.

Holt said this morning his daughter did not own a black pickup at that time.

In response to defense questioning by Sharp's lawyer, Mike Fought, Holt admitted that he was away from home working about "50 percent of the time." Holt said he was home a week and gone a week, or it might vary.

Pryor bail bondsman Bud Welch was also called to testify. He said Hart Attorney Garvin Isaacs had called him April 18, 1978, to "get his clients out of jail: Joyce Paine, Larry Short and Owen Short."

Welch said bonds were set at \$3,000 each for the three. He charged them a total of \$2,400 but had never been paid.

Fought asked Welch if he had caused the three to be put in jail for failure to pay the bonds and he said yes. "Didn't Isaacs tell you that Rosa Swimmer, Chief of the Cherokees, would take care of the bond?"

"Not till later," Welch said. "I was supposed to have my money on the second day

from Isaacs." Charges against Owen Short were dropped.

Cousins was recalled to the stand Monday morning to testify that he had notified Garvin Isaacs March 19 that Peters wanted to deny his story.

Isaacs was recalled to testify about the flashlight. Paine had told him about buying a battery for her flashlight at the Wal-Mart store in Okmulgee. Isaacs said he sent an investigator to the store to talk to employees.

Attorneys Mitchell Shamus and Douglas E. Brown told of meeting with Paine and attempting to contact authorities about Paine's story.

Gary Pitchlin told of his investigation of Paine's story as part of the Hart defense team. He said he was skeptical at first because so many cranks had been calling and writing. He had first been contacted by Peters' mother.

He said he had talked to Paine in the fall after the preliminary hearing about the flashlight. She specifically told us about the way the wires had been wrapped with tape inside and the way the switch was fixed. Pitchlin said, "My first impression was that all of this had been fabricated to help a member of the family or a friend. After putting her through a testing examination to find the flaws in the story, there were none. We were convinced they were convinced their story was true."

Tom Puckett, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation from Lawton, said he felt Paine had given her story in good faith. "I have no evidence

that it isn't true." Locust Grove Police Chief Kenneth DeCamp told of receiving the letter from Paine sent to "The Sheriff of Locust Grove." Asked what he did with it, he said, "I called Garvin Isaacs and told him I had it. He sent a woman over to get it and I gave it to her."

DeCamp said the original letter was hand written and a typed copy had been made. Copies of both were introduced into evidence Monday. DeCamp said he had not contacted the OSBI about the letter.

Attorney Lewis Ambler of Bartlesville testified of trying to help Paine find the proper authorities to tell her story and of going to Kansas to visit with Peters.

"She came to me in December (of 1978) and was concerned that her story was not being accepted," he said. "She was afraid she was going to be tossed into the Hart trial as one of the rings in a three-ring circus as a surprise or bombshell. She wanted to tell her story to someone in authority."

His first visit with Peters in Kansas dealt basically with the charges in Kansas. Peters felt like Stevens was going to get out of prison ahead of him according to Ambler. He wanted me to see what I could do to get him out or transferred to an Oklahoma prison. He said he had made a plea bargain and the prosecutor up there had not honored it.

Ambler made the March trip to get Peters ready to testify in the Hart trial. Peters wouldn't see Ambler or Cousins when they first arrived. When he finally did agree to see them, he told them the whole story was a lie but still maintained Paine had helped him make it up. He did not know that interview was being recorded.

Ambler served as Paine's attorney through her preliminary hearing on the perjury charges then withdrew. He said he felt he could do more for her as a witness than as an attorney.

All of the attorneys or law enforcement officers who have testified have denied making any promises or deals with Peters in exchange for his testimony.

Paine, Short perjury trial opens here

By MARY JEANSELL
Staff Writer

The perjury trial of Joyce Paine and Larry Short began this morning in Pryor with the introduction of the transcripts of their testimony during the Gene Leroy Hart trial in March 1978.

Paine and her son, Short, are accused of perjuring themselves on the witness stand in testimony concerning a man named Bill Stevens. They both testified that Stevens had come to their home in Okmulgee the morning of June 13, 1977. They said his arms and neck were scratched and his boots had reddish stains on them which he attempted to wash off in their bathroom.

The bodies of three young Girl Scouts were found in Camp Scott, near Locust Grove, that same morning. Hart was arrested and charged with the three deaths. He was acquitted of the crimes a year ago in March.

In their Hart testimony, as read by Carol Sue Fugate, court reporter for that trial, both said Stevens had come to their home, stayed about 40 minutes, then left.

He returned in about an hour and a half and took Short with him to buy some new boots. Short said Stevens was having trouble with his car and returned in a pick-up owned by his girlfriend.

Both testimonies identified a flashlight given by Paine to Stevens. The flashlight was found by investigators at the scene of the murders.

Defense Attorney Mike Faught of Tulsa tried to offer the testimony of George Owen Short, Paine's son, into evidence but met with resistance from Assistant District Attorney Austin Webb. Faught maintains that the second Short testimony will corroborate the testimony of the others. Webb objected because the man is not charged along with his mother and brother.

Short was named when the original charges were filed April 11, 1979. Those charges were later dropped.

Stevens was brought into court to be sworn as a witness. Faught immediately objected to his testimony. The jury was excused for lunch so Faught could present his arguments to the court.

He maintains that since Stevens never testified in the preliminary hearing for this trial that he nor co-counsel Gary M. Jay have had time to prepare a sufficient defense.

Stevens was brought to Mayes County Jail March 10, 1980 and has been there since. During questioning by District Judge Byron Ed Williams, Faught admitted that he had been told he could see Stevens at the jail at any time for a private conference. Faught also said he did not take any statements by affidavit.

The trial began Monday in Pryor with the selection of the jury. Twenty-seven prospective jurors were questioned before settling on the panel of seven women, five men and one male alternate. It took attorneys five hours to approve the group.

Opening arguments provided outlines for the jury of the witnesses and their possible testimony. Webb plans to put Stevens on the stand along with Gene Beller, a Seminole contractor Stevens supposedly worked for during those days. In June of 1977, possibly Mrs. Beller, who was bookkeeper for the job; Stevens' father; Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation officers, and Dwayne Peters, a cellmate of Stevens at the Kansas State Penitentiary at Hutchinson.

Faught said he planned to call many of the same witnesses. He said conflicts would develop in the identification of Stevens from Beller and his son. He said that testimony would show several attempts by Paine to have investigators look into Stevens' activities but they ignored her when they could and would step on her if they couldn't.

Jay has reserved his opening statement for the beginning of the defense case. He is representing Paine while Faught represents Short.

Bizarre plot hints up perjury charge

By LARRY WILLIAMS
Times Staff Writer

Daily Times has obtained a copy of a Kansas State Bureau of Investigation report which details a bizarre conspiracy plot told by Dewayne Peters, common-law husband of Joyce Payne.

Payne is one of two defendants bound over for trial on charges stemming from her testimony in the Gene Leroy murder trial.

The report states that on December 9, 1979, Peters, who is an inmate at the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory, advised authorities that an acquaintance, Williams Stevens, told him the wrong man had been arrested for the murder of two Girl Scouts near Locust Grove on June 13, 1977.

According to Peters' original statement, Stevens said he had admitted the murders.

On January 3, 1979, Payne's attorney, Lou Amberler, and Kansas State Bureau of Investigation agents interviewed Peters at KSIR, when Peters restated his information.

Peters suddenly on March 19, 1979, the same day the Hart jury

was being sworn in, Peters retracted his statement concerning Stevens.

Two days later, Amberler contacted OSBI and requested that Peters be interviewed and examined on the polygraph.

Two days after Amberler's request, Peters was interviewed and examined on a polygraph in a private room at the KSIR with only Peters and the examiner present.

During the preliminary interview, Peters furnished background information about himself and his connection with Stevens and Payne.

Peters is reportedly a member of the Yakima Indian tribe from Washington state. He was born in San Francisco (October 11, 1957).

About three years ago, Peters said he got to know Joyce Payne. Later while attending Oklahoma State Tech in Okmulgee, Peters became acquainted with Stevens, who is a native of Okmulgee.

From the time the murders were discovered in the early morning hours of June 13, 1977, Peters said he was interested in the case and read everything in print concerning it.

He was therefore knowledgeable of small details of the murder

case.

In the spring of 1978, they departed Okmulgee for Washington state where Peters was supposed to get a tribal payment. They began drinking in Oklahoma and ran out of money in Garden City, Kans.

They became involved in a rape-robbery-kidnapping episode in Finney County, Kansas and as a result Peters is doing a fifteen years to life term on the rape and kidnapping charges.

Peters stated during the interview that shortly after he entered prison, he and Joyce Payne jointly conceived a plan where he could possibly obtain his freedom.

It seemed to them that due to Stevens being from the area of the murders and having been subsequently involved in a violent sex offense in Kansas, that authorities could be convinced that Stevens could have committed the Locust Grove murders.

The credibility of the information would be enhanced by the detailed knowledge of the case already in Peters' mind.

Peters envisioned that he would be transferred to an Oklahoma institution during the investigation and trial of Stevens, and that eventually in exchange for his testimony, he would

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Plot

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receive a pardon.

Peters was apparently unable to get this information out to the proper authorities while a prisoner at KSIR, so the information was surfaced in Oklahoma by Joyce Payne.

After telling the false story concerning Stevens, Peters said he had a change of heart and decided to retract his statements. One of the reasons Peters said he decided to tell the truth was that he became suspicious of Payne's loyalty to him. According to Peters, she appeared erratic and interested only in his assets which he owns through his head right in the Yakima tribe.

Peters stated that he drinks in moderation and that he has used marijuana. He denied using any other illegal drugs.

According to the report, Peters said he was taking the polygraph examination voluntarily.

Aside from the present charges of rape and kidnapping, he has arrests for possession of marijuana and driving while intoxicated.

On the polygraph, Peters registered no specific reaction to the following questions and each of his responses:

Q. Do you intend to tell the complete truth during this examination?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Stevens ever discuss the Locust Grove killings with you?

A. No.

Q. Did Stevens tell you that he killed those girls?

A. No.

Q. Did you make up the story that Stevens was involved in those murders?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you told the truth about why you made up the story?

A. Yes.

Q. At this time, do you know who was involved in the Locust Grove murders?

A. No.

Q. Are you trying to withhold any information concerning the Locust Grove murders?

A. No.

Conclusions of the polygraph examiner were that Peters appeared to react normally under the polygraph test. After careful analysis of the polygrams resulting from this test, "It is the conclusion of this examiner that Peters was substantially telling the truth during the examination," according to the report.

The report was written under the name of Thomas B. Lyons, special agent for the Investigation Division of the Kansas State Bureau of Investigation.

A carbon copy of the report was indicated to have been sent to Lou Amberler, Attorney at Law, P.O. Drawer 1267, Bartlesville, Okla. 74003.

Stevens' Seminole alibi gains support

By MARY JEANSELL
Staff Writer

Charles Stevens has supported his son's denial of being in Okmulgee the morning of June 13, 1977, when the bodies of three murdered Girl Scouts were found in Camp Scott, near Locust Grove.

Stevens testified this morning in the perjury trial of Joyce Paine and Larry Short on behalf of his son, Bill Stevens. Gene Leroy Hart was charged with the murders and acquitted of the charges in March of 1979.

Paine and Short testified during the last days of the trial that Stevens had come to their home in Okmulgee the morning of June 13. They said he had scratches on his arms and neck and reddish stains on his boots which he tried to wash off in the bathroom of their home.

Stevens' father said he and his son had been together all weekend, from June 10 to June 12.

"He had called and said he needed a fan. So I got ready and my wife and I went to Seminole to see him and take him a fan," Stevens said this morning. "I saw him on Friday night. We were together all day Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday, til I went back to Okmulgee about 8:30 or 9 o'clock."

"He called me the next afternoon from Seminole to ask if he could borrow some money to buy some tools because he had started to work. I didn't have any to lend him but my wife and a neighbor took him some groceries," Stephens went on.

Stevens produced a copy of his telephone bill for that time period. Defense Attorney Mike Faught went over each call on the list for several days, asking what Stevens remembered about each one.

Defense Attorney Gary M. Jay challenged Stevens' testimony from the preliminary hearing for this trial. From the transcript, Stevens did not mention the

time he spent with his son on Saturday night. They attended chicken fights according to his testimony today.

Stevens repeatedly insisted he has spent the entire weekend with his son, whether he had testified to it earlier or not. "They didn't ask me about the chicken

fights," he said.

Stevens was questioned at length by Jay and Faught about the 1974 Pontiac he sold his son. The car belonged to Mrs. Stevens and was kept in a garage. Stevens maintains that his son never drove the car until he bought it in October. Pressed by Jay, Stevens said he knew his son

had never driven it because he wasn't supposed to, didn't have a license or insurance.

Paine and Short both claim he was driving the car when he came to their house.

Shortly before lunch today, Gene Bellor, the man Stevens worked for in Seminole in June of 1977, took the stand.

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Assistant District Attorney Austin Webb showed him a check that was used to pay Stevens for his work. He identified it but could not say how many hours or what rate of pay it represented.

Jay challenged his statements and asked if the dates on the check "pay June 13-16" had not been on the check originally. Beller admitted the date had been put on after the cancelled check had been returned to him.

"In fact not until about a month before the preliminary hearing in 1979, is that right?" Jay asked.

"That's right," Beller replied. "We took the dates from the time cards and put them on the check after it came back to us."

Stevens took the stand shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday to tell his side of the story. Asked if he had ever been arrested for any crimes, he admitted that he was now serving time in a Kansas prison for rape, robbery and kidnapping. He and Dwayne Peters were arrested Nov. 22, 1977 in Dodge City, Kan.

Stevens said he and Peters had pleaded guilty to the charges, although Peters was not charged with the rape. He said an attempted murder charge had been filed against him but dropped when he agreed to plead guilty to the three charges.

He said he did not know he was implicated in the Hart trial until he read an Oklahoma City newspaper in the Kansas prison the day Paine testified. He said he showed the guards in his unit the story and they heard it later on the 10 p.m. news. He and Peters were taken into a maximum security area, put in separate cells and kept there for seven days.

Stevens said he began calling his father to help him remember where he was June 13-16. "We developed what I remember together," he insisted. "My father mentioned Gene Beller and then I remembered. It all came back to me. I could remember hearing about the murders and them finding the bodies that first morning I worked for Mr. Beller."

Asked to recount his activities over the weekend, Stevens said he had spent Friday night in Okmulgee, had gone with his father to visit his grandmother in Seminole on Saturday. They had gone to the chicken fights at Wolfe, Okla., Saturday night, back to Seminole on Sunday and his father

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returned to Okmulgee Sunday evening.

Stevens was pressed again and again to remember exact dates, times and places by Faught and Jay. They questioned his activities and friends and how he remembered the dates and places.

"I know these things in my own mind and memory," Stevens repeated. "When you are accused of something like this, you remember it. My father helped me remember where I was, but I remembered myself after he mentioned Mr. Beller. He helped me put a date on it."

During questioning by Webb, Stevens denied almost phrase for phrase Paine and Short's testimony read into this trial's record from the Hart trial.

He specifically denied being at their home, taking Short with him to buy boots, washing his own boots in the bathroom to rid them of a reddish stain, having a red square flashlight or of getting one from Paine, having scratches on his arms or driving the 1974 Pontiac.

Along another line of questioning, Faught seemed upset over the fact that Stevens is allowed to be a trustee while he is in the Mayes County Jail. He questioned Stevens closely about his privileges and being allowed "to roam freely" about the jail area, and going "to the store."

Stevens said he had asked Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver for the trustee job about the first of April. "I wanted to get out of the cell and work," he said. "I'm used to working and wanted to move around. I can't leave the jail building without permission. If I got to the store, I am timed, given only 15 minutes or so to go and get back."

Faught asked several times if any deals had been made between Stevens and any law enforcement person to shorten his jail sentence or keep him in Mayes County in exchange for his testimony. "No sir," Stevens said. "That isn't possible."

At one point during his testimony, Stevens said Peters had told him that "he made his statements up to get cut time (reduced prison time) but he was sorry he had done it." Stevens said Peters made the statement several days after his return to the Kansas prison.

Others testifying Tuesday were Carol Sue Fugate, court

reporter during the Hart trial, and Gregory A. Glen, former police officer with Garden City, Kan.

Glen identified a pair of boots he had taken from Stevens when he had him into custody in Garden City Nov. 24, 1977. Glen said Stevens and Peters were brought to Garden City from Dodge City, where they were arrested.

He said no tests had ever been performed on the boots until he brought them to Tahlequah March 10 at Weaver's request. "I was only told they were for evidence in a case," Glen said. "I don't know if any tests have been performed on them yet."

Fugate read Paine and Short's testimonies from the Hart trial into the record. She could not recall who had asked her to make the transcripts or who had paid for them. "It was too long ago," she said.

Witness says Paine plotted Stevens' rap

BY MARY JEAN SEAR

Stefan W. Joyner Paine, has been directly involved in formulating a plan to accuse the man of murder to free another man from prison.

Dewayne Peters revealed the plan and his failure to carry it out during his testimony today and yesterday. He described himself as "a very good lawyer" of Paine's who had lived with her for and for two to four months in 1977.

His testimony also accuses Attorney Barry Cousins and Lewis B. Ambler of encouraging him to tell the story that a friend of his, Bill Stevens, had committed the murders of three young Girl Scouts at Camp Scott, near Leavitt Grove, June 13, 1977.

Gene Leroy Hart was arrested and charged with those crimes. He was acquitted of the charges in March of 1979. Garvin Isaacs of Oklahoma City was Hart's defense attorney and Cousins worked for him at that time.

Peters and Stevens had known each other since 1974 and had gotten re-acquainted in January of 1977 in Oklahoma.

They were arrested together in Dodge City, Kan., Nov. 22, 1977. Stevens was charged with rape, robbery and kidnapping of a 64-year-old Garden City woman. Peters was charged with robbery and kidnapping in the same incident. Both pleaded guilty and were sentenced to the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Lansing.

Hutchinson. Peters took the stand late Wednesday and told the court that Paine had come to him while he was in jail in Garden City, Kan.

"She told me she had a way to get me out of the Kansas troubles," he said. "She wanted me to tell them that Bill Stevens had confessed to the Girl Scout murders in Oklahoma. She said she would help with the details if they would believe me. She told me about the flashlight being taped to make the beam smaller."

Isaacs had never made any promises to him. "Cousins said he was an associate of Isaacs and he would see what they could do to get me a pardon," he said.

Defense Attorney Gary M. Jay questioned if Isaacs had ever talked to him, contacted him, written him letters or telephoned him. Peters answered "no" each time. He admitted telling Cousins that Stevens had killed the three girls and had raped them. Asked if he had said Stevens did it for the fun of it,

he replied, "For the excitement."

"Did you tell them Stevens was happy when Gene Leroy Hart was arrested?" asked Jay. "Yes."

Peters recounted several visits with Paine, Short, Cousins and Ambler at the Kansas facility. He said he hadn't liked the plan from the beginning "because I thought I could get out of the Kansas trouble on my own."

He said he finally told Ambler and Cousins he did not want to be a part of the scheme about two weeks before the Hart trial began March 19, 1979. Webb asked "Did Bill Stevens ever tell you he had anything to do with the Girl Scout-murders?"

"No," Peters answered. "Did he ever come to the Paine house in Okmulgee the morning of June 13, 1977?"

"Not that I know of," Peters said. "I was there. I had spent the night there. I didn't see him all day. I didn't

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see him until later that week," Paine and Short testified during the Hart trial that Stevens had come to their home that morning. They said he had scratches on his arms and neck. They described reddish stains on his boots which he failed to wash out in their bathroom.

They said he was driving a 1974 Pontiac firetruck that she had bought the day before he arrived the first time. When she came back later in the morning, they said he was driving his girl friend's pickup.

In his own testimony yesterday, Stevens denied going to the house on June 10. He said he began work on a new job that morning in Seminole. He worked for the V.C. Construction Co., owned by Gene Beller, four days remodeling a home Beller put him to company on \$63 on June 17.

Beller could not recall how

many hours the check represented or what exact date Stevens had worked on the amount he was paid per hour. She finally admitted there were not any notations on the time card to actually show how many hours or when Stevens worked other than the issuing of the check on the 17th.

Stevens' father, Charlie Stevens, testified that he was with his son from Friday, June 10, to Sunday evening, June 12. He said he had taken him a fact book to his apartment on Friday. He checked him up early Saturday morning and they visited in the Seminole area during the day. He said they went for the chicken fights all of Saturday night and part of Sunday morning.

then went to his mother's to see Stevens returned to his home in Okmulgee Sunday evening and his son stayed in Seminole.

Stevens stoutly maintained that his son did not even drive the 1974 Pontiac from the time of his return home from the Army in March of 1977 to the time he bought the car in October of 1977. He didn't have a driver's license or insurance and he was not supposed to drive the car, Stevens said. "He was not driving that car in June."

There had not been many spectators in the district courtroom this week until this morning. Members of the news media from Tulsa and Oklahoma City, including television crews and an artist attended today. Paine's mother and aunt have attended since Tuesday. The father of Michelle Guse, one of the dead girls, came in today.

Perjury Trial: Day 5 Hart lawyer Isaacs may take stand

By MARY JEAN SELL
Staff Writer

Attorneys Garvin Isaacs and Barry Cousins were expected to take the stand this afternoon as the defense attorneys for Joyce Paine and Larry Short began their side of the perjury trial.

Paine and Short have been accused of perjury with regard to their testimony in the Gene Leroy Hart murder trial a year ago. Hart was accused of killing three Girl Scouts at Camp Scott, near Locust Grove, June 13, 1977.

They testified that Bill Stevens had come to their home the morning of June 10, 1977. They said he had scratches on his arms and neck and reddish stains on his boots which he attempted to wash off in their bathroom.

Isaacs was the leader of the Hart defense team and Cousins worked with him on the case.

Cousins has been accused of promising Dewayne Peters a pardon for his testimony in the Hart trial that Stevens had confessed killing the Girl Scouts to him. Peters told the court Wednesday evening that Cousins and Isaacs had promised him a pardon for telling what he knew.

During his testimony Thursday, Peters said Isaacs never made any contact with him or promised him anything. Peters admitted that Cousins had said he would do what he could.

The state rested its case at 11:50 a.m. today. The start of the trial was delayed 45 minutes as Defense Attorneys Gary M. Jay and Mike Fought and Assistant District Attorney Austin Webb argued in District Judge Byron Ed Williams' chambers about the admissibility of a report from Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Agent Larry Bowles.

Bowles began his testimony late Thursday as a state witness but was stopped by Jay and Fought as he attempted to read portions of a report.

According to Judge Williams, the argument over the report continued this morning in an in camera hearing. He ruled that Bowles could refresh his memory from the report but could not read it nor could the prosecution offer it into evidence.

Bowles testified that he had talked to Paine in Attorney Lewis Ambler's office in Bartlesville in December of 1977. She told him that Stevens had been to her home in Okmulgee, June 13 and had taken Short into town with him to buy new boots.

Bowles said he had gone to the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson to interview Peters about his story Jan. 3, 1979.

Stevens and Peters had been arrested in Dodge City, Kan., Nov. 22, 1977. Stevens was charged with rape, kidnap and robbery of a 54-year-old woman in Garden City, Kan. Peters was charged with robbery and kidnapping in the same incident. Both pleaded guilty and received 15 years to life imprisonment.

Bowles said Peters told him the story of Stevens confessing the murders to him. "He said Stevens told him of watching the Girl Scout Camp the way he had watched camps in Viet Nam," he said. "He told me Stevens had been raised in the Locust Grove area and knew about the camp. He said he had refused to believe Stevens at first."

As Jay outlined the defense case in his opening statement this morning, he said Cousins would play tape recordings of interviews with Peters in the Kansas Reformatory.

He said the tapes would show "Peters' pathetic attempt to frame a former friend to extricate himself from his lie."

Jay also expects to put Paine and Short on the stand to tell their side of the story to the jury. He said Paine would tell of repeated efforts to get authorities to investigate Stevens' activities June 12 and 13 before Hart's arrest and during the trial.

Peters was a difficult and frustrating witness Thursday for attorneys. He forced all of them to repeat even the most simple questions at least twice or three times before deliberating over his own answer.

He gave nearly five hours of actual testimony Wednesday and Thursday as he told his side of the conspiracy to frame Stevens. Peters maintained all the way through that Paine had come to him in Garden City, Kan., with the plan to accuse Stevens of the Girl Scout murders in exchange for Peters' freedom.

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Peters said he backed out of the deal two weeks before the Hart trial began in March of 1979. "I decided I didn't want no part of it," he said. "I didn't think it would be right to do something like that to another man that wasn't involved."

He testified that Paine had assured him several times that her two sons, Larry Short and Owen Short, would back her story at the trial.

Peters revealed Thursday afternoon that Paine had written him letters discussing the plan while he was in the Reformatory.

Paine and Short are assisting Jay and Fought as they question witnesses. Paine takes notes during questioning for reference and occasionally makes suggestions. Short sits quietly but occasionally talks to Fought.

Neither show much reaction or emotion to the testimony as it is given. Paine's red-brown hair curls down her back now. It was short during the Hart trial. She isn't wearing glasses. She dresses neatly for court each day.

Short has worn a three-piece suit and tie most of the week but chose blue jeans and a dress shirt Thursday.

All of the witnesses are kept out of the courtroom so they cannot hear other's testimony. Stevens' father has come to court each day as have Peters' mother and aunt. Stevens has to remain outside the courtroom because he was a witness.

Richard Guse, father of Michelle Guse, one of the slain Girl Scouts, has attended since Wednesday afternoon. He paces the halls during recesses and smokes, occasionally shaking his head.

Curious on-lookers have been in the courtroom since the trial began Monday. The group grows each day as more testimony is printed or broadcast. Tulsa and Oklahoma news media representatives were on hand Thursday.

Judge Williams would not allow the jury to be photographed as it left the courtroom for lunch, invoking Oklahoma statutes against the cameraman.

In other testimony this week, Stevens defended himself against the accusations of Paine and Short Tuesday. He said he started working for a construction company in Seminole the day the murders were discovered. He worked four days and was paid \$63. He said he knew Paine and Short and had visited with them frequently but did not go to their home June 13, 1977.

Stevens said he did not purchase the 1974 Pontiac from his father until October of that year and had not driven it before he bought it. He did not have a driver's license or insurance.

Charlie Stevens supported his son's story. He said they were together in Seminole the entire weekend, from Friday to Sunday evening. They spent Saturday visiting friends and relatives, Saturday night at the chicken fights and Sunday at the elder Stevens' mother's in Seminole.

The Gene Bellers, owners of 4-G Construction, testified paying Stevens for work on June 17, 1977. Neither could remember or produce records to show what days he had actually worked or rate of pay. Both admitted the dates on the check had been put on after the check had gone through the bank and been returned.

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Isaacs believed Paine testimony

By MARY DEAN SELL
Staff Writer

Attorney Garvin Isaacs said he believed Joyce Paine's story and put her on the witness stand March 27 during the Gene Leroy Hart murder trial. Attorney Barry Cousins said Dewayne Peters had told him that Paine's story was a lie on March 19 and he had told Isaacs.

Conflicting stories about who told who what and when and flamboyant performances threw the perjury trial of Joyce Paine and her son, Larry Short, into chaos Friday afternoon.

The two are accused of perjury in their testimony during the Hart trial. They

testified that Bill Stevens had come to their home in Okmulgee on the morning the bodies of three Girl Scouts were found in Camp Scott, near Locust Grove, June 13, 1977. They said he had scratches on his arms and neck and reddish stains on his boots.

Hart was charged with the murders but acquitted by a jury at the end of March.

Isaacs was the second witness for the defense Friday. As Paine's attorney Gary M. Jay attempted to question him, Isaacs would launch into explanations that apparently had no relevance to the questions. Assistant District Attorney Austin

Webb would object immediately.

District Judge Byron Ed Williams reminded attorneys and the witness several times of proper courtroom procedure and behavior. As spectators began to giggle and snigger, Judge Williams threatened to clear the courtroom.

Isaacs was asked about a letter addressed to the "Sheriff of Locust Grove" from Paine received by Locust Grove Police Chief Kenneth DeCamp.

"I had to leave Pryor so fast when the Hart trial was over," he began. Webb ob-

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jected to the comments.

"Well, I lost it," Isaacs finally said. "I don't know where it is. I had the original and the envelope it came in and I don't have either one now."

Asked when he had first heard from Paine, he said it was in June of 1978. He said he hadn't done anything about it because so many cranks and crackpots were calling and writing. Later, he said he called him at home in Guthrie. "I hung up on her," he said. "She called me back and said I was rude but she wanted me to know what she knew."

Isaacs said he met with Paine and her attorney, Doug Brown of Shawnee, in Oklahoma City. She told them that Stevens had come to her house in Okmulgee that morning and had blood on his boots.

Isaacs swore he had never met Dewayne Peters, Paine's "very good boyfriend," or offered him any deals in return for his testimony.

Peters told authorities and lawyers that Stevens had confessed killing the Girl Scouts to him while they were both in prison in Kansas. He told the court earlier this week that Paine had come to him with the story in Garden City, Kan., and then after he had been moved to the Kansas Industrial Reformatory in Hutchinson. He said she wanted him to tell the story to help him get out of the Kansas prison.

Peters maintained that he told Hart Defense Team Investigator Cousins that the story was a lie two weeks

before the Hart trial began. He also claimed that Cousins had offered him a parole or pardon for his testimony.

Cousins followed Isaacs to the stand Friday. He told of meeting with Peters Oct. 4, 1978, and of recording his story. "He knew I had a tape recorder going," Cousins said. "It was on the table. After the pleasantries, he just took a deep breath and started. It all came out. I asked him at the end of the interview if I had promised him anything and he said no."

Cousins met with Peters on March 19 and recorded that conversation, although Peters did not know it. "He refused to talk to me for nearly two hours when we first got there," Cousins said. "When he finally agreed to talk, he told me he was denying anything he had said the first time we talked. He was withdrawn and nervous, the first time he was open, this time he was nervous."

Asked if Paine had told him what Peters was going to say on the first trip to Kansas, Cousins replied "No." She accompanied him on the trip. After the interview with Peters, Cousins said he did not intend to play the tape for anyone until he returned to the defense offices in Pryor.

"She kept pestering me in the car," he said. "So I finally played about five minutes for her. She was upset and shocked by what she heard. I think she was crying a little."

Asked what he was going to do with the first tape, Cousins said they were going to keep it a secret until they used it in the trial. "It was going to be a surprise. Part of the defense strategy."

He said he played the second tape for Isaacs and Attorney Gary Pitchlin as soon as he returned to Pryor.

"Do you think Joyce Paine knew Dewayne Peters had changed his story or his mind when she came here to testify?" asked Defense Attorney Mike Fought.

"Yes," Cousins said. "She couldn't believe that he was lying."

"Did she know he was

claiming her as a co-conspirator?"

"Yes," Cousins said. "When she testified, did she understand that the purpose for her testimony no longer existed?"

"Yes," Cousins explained that all three attorneys had talked with her about her testimony and she knew the possibility of consequences.

"We knew there was no telling what Pete Weaver (Sheriff of Mayes County) would do to her, but she wanted to testify," Cousins said.

"In your entire relationship with Joyce Paine and Larry Short did you have any doubt that they were not telling the truth when they testified?" asked Fought.

"No doubt in my mind," Cousins stated.

At this point Webb objected to Cousins' testimony and asked that his and Isaacs' be stricken from the record. He said they had violated the rule of sequestration and had discussed their testimony before coming to court.

"They are attorneys and they should know better," Webb said.

The jury was excused until Monday morning by Judge Williams. Further questioning of Cousins revealed they had talked about the case with defense attorneys but had not discussed it with each other, nor with Lewis Ambler, another attorney listed as a defense witness.

In a stern warning, Judge Williams cautioned all of the attorneys and witnesses to be careful in their discussions for next week's testimony.

"I did not swear all of the witnesses at the beginning of the trial because I thought you attorneys could take care of your business and prevent this sort of thing from coming up," he said. "I wonder what lay people must think of us when they see such as exhibition as we have had here today. It is our duty to see that justice is done here. If you violate the spirit of the rule (of sequestration) then you have violated the rule. We must be careful here."

Perjury Trial Day 7

Paine, Short trial may go to jury later today

By MARY JEAN SELLER, Staff Writer

The perjury case of Joyce Paine and Harry Short is expected to go to the jury this afternoon. The defense rested its case at 10:12 a. m. today. Paine and Short are charged with perjury in their testimony during the Gene Leroy Hart murder trial in March of 1926. Hart was charged with the murder of three Olin Seminary camp boys near Locust Grove, Okla. on July 13, 1927. The two testified that Bill

Stevens had come to their home in Okmulgee on that morning. They said Stevens had scratches on his neck and arms and reddish stains on his boots. They said he attempted to wash the stains off in their bathroom. He left their house returned about two hours later, and took Short with him to buy new boots. Stevens testified last week that he began working with a construction company in Seminole on the morning of

June 13 and could not have been in Okmulgee. Dewayne Peters, a friend of Stevens and Paine's "very good boyfriend," said Paine had come to him in Garden City, Kan., and proposed a story to frame Stevens to get Peters out of jail. Stevens and Peters were arrested in Dodge City, Kan., Nov. 22, 1927. Stevens was charged with rape, kidnaping and robbery. Peters was charged with kidnaping and armed robbery. Both pleaded guilty and received

sentences of 15 years to life. They were incarcerated at the Kansas Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson. Peters claims the story was made up to help him get out of the Kansas jail, receive a full pardon or to get him into an Oklahoma facility to serve his time. Paine flatly denied any conspiracy to frame Stevens from the witness stand Monday afternoon. She was specifically asked by her attorney, Gary M. Jay, if she had made up the story

"No, sir," she replied firmly. Short was on the stand for 22 minutes this morning. He also denied any knowledge of a conspiracy against Stevens to get Peters out of prison. Assistant District Attorney Austin Webb questioned Short on his preliminary hearing testimony this morning. He repeated that he and Stevens had gone to town to buy some boots. He said he had gone to Okmulgee this weekend and tried to find the shop but a portion of the boot

had been burned down. Paine told of visiting Peters in the reformatory and going with members of Peters' family, Jawyers Lewis Ambler, Barry Cousins and Short. She outlined six trips to Garden City to visit Peters while he was in jail. She denied any discussion of the Girl Scout murders or plans to develop a story during the visit. The only mention of the Hart trial was in one letter in which Peters in an attempt

Peters wrote to her on July 6, 1928 and said, "I seen on tv Hart is going to court on just a piece of hair. I hope not, if he is innocent." In the tape recording made by Cousins March 19, Peters said he and Paine has written several letters developing the story. He claimed they never specifically wrote anything down, "just bits and pieces and pictures. We communicated that way. We knew what we were saying in the pictures and through part of the words."

Paine said she had never written any such letters to Peters. She outlined several attempts to have various lawyers help her get her information to authorities. A former Gov. David Boren about her information. Asked why she was so concerned about telling her story, she replied "I couldn't had to let the jury and the court know about Bill Stevens being at my home and that"

(Continued on Page 2)

15 hours by noonday

Perjury trial jury still out today

By MARY JEAN SELL, Staff Writer
The seven-man, five-woman jury was still working at reaching a verdict at noon today, 15 hours after the perjury trial of Larry Short and Joyce Payne came to a close and was presented to the group for a decision. The jury had a long night Wednesday. Deliberations continued to

1:50 a.m. early this morning, 13 and one-half hours after they started.
Paine and Short are on trial for perjury as a result of their testimony during the Gene Leroy Hart murder trial in March of 1979.
They said Bill Stevens came to their home in Muskogee the morning of June 13, 1977 after the bodies of three young Girl Scouts

were found in Camp Scott, near Locust Grove.
They testified Stevens had scratches on his neck and arms and reddish stains on his boots. Paine testified that Stevens arrived during the morning and Short said it was about 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
In a letter April 24, 1979 to the Sheriff of Locust Grove, Paine wrote that Stevens had

been to her house about 2 p.m. that day.
Hart was acquitted of the charges at the end of the March trial.
Seven days of testimony and argumentation in the perjury trial came to a close at 2:50 p.m. Wednesday as District Judge Byron Ed Williams put the case in the hands of the jury.
The first question from the

group came at 3:05 p.m. when they requested a copy of the cancelled check allegedly used to pay Stevens for working in Seminole on a construction job the week of June 13-16, 1977.
The second question came at 4:20 p.m. when the jury asked for a transcript of the testimony from Gene Beller, owner of the construction company, and Gary Beller,

his son and employee.
A transcript was not provided but jurors were returned to the courtroom to hear the court reporter read the testimony aloud from her notes. The reading took approximately an hour.
Judge Williams ruled that should the jury ask to hear any part of one person's testimony, they would have
(Continued on Page 2)

Perjury Trial

to hear all of it.
At 7:08 p.m. Jury Foreman Erwis Cunningham sent a note to the judge saying "The jury is deadlocked. We need advice."

(Continued from Page 1)
The jury came into the courtroom at 7:20 p.m. and Judge Williams suggested they take a supper break. He told them to re-read the set of instructions he had provided when they returned.
At 10:44 p.m. the Cunningham wrote, "The jury has re-read the instruction and is dead locked. What next?"

The jury came into the courtroom at 11:15 p.m. Judge Williams asked Cunningham to tell him how the votes were split but not which way. Cunningham said four to eight.

Williams then gave them a supplemental or "dynamite"

instruction encouraging the jurors to make their decisions but "not to surrender conscientious convictions."
He said, "Absolute certainty is not to be expected. You are not parliament or advocates but judges. It is your duty to agree if you can."

At 2:30 a.m. Cunningham wrote, "The jury is still dead locked. The vote is the same."

The jurors returned to the courtroom at 2:43 a.m. Williams asked Cunningham about the possibility of reaching a verdict or if any progress had been made.

"No, sir," Cunningham replied. "I believe at this time we cannot make a decision."

"Could you hit a later time?" Williams asked.

"There is a possibility but not a probability," Cunningham replied.

The group was given the opportunity to discuss remaining for the rest of the night or going home to rest.

They voted to recess for the night at 2:57 a.m., twelve hours and seven minutes after they began.

Perjury trial in hands of jury

April 30, 1980

By MARY JEAN SELL
Staff Writer

Closing arguments by defense attorneys and the assistant district attorney put the Joyce Paine-Larry Short perjury trial in the hands of the jury this afternoon, nearly a day later than expected.

Court resumed 20 minutes later than expected this morning. Defense Attorney Mike Fought spoke nearly two hours in summing up the case for Paine and Short. He actually represents Short in the matter.

Defense Attorney Gary M. Jay, court-appointed lawyer for Joyce Paine, spoke for an hour Tuesday afternoon.

Assistant District Attorney Austin Webb made his final argument after the noon recess today.

Paine and Short are charged with perjury from the murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart in March of 1979. He was charged with killing three Girl Scouts at Camp Scott, near Locust Grove, June 13, 1977.

Paine and Short testified in the last days of Hart's trial that a man named Bill Stevens had come to their home in Okmulgee June 13 with scratches on his arms and reddish stains on his boots.

In the six days of actual testimony, a variety of witnesses have been called by both sides to support stories.

Bill Stevens testified for the state that he was working in Seminole on June 13, 1977 and could not have been in Okmulgee at Joyce Paine's. He

was a friend of the family and had visited with them often.

During the Hart trial, Paine and Short had testified that Stevens first came to their house in a maroon Pontiac hatchback, then later the same day in a black 1968 Chevrolet pick up owned by his girl friend Iris Holt (now Cox).

Stevens denied driving the Pontiac until October of that year when he purchased the car from his father, Charlie Stevens. He said Holt's pick up was baby blue and it wasn't running in June.

Cox and her father, G.B. Holt, testified as rebuttal witnesses for the state Tuesday afternoon. Both denied ever owning a black pick up. They admitted owning a blue one but said it

(Continued on Page 2)

Jury locks, Paine, Short set free

By MARY JEAN BELL Staff Writer

Seven women and five men were unable to reach a unanimous decision in the perjury trial of Joyce Paine and Larry Short.

The final vote was a 7-5 split with seven voting for Paine and Short.

District Judge Byron Ed Williams declared the mistrial at 3:45 p.m. Thursday, 26 hours and 55 minutes after it was given to the jury Wednesday.

Paine and Short, Short,

were charged with perjury after they testified in the closing days of the Gene Perry Hart murder trial in March of 1977. Hart was accused of killing three Girl Scouts at Camp Scott, near Logans Grove, June 13, 1977.

Paine and Short had testified that Bill Stevens had come to their home that morning. They said he had scratches on his arms and neck and reddish stains on his boots.

This jury was dead locked in the voting apparently from

the first ballot. Four of the six messages sent to Judge Williams during deliberations indicated a dead lock situation.

Jury Foreman Lewis Cunningham Jr. told the Judge Thursday afternoon, "We have individuals who can't change their opinions either way. It is impossible for us to reach a unanimous decision."

Judge Williams asked if there was confusion about the law in the case, the instructions or the failure of

either side to prove its case. Cunningham replied "No to each question. He repeated that individuals could not be moved in their feelings."

Judge Williams thanked the jury for their time and efforts and discharged them. It is up to the district attorney to decide if there will be a re-trial in the case.

Assistant District Attorney Austin Webb said he was going to discuss the matter with District Attorney T. Jack Graves.

"If we do retry, it won't be

right away," he said. "We don't want to try it in the May jury term, it will probably be in the fall, if it comes up again."

Defense Attorneys Gary Jay and Mike Fought had hoped for a verdict, one way or the other. Fought asked Judge Williams several times to let the jury deliberate as long as it needed to reach a verdict.

Wary from the long wait and eight days of trial, Paine was disappointed. "We'll have more and better

evidence when we come back," she said firmly. "We'll have more important witnesses and more details. I'm not going to let this drop if I can help it."

Testimony showed she had been trying since October of 1977 to get authorities and investigators involved with the murders and Hart case to believe her story. She maintains that the flashlight found near the bodies belonged to her and she had loaned it to Stevens several days before the killings.

She was pleased with the way her attorneys had handled the case. "Mr. Jay was fantastic," she said. "Mr. Fought was very good with the jury."

Mayer County Sheriff Pete Weaver was disappointed with the verdict. "I thought the state presented a strong case and I wanted a conviction, of course," he said this morning. "I am already working on it for the next time. It is a serious crime when there is a conspiracy to frame an innocent man for

something he didn't do. There was more than a perjury case and had far-reaching consequences or at least the defense wanted it to."

One of the state's many witnesses, Dewayne Peter told a lengthy and complicated story of plans with Paine to try to get Stevens confessed to the killing of the Girl Scouts to him.

Stevens and Peters have been friends in Okmulgee. They were arrested together in Kansas for kidnapping a

(Continued on page 2)

— Perjury Trial —

(Continued from Page 1)

robbery of a 54-year-old woman. Stevens was also charged with rape. They pleaded guilty and are serving a 15 years to life sentence in the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson.

Several spectators stayed with the trial each day and into Wednesday night as jurors deliberated until 2:45 a.m. One of them was a member of the Hart jury.

"I have heard things in this trial that we did not hear in the Hart case," the juror said. "We did not hear Stevens or Peters testify. I don't know if it would have made a difference in our deliberation. We didn't get that far. We stopped when we realized the state had not proved its case. We did not vote Hart innocent; we acquitted him on the lack of evidence."

Richard Guse, father of Michele Guse and Sherri Farmer, mother of Lori Farmer, attended several days of the trial, although neither heard all of the testimony.

"I am interested in all aspects of the case, of course," Guse said. "We may

never know all the answers but I want to hear everything we can. This isn't going to bring our little girls back, I know, but I want to hear it all."

Mrs. Farmer agreed. "I am interested in anything that influenced the Hart trial. Garvin Isaacs based so much of his argumentation on this testimony. I wanted to know if he based his defense on the truth or a lie. He made the testimony of these people (Paine and Short) very important in the trial although we never heard Peters or Stevens. I had to know what they had to say."

Mrs. Farmer talked to Paine and Stevens during recesses. "She seems a vulnerable as I feel," Mrs. Farmer said. "She swore to me that was her flashlight."

(Continued from Page 1)

didn't see during the summer.

Cox also said she had loaned Stevens \$500 over a period of a couple of months to cover checks she said Stevens forged on her father's accounts. He has never repaid the loans.

Charlie Stevens supported the story of the car and said he had been with his son the entire weekend before June 13. He said they had visited friends in Seminole on Saturday, gone to the chicken fights Saturday night and visited friends on Sunday.

Gene Gary and Mrs. Gene Beller testified that Stevens worked for them in Seminole June 13 through 16 and was paid \$63 by check on June 17. Mrs. Beller admitted that the dates on the checks had been put on before this trial began, not when the check was given to Stevens.

Short had testified that Stevens had taken him to the Okmulgee Boot, Shoe and Saddle Company to buy a new pair of boots June 13. Harry Ledbetter of Okmulgee Police Department said no such company had ever been located in the community.

In a letter to the Sheriff of Locust Grove, April 14, 1978, Paine wrote that Stevens and her son had gone to a Wal-Mart store to buy boots.

Dewayne Peters, a "good boy friend" of Paine's, directly accused her of planning a story to frame Stevens and accuse him of the Girl Scout murders. In a full-day-of-haling-difficult testimony, Peters told several versions of how they had planned the story against Stevens.

Peters said first she had brought the plan to him while he was in the Garden City, Kan., jail in November of 1978. He and Stevens were arrested in Dodge City for attacking a 54-year-old woman in Garden City. Stevens was charged with rape, kidnapping and robbery. Peters was charged with kidnapping and robbery. Both pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 15 years to life at the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson.

Peters then said they had planned the story through the brief periods of "hugging and kissing" during Paine's visits. Then it was through "small pictures, incomplete words and syllables" in letters.

He said the plan was for him to say that Stevens had confessed to him that he had killed the Girl Scouts and how he had done it. Peters said the plan was formulated to get him a pardon for his Kansas conviction to get

him transferred to an Oklahoma facility to serve his time or to cut his prison time.

Defense witness Barry Cousins, also a member of the Hart defense team, tape recorded an interview with Peters in October of 1987 in which he told the complete story of the Stevens Confession.

That recording and another made March 19, 1979, in which Peters denied the entire story were played for the jury. Peters did not know the second recording was being made.

Attorneys Garvin Isaacs, Gary Pitchlin, Mitchell Shamus, Douglas E. Brown, Lewis Ambler and Cousins all testified to their various roles in Paine's story. Paine contacted each of them during the year and a half between the murders and the trial to try to tell them of her visit from Stevens. She wanted them to help her get her stories to investigative authorities whom she felt were not paying attention to her.

Each denied ever promising Peters they could

get him a pardon or any kind of deal with prison authorities to move him to Oklahoma or cut his time.

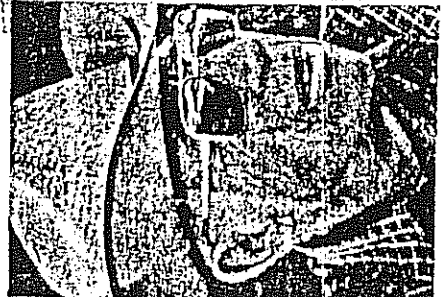
Ambler offered to help Peters with an appeal in Kansas and was with Cousins when Peters denied his story. He served as Paine's attorney through her preliminary hearing on this case but withdrew when he decided he could do more for her as a witness, he said during testimony.

Paine testified Monday that she had not planned a confessions story about Stevens with Peters. She denied any part in a conspiracy or scheme to frame Stevens to get Peters out of jail or moved to an Oklahoma jail.

Short testified briefly Tuesday. Read statements from his Hart testimony, he said he "might have said" most of statements. He said Tuesday that Stevens had spent 35 or 40 minutes at their home on June 13 instead of four or five minutes as he had originally testified. He continued to say that Stevens had come back to their home in a black pick-up.

Girl Scout case heats Mayes sheriff race

AT 5-21-84



Ex-Sheriff Pete Weaver

is not known about who killed those three little girls.
The killings — "a ghost that won't go away" in the words of one man — likely will be the deciding factor once again in the sheriff's race.

ALTHOUGH Smith and Weaver are only two of seven people running for sheriff this year, their involvement with the Girl Scout killings has everyone from local residents to the state media watching only them.

Some speculation about Smith's claims may end this week when the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is to announce the results of an investigation of Smith's evidence.

Smith has said he has three new suspects and has given the OSBI a hammer which he said may have been a murder weapon in the case.

Whatever the end results of Smith's claims, residents here aren't expecting this to be the last of the fireworks.
Some call it a grudge match between two men who have no liking for each other, opposites in personality and style.
But the two do share a longing for a job

BY JOYCE PETERSON
Tribune State Writer
PRYOR — Former Sheriff Pete Weaver folded his rangy 6-foot-plus frame into sitting position beneath a tree.
"This thing has a foul odor to it," he began. "Mayes County is being dragged through the mud once again."
The "thing" is the claim by Sheriff Paul Smith that there are new suspects and charges pending in the June 1977 murders of three Girl Scouts at Mayes County's Camp Scott.

Weaver, sheriff when the murders occurred, is still convinced that the man acquitted by a jury, Gene Leroy Hart, was the one and only killer. To him, Smith's claims are a personal affront.

Down the street from where Weaver sat, Smith, dressed in immaculate brown uniform, posed stiffly for a picture as he stood in his tidy office.

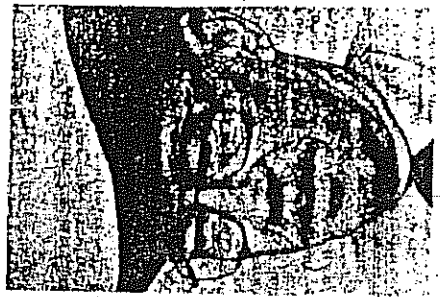
But he declined any comment about the controversy of his claims.
He has been misquoted and criticized too much, he says, about something he has believed for four years: the whole truth

both admit has nearly killed them. Both in their 60s, the two have recovered from major illnesses. Weaver of a heart attack and Smith of two major stomach operations. Smith blames the illnesses on the "tense" of the job.

FRIENDS said the two have said for three years they would not run for sheriff this time.
That's why many were surprised when first Weaver then Smith announced their candidacies within a few days of each other.

The reason for the turnaround is simple, said one Mayes County lawman who did not want to be quoted by name.
"Pete doesn't want Paul to get it. They don't like each other," he said.

The animosity goes back to 1976, when Smith first challenged Weaver for the office, he said.
Although Weaver won, Smith defeated him in 1980 after Weaver had been deluged by criticism following the Girl Scout case. Smith and other candidates ran on prom-



Sheriff Paul Smith

See SHERIFFS, page 4A

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Sheriffs

From page 1A

TT 5-31-84

ises they would reopen the investigation. Smith, who lives in the Locust Grove area, was helped in his campaign by relatives of Hart.

Acquaintances say Smith is plagued by complaints his office is ineffective, especially in solving burglaries.

Some accuse him of being unable to cooperate with other agencies in the county.

Almost no one, however, questions his sincerity.

"He's straightforward, a square-shooter," said Herb Hartz, deputy chief of Tulsa police and a close friend. Hartz and Smith were partners more than two decades ago when Smith was on the Tulsa force.

In 1957, Smith testified against other police officers in a bootlegging scandal that rocked the Tulsa police force and ended in the resignation of a commissioner and police chief.

He left the Tulsa force a couple of years later but within a few months was working as a Tulsa County sheriff's dispatcher.

In early 1960, Smith "semi-retired" to Mayes County, Hartz said. He ran a security service until he became sheriff.

Both Hartz and OSBI Director Ted Limke said Smith has come to them at least once within the last two years asking for help because Smith had what he thought were new leads in the case.

"I don't doubt he (Smith) feels that way. I just have a hard time understanding why he does," said Tony Jack Lyons, a long-time Pryor attorney. Lyons knew Hart and said he is convinced that Hart killed the three girls

TULSA COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
REFERENCE DIVISION

What others do question is why the subject has hit newspapers and television news reports just now at the beginning of the race for sheriff.

Smith has said he is a victim of coincidence. A television reporter and a newspaper reporter came to him, not the other way around, he said.

WEAVER contends Smith started the new controversy for publicity.

The former sheriff offers several reasons why he is running again.

"I'm a poor hand to say 'no,'" he said and added that several county residents had come to him and asked him to run again.

He was not bitter, Weaver said, that the county's residents had said "no" to him four years before — "That's their right."

He admitted a few sentences later, however, "It's not easy being a loser."

A lifelong Mayes County resident, Weaver can't sit long any place in Pryor without waving or shouting a greeting to someone passing by.

He was sheriff for 10 years and before that operated a drive-in restaurant in the town.

"Pete has always had his following here in the county," said attorney Lyons. "He's the most dedicated sheriff I have ever known."

A sometimes controversial and colorful figure, Weaver evokes strong responses, both positive and negative, from people.

He once filed suit against a local newspaper claiming it libeled him with a letter to the editor from a supporter of a candidate running against him.

The suit was settled out of court after the paper agreed to print an apology.

Weaver was arrested in 1970 — while sheriff — for allegedly being drunk as he patrolled nightclubs and drive-in restaurants on New Year's Eve.

Witnesses to a fight that broke out between the sheriff and some customers at a drive-in said they smelled liquor on Weaver's breath but he maintained someone had drugged his coffee.

A jury acquitted him of the charges. BUT, IT WAS the Girl Scout case that brought Weaver to near-legendary status in the county.

He was the first to mention Gene Leroy Hart's name only hours after the bodies were discovered. Weaver had a long-running grudge with the convicted rapist who had broken out of Weaver's jail four years earlier and had never been caught.

Weaver was shown on television newscasts night after night during the month-long manhunt, traiging through the Mayes County terrain.

And Weaver was the target of Hart's supporters, who said the sheriff was settling a long-standing feud rather than searching for the real killer.

"Rough?" he says now of those years. "I went through hell and back."

But, Weaver said, leaning back against the tree, he has learned a few things since then.

If elected, he said, "I won't be climbing around in any caves. I've learned my limitations."

He is willing to make a prediction, though.

"This is the final chapter. Smith or I, one will die a political death this time around."

Hart's Mother Believes in Her Son, Her God

By TOM CARTER
Of the World Staff
 LOCLUST GROVE — Ella Mae Buckskin says she was the first person in Locust Grove to own a television set. In 1955, folks from miles around brought their children to marvel at the moving pictures.

Sometimes as many as 20 youngsters joined her own seven children.

The television set made her a celebrity. Twenty-three years later, Gene Leroy Hart made his mother famous again.

He was arrested and charged — and subsequently acquitted — in the murders of three Girl Scouts at a camp near here. A nation that earlier in the decade saw the end of the Vietnam War and the resignation of a president showed it could be shaken by the death of children. The outrage came over the massacre of three girls the nation had never known near a town of which it had never heard.

In 1977, Walter Cronkite read nightly national updates about the largest manhunt in the history of a state that once screamed for Pretty Boy Floyd

and Frank and Jesse James. National publications sent reporters from New York City, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles to Mayes County.

The invasion of newsmen made for more activity than the days of Mrs. Buckskin's first television set. And in the frenzy, most of the journalists overlooked the short Cherokee mother who wanted to tell them her son was innocent.

After all, her prayers for him were that simple: Why shouldn't their answers be, too?

"I'm not mad at the reporters," she said, of what she called mistreatment. "They said, 'if you're a Christian, why do you lie to us?'" The Pentecostal Holiness-Baptist churchgoer replied: "I said I don't lie to nobody. But the reporters don't print the truth."

This day, there weren't a bunch of reporters. Only one. To get the interview, he said he wouldn't talk about the Hart case. He wanted to look only at the woman who had been overlooked. That was the first of their conversation, for a while.

Then the strongest love there is, that of a mother for her child, surfaced. Soon, she talked of nothing but her boy and the town which stood

behind her when he stood accused.

Mrs. Buckskin wore a cotton dress and house slippers and talked beneath a breeze-tousled elm tree. This ninth-grade graduate of 40 years ago lives 14 miles from her birthplace.

She was the picture of a grandmother's tranquility, as two of her grandchildren played at her arm's length.

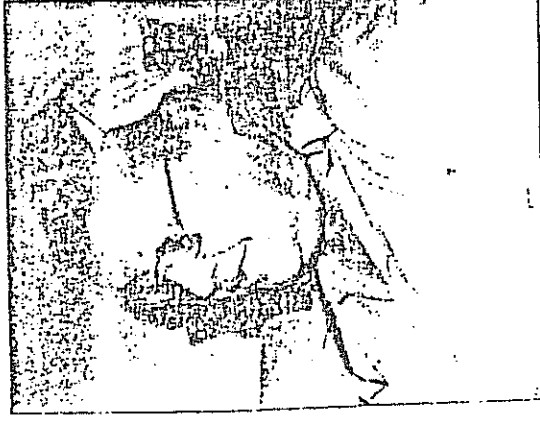
And Hart's memory played in her mind's eye. She occasionally stopped talking just to stare into space. She discussed her son and her Jesus, at times in the same tones. In her mind, both were unfairly accused.

"There is no way a man in the world can make me believe he done it," she said. "I know he's free (in heaven) and whoever done it is suffering."

Six years after the deaths, hazy memories prevent most Oklahomans from naming even the murder site. But Mrs. Buckskin remembers as if it were yesterday the way her Cherokee tribe and townspeople rallied to her support.

She will carry to her grave the recollection of the \$12,000 donated by the Cherokees to Hart's

See *Altogether* on A-1



Ella Mae Buckskin, the mother of Gene Leroy Hart.

Mother Believes in Her Son

Continued From A-1

defense fund and the thousands of dollars strangers anonymously gave.

"People would just walk up and put money in my hand," she said. "And one woman came from Oregon and gave me \$875 and told me the Lord had told her my son was innocent and I didn't even know her till then.

"This yard was full of people at the yard sale and you don't know how the people turned out to help," she said.

Today, the only sounds were the giggles of grandchildren.

Talk returned to Mrs. Buckskin and what her life is like this long after the nightmare. She talked about bass fishing and that 7-pounder she caught last week. She knows how to bait a plastic worm and went on about her love for gospel singing. She talked about a trip to visit a child and another trip that's upcoming.

Then it got back to Hart.

She called Garvin Isaacs, Hart's lawyer, the "finest man she's ever met," and became visibly stirred about the loyalty of the people of Locust Grove. She said they decorate Hart's grave daily to this day. It was as if a spell fell over her as she recalled the night men from the county came to her church to tell her Hart had died, apparently of a heart attack, in the prison he returned to on an old charge even though he was found innocent in the murder case.

"I remember they told me to sit down," she said, "and then I don't remember anything. I don't remember anything until the next day. I was lonesome the evening he died. People came by to sit and talk and I was just dreaming. I didn't want to talk."

She keeps an unlisted telephone number and a reporter negotiated for two weeks with a Locust Grove policeman to take him to her house. The officer stipulated he wanted no published revival of the Hart case. At the police station, he nonetheless spent 30 minutes himself shooting verbal holes in the case against Hart. His passion about Hart's innocence typifies the town's. In Locust Grove, if you talk about Hart, prepare to talk about his innocence.

And Mrs. Buckskin, six years after the murders and five years after Hart's death, said not a day passes without her thinking of her son and the tragedy that rocked a nation of 200 million from a town of 2,000.

She was a mother who reared seven children without once using a baby sitter, who supported her children no matter what.

This aged mother didn't want to argue. She just wanted to live out her life in peace. She just wanted to spend her future living in her past.

Since 1970, Mrs. Buckskin has survived cancer, Hart's trial, Hart's death in prison and a recent heart attack. Now, there was one more intrusion from one more reporter.

Her last heart attack was two years ago. A daughter moved in with her a year ago and Mrs. Buckskin's doctor said her illness was stress-induced. He told her to relax. To stop worrying.

So she tries, by watching television, as she did with her children, in happier times. But the afternoon of the visit, she had only seen one show all day.

The woman who owned Locust Grove's first television set doesn't care much about it anymore.

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The Daily Times

Volume 52 Number 96

Tuesday, May 14, 1985 Pryor, Okla.

12 Pages

Sonny James pleads, gets 25 for murder

Jack "Sonny" James of Chouteau has pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of his best friend, Freddie Rogers, and has been sentenced to 25 years in prison.

He has also pleaded guilty to a second-degree burglary charge of the Chouteau Truck Plaza and has been given a five-year sentence on the charge.

James was originally charged with first-degree murder in the Jan. 8 shooting death of Freddie Leonard Rogers, 32, of Chouteau, then dousing him with gasoline and setting him on fire.

He pleaded guilty Monday to a reduced charge before District Judge William Whistler.

The difference in the two charges is "malice" or premeditation connected with first-degree murder, according to Assistant District Attorney Perry McBride.

"We offered the deal last week," McBride said. "We referred to have definite jail time from the judge as to present the case to a jury. He will serve the two sentences concurrently."

During James' preliminary hearing in April, Rogers' widow, Mary, said she had been in the car with her husband and James when the

shooting took place. Her husband was shot four times in the back of the head.

"I asked him (James) why he did it and he said the 'little S.O.B. needed it. He had been snitching on me and my friends.' He had been hitting me around, too," she said.

She told a long story of a day filled with drinking with her husband and James, discussing family problems, arguments with friends, the men burglarizing a neighbor's home and writing hot checks

during the evening before the shooting.

Rogers had wanted his wife to write stolen checks so he could cash them in Chouteau. She had refused and he had slapped her at least twice while they were in the car, she testified.

James shot Rogers in reaction to the slapping, she testified. Rogers was shot four times in the back of the head.

She said they had driven the car to a friend's home for help, then to the Ear Bob Road area

south of Locust Grove. She said James had doused her husband's body and the car with gasoline and poured a trail up the road.

"The first time he lit it, it went out," she said. "He had to light it again and it caught."

The charred body and burned out car were found about 6 a.m. Jan. 9 by a resident of Artesia Village, a resort in the area. Rogers was identified through dental and surgical records from state correctional facilities.

Utility theft caught; Homeowner will pay

A Pryor woman, who let her son do some illegal electrical wiring on her home, was brought before the utility board Tuesday to explain why her service should not be disconnected.

Roberta Childers of 404 N. Sawyer St. appeared at the Municipal Utility Board following the discovery of wiring which bypassed the electric meter on her house. The bypass allowed her to operate her water heater and air conditioner for free.

In addition to being required to appear before the board, Childers will have to pay \$25 service charge and whatever the MUB estimates the cost of the electricity used by her appliances from February through May. She also had to pay a licensed electrician to set the meter and breaker box wiring aright.

Mrs. Childers reportedly had a new electric water heater installed in February, allowing her oldest son, Gary, to do the wiring.

The wiring job was discovered May 7, when the water heater began to malfunction, according to Bob Pierson, general manager of the municipal utility.

"The serviceman Mrs. Childers called traced the wiring back to the meter and found the by-pass," Pierson said. "He apparently didn't say anything to the homeowner, just reported what he found to the utility office."

"The service man knew he
(Continued on Page Two)

Traffic
fatality

New shopping center

Deaths and Funerals

BARROWMAN-Clover R. 97, Midwest City, Ok. died Wednesday. Services Friday, 2 p.m. Graveside Service, Rose Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City.

FELLINGHAM-Frederick C. 81, died Nov. 29 in Denver, Colo. Memorial Services were held Monday, Dec. 1st, 1986. He was born July 29, 1905 in Chicago, Ill.

He was graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in physics in 1927 and received a law degree in 1941 from the University of Tulsa. In 1935 he was married to Dorothy Grimes. She died in 1975. Fellingham worked for Amoco Oil Co. for 43 years until his retirement as Denver division administrative manager in 1972. Then he was administrative vice president of the Natural Gas Supply Committee and was a consultant in Washington, D.C.

He was president of the Colorado Petroleum Council and Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. In 1974 he was named Colorado Pioneer Oil Man of the Year. He received many other awards and honors. He was a member of the Denver Petroleum Club, Columbine Country Club, Dartmouth Alumni Association of Denver, Rocky Mountain Petroleum Pioneers, and other groups. He held volunteer positions with

MARSHALL-Floyd Raymond, 78, long-time Tulsa Resident, passed away Thursday. Retired from McKissick Products after 35 years. WW II Veteran, member Hill Crest Baptist Church. Survived by wife, Elaine, of the home; Daughter, Linda Alford, Tulsa; Sons, Jack Marshall, Longmire, WA.; Alan Marshall; John Marshall, Bixby; 2 Grandchildren. Service 2 p.m. Mon. Tulsa Whisenhunt Chapel. Interment Memorial Park. Tulsa Whisenhunt 592-3666.

TIPPIT-Robert (Bob) E. 45, Tulsa, died Friday. Survived by: mother, Betty Wofford; son, Jeffrey Jon Tippit; sister, Carla Keith; brothers, Bill Tippit and Hershall Wofford. Service 2 p.m. Monday, Mobley-Dodson Funeral Chapel. Interment

Mobley-Dodson
245-6644

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* * *

LEGALS

PUBLISHED in the Tulsa World
December 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23,
24, 25, 27, 1986. NOTICE OF SETTLED
PARTY'S
INTENDED DISPOSITION OF
COLLATERAL

SHROFF-Jack H., 67, of 3939 E. 4 St. passed away Friday in VA Hospital Muskogee. He was a WW II Veteran, retired salesman of Thor Power Tool Company, member of Petroleum Masonic Lodge, Shriner, past President of Society of Manufacturing of Engineers and member of many other organizations. Survived by wife, Faye; 2 sons, David & Don of Tulsa; 9 grandchildren; mother, Ruby Shroff, Tulsa; sister, Ruth Wilson, Tulsa; 3 brothers, Bill of Hulbert, Everett of Tulsa, and Estle of Chouteau. Service 3:30 Monday, Memorial Park Chapel. Mr Shroff will lie in state all day Sunday at Moores Eastlawn Chapel. Moores 583-6148

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LEGALS

PUBLISHED in the Tulsa World
December 20, 21, 22, 26, 1986
NOTICE OF SETTLED PARTY'S
INTENDED DISPOSITION OF
COLLATERAL

NOTICE OF SETTLED PARTY'S INTENDED DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL

NOTICE OF SETTLED PARTY'S INTENDED DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL

NOTICE OF SETTLED PARTY'S INTENDED DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL

LEGAL

PUBLISHED in the Tulsa World, December 13, 20, 1986, Tulsa, OK
IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TULSA COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA
In the Matter of the Estate of RUBY MAY PAIR, Deceased
No. P 86 1030

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an Order of the District Court of Tulsa County, State of Oklahoma, made on 11th day of December, 1986, in the matter of the Estate of RUBY MAY PAIR, deceased, the undersigned as the Administrator of the Estate of said decedent will sell, at private sale, to the highest bidder for cash, subject to confirmation of said District Court on or after the 24th day of December, 1986, at 1:00 p.m. at 320 South Boston, Suite 920, Tulsa, Oklahoma, in said County of Tulsa, all the real, title interest and estate of said RUBY MAY PAIR, deceased, of the following description, and all right, title and interest that the said Estate has, by operation of law or otherwise, in and to the real property, above and herein in the County of Tulsa, State of Oklahoma, described as follows, to wit:
Lot of Tracts (301) Block Two (2), CHH AVISTA ADDITION to the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma, and also to the tract ordered that the said Tracts must be in writing and may be submitted at the office of Moore, Martin, Santee, Imler & Trick, 320 South Boston, Suite 920, Tulsa, Oklahoma, may be delivered to the Administrator personally or may be filed in the office of the Judge of the District Court of Tulsa County, Probate Division (DATE OF 11th day of December, 1986)
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Tulsa, Oklahoma
James H. Martin, OHA 2883
MOYER S. MARTIN, SENTRY
IMLER & TRICK
320 South Boston, Suite 920
Tulsa, OK 74103
M181 583 5281

PUBLISHED in the Tulsa World, November 11, 14, 20, 21, 1986, Tulsa, OK

INVITATION TO BID
FOR
BEST CONTROL PROGRAM
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION
PROGRAMS of the City of Tulsa

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Tulsa, 1001 E. 10th Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 22, 1986. The project is identified as follows: Project No. 1154, entitled "Best Control Program Project Identification Programs of the City of Tulsa". The project is to be completed by the City of Tulsa. The project is to be completed by the City of Tulsa. The project is to be completed by the City of Tulsa.

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Murders

Continued from p. 1

with near-perfect identification. These techniques, which take a maximum of eight weeks, allow the isolation of DNA from body fluids such as blood, semen and saliva.

DNA is chemically extracted from stained materials. Once obtained, the DNA is cut in small fragments with DNA probes.

"If the samples have been dried, kept frozen, you could go back as far as 10-15 years," said Kearney. "We are able to differentiate one individual from another. DNA from all individuals is different from all individuals."

The technique was developed in 1987. The FBI began using it in December 1988. Nearly 600 cases have been submitted for testing.

TULSA WORLD

Tulsa, Oklahoma, Wednesday, July 26, 1989

Final Edition

BI Trying to Solve Girl Scout Murders With DNA

Randy Pruitt
Samuel Aulman
id Staff Writers

The FBI lab is using space-genetic testing in an effort to find out who killed three Scouts 12 years ago.

Limke, director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, said Tuesday he Federal Bureau of Investigation Director William Milner, 10, both of Tulsa, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow, as high profile among the 100 to

Scouts near Locust Grove undergo a procedure known as "DNA fingerprinting."

The relatively new test, which analyzes blood or semen, is based on the fact that no two people share exactly the same genetic makeup.

Because the only suspect in the sensational murder case, Gene Leroy Hart, was tried and acquitted by a jury, the case has remained open.

OSBI spokesman Paul Renfrow described the homicides of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Doris Denise Milner, 10, both of Tulsa, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow, as high profile among the 100 to

150 slayings the agency investigates annually.

The girls were found molested and bludgeoned or strangled at Camp Scott south of Locust Grove.

"The girl Scout case is one of the biggest if not the biggest case this agency has ever worked," Renfrow said.

He refused to say what evidence was sent to the FBI. He said lab officials told them it will take about three months to evaluate and perform tests on the evidence, which was delivered about July 7.

"The things we sent are obviously dated. We really don't know if they can be done (tested) or not," he said. "In most cases

they have a suspect they can draw blood from. In this case there are some built-in difficulties."

Hart died of a heart attack while in prison on unrelated charges on June 4, 1979.

Renfrow said scientists have indicated there is an 85 percent to 90 percent chance that test results will be inconclusive.

"But here is a new technique that could possibly provide us with new information," he said. "Why not take a gamble and see what we can find out?"

Renfrow said the case has not remained totally inactive.

"It seems like every year some lead comes up and we look into it, but it is generally eliminated," he said.

Renfrow said he expected DNA fingerprinting to revolutionize law enforcement.

"In five years it will be as common as fingerprinting," he predicted.

Renfrow said law enforcement agencies have bombarded the FBI with requests to analyze evidence. The FBI made a special exception in the case of the Girl Scout killings, breaking a rule that it accept only active cases.

Sheri Farmer, the mother of one of the girls, said she and her husband have been dealing directly with the office of Attorney General Robert Henry, which directed the OSBI to call FBI officials.

"We found out new testing was

available so we got in contact with the attorney general's office," she said.

"We're hopeful this will have some conclusion. If it doesn't we're prepared to continue until we find positive identity of whoever killed Lori," said Mrs. Farmer, the founder of the Oklahoma chapter of Parents of Murdered Children.

DNA fingerprinting is a highly sophisticated method of identifying people.

According to James Kearney, section chief of the FBI Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory in Quantico, Va., DNA tests could genetically link stained evidence with suspects.

See Murders on A-4

'Crazed monster'

July 9, 1977
Tulsa

By E.N. EARLEY

The Locust Grove killer is suffering from an overwhelming inferiority complex. He hates himself, the world, is a sexual fascist and will strike again — soon — if not captured.

Despite drugs, lobotomy and sophisticated treatment programs it is doubtful the person who sexually molested and murdered three Tulsa Girl Scouts last month at Camp Scott can ever be rehabilitated.

While not legally crazy, he suffers on such a savage, animal level that it would be impossible to change him.

These are the views of Oklahoma clinical psychologist Dr. Robert Phillips, who for 25 years has treated criminals and the mentally ill.

the terrible deed and then escaped. Blood.

"But in the process of committing the crime the passion took over. After one kill he returned to the tent for another and another. He could not leave the bodies alone."

"He was caught up in his deed. He lost all control. In a moment way he carried the girls outside and continued to violate them."

"At that second he was completely mad — a monster — an animal."

"Then something happened which brought him back and alarmed him."

"Like an animal who scratches the ground trying to cover his tracks — in an almost ritualistic way — the killer tried to cover what he had done.

This profile should be compared to the killer, as we now know, into and where his is for such comparison - Psychological profile of the scout killer

cause he hates happiness, innocence, decency and the best way to degrade those things and himself was by sex. "Usually sex is life-giving but in his case, it was life-taking."

"He hates being alive and in killing he is taking revenge on a world he believes has mistreated him."

Phillips says the Locust Grove case is similar to cases he has heard or read about.

"Something happened during this man's life to make him feel extremely inferior and to build up a passion-ate hatred in him."

"I believe it would be impossible to help such a person or ever release them on society."

Gene Leroy Hart, a 32-year-old Cherokee Indian, has been charged with the murders, but has not been arrested.

Hart, who was popular and outgoing in high school, was first arrested in 1958 on charges of rape and kidnapping.

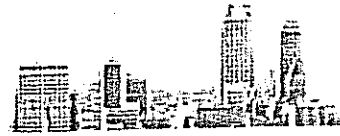
Hart admitted forcing two women into the trunk of his car, driving to the Locust Grove area, raping the two and then leaving them bound and gagged in a field.

He received three 10-year concurrent sentences for rape and two 15

years for rape. Hart was arrested a few months later and charged with four first degree burglary counts. "He refused to plea bargaining offer



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Age of Evidence In Scout Killings N Thwart Test

Jim Myers
08/01/1989

OKLAHOMA CITY - In sending 12-year-old evidence in the Girl Scout murders case to the FBI for DNA testing, state officials ignored a 1988 suggestion from a key FBI official to use a California firm experienced with old, possibly deteriorating evidence, it was learned Monday.

Other developments in the story:

An official confirmed the FBI lab does not yet have the technology used in matching DNA - deoxyribonucleic acid - in evidence as old as that in the 1977 killings.

Chief FBI analyst Kenneth Nimmich also said his lab has not matched DNA on evidence older than five years.

A noted California forensic scientist experienced with DNA testing that technology predicted the FBI lab would fail if it tries to use the process in the case.

Moreover, said Ed Blake, of Forensic Science and Associates, it is likely that DNA no longer exists on the evidence sent to the FBI because it was not properly stored.

That evidence includes a pillowcase stained with seminal fluid as well as a known blood sample of Gene Leroy Hart, who was acquitted of the slayings only to die later in prison while serving an unrelated sentence.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation officials refuse to say exactly what evidence they sent to the FBI lab.

In a June 30, 1988, letter to Attorney General Robert Henry, John W. Hicks, deputy assistant director of the FBI's Laboratory Division, suggested the evidence in the Girl Scout murders be sent to Cetus Laboratories, of Emeryville, Calif.

Hicks said Cetus had developed a DNA test "designed for the analysis of old or degraded DNA."

The test would not identify a culprit but it would exclude Hart if he were not the attacker, Hicks wrote.

He also stated that the evidence in the Girl Scout case might not be in acceptable condition.

"It is my understanding that the known sample from Hart is in the form of a dried bloodstain which has been stored at room temperature since it was taken," he said.

"A sample of that type does not provide the best possibility for successful DNA typing. However, success cannot be totally ruled out."

Blake, who is licensed to use the Cetus test, does rule out success if the Hart blood sample is in the condition described by Hicks.

"If that blood has been kept at room temperature, that DNA is gone, most likely," he said.

Blake said the technology the FBI uses was not designed to test DNA from "broken-down" samples.

Blake's technology is Polymerase Chain Reaction, which essentially amplifies DNA and increases the chance of success.

He said he has succeeded in using the PCR technology on samples as old as 15 years.

One sensational case involved Gary Dotson, who was convicted of rape on testimony he later recanted. DNA evidence in that case was 11 years old but proved suitable.

Still, Blake said he would hesitate taking on the Girl Scout case because of how the evidence has been handled.

Blake said the evidence, specifically Hart's known blood sample, should have been dried and then frozen to increase the chances of successful DNA testing.

"The pillowcase also should have been frozen," he said.

Nimmich, of the FBI lab, said the 5-year-old evidence on which DNA testing has been successful had been preserved by freezing.

The decision to send the evidence to the FBI lab was defended by OSBI Deputy Director Rusty Featherstone and Tom Puckett, a special investigator for the attorney general's office.

Featherstone said some experts have expressed concern about using amplification techniques in DNA testing because foreign substances also could be amplified.

From the beginning, OSBI officials conceded there was an 85 percent to 90 percent chance against a successful DNA test.

They agreed to ask for the test after a number of inquiries by the attorney general's office and others interested in the Girl Scout murders.

The three Girl Scouts, Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Doris Denise Milner, 10, both of Tulsa, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow, were found molested and bludgeoned or strangled at Camp Scott, south of Locust Grove, on June 13, 1977.

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DA boosts results of Hart gene test

JOE STUMPE
10/25/1989

Mayes County District Attorney Jack Graves says he wishes the results of genetic testing had been available to use in the trial of Gene Leroy Hart 10 years ago.

Hart, now dead, was acquitted by a Mayes County jury in the murders of three Girl Scouts from the Tulsa area. Graves confirmed the tests, conducted by the FBI, showed that only one in 7,700 American Indians would match the sample of body fluids taken from the crime scene, as Hart did.

"I would have used it," Graves said today of the recently completed tests. "What it comes down to is, if there were 7,700 North American Indians at the Girl Scout camp on the night of the murders, only one would have matched the gene characteristics of Gene Leroy Hart. The chances of that are pretty small."

But Oklahoma City attorney Garvin Isaacs, who represented Hart, said he has no faith in the sophisticated genetic tests.

"This DNA fingerprinting is nothing more than a subjective evaluation, X-ray type photographs . . . and just like any other X-ray, you get two or three people looking at them and they might have different opinions and interpretations," Isaacs said Tuesday. "Gene Leroy Hart did not kill those Girl Scouts and that is the end of it."

Graves said the case against Hart is closed - "as far as I'm concerned."

Graves said he already believed Hart, a convicted rapist, was guilty of the murders, based on evidence introduced at the trial.

Prosecutors leaned heavily on semen and hair samples in Hart's trial.

An expert witness testified there were definite similarities in sperm samples taken from the girls and from Hart's underwear. The FBI did not begin genetic testing of DNA samples until last year.

Graves also said he always has strongly believed in the possibility that more than one person was responsible for the deaths June 13, 1977, of Lorie Lee Farmer, 8, and Doris

Denise Milner, 10, both of Tulsa, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow.

Graves was given results of the tests Monday by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. OSBI officials have said the state's confidentiality law prohibits them from discussing the results.

Graves said results of the tests have become public knowledge anyway because of the OSBI's decision to brief families of the Girl Scouts on the results.

Graves said the OSBI did not get the results that authorities hoped for - a so-called "DNA fingerprint" - because only three of five tests of the evidence matched fluids from Hart.

But, he said, "As far as I'm concerned, it's a match."

Graves assisted at the 1979 trial of Hart, but the prosecution effort was headed by S.M. "Buddy" Fallis Jr. of Tulsa.

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OK. Milner (Girl Scouts)
GeorgeAnn and Richard Guse ... in the room that once belonged to their daughter, Michele.

Tribune photo by Mike Wyke

MEMPHIS LIBRARY
SERVICES DIVISION

Aftermath

Girl Scouts slain 10 years ago

By STEVE WARD
Tribune Writer

AROUND the end of May each year, Bettye Milner notices that her blood pressure is rising and she feels more tense.

In the Arizona desert — years and states away from his old job as Mayes County district attorney — Sid Wise talks of being drawn each June to boxes of old notes and photos in his garage.

And this June, Dan P. Scott still is waiting and hoping — as he has for a decade — for the day when the overgrowth is cleared and the Girl Scout camp named in honor of his parents reopens.

It was June 13, 1977, when three Girl Scouts were found molested and bludgeoned or strangled at Camp Scott south of Locust Grove.

Mrs. Milner, mother of one of the slain girls, said that each year, "My body knows it's the time of her death even if my mind isn't thinking it yet."

On June 12, 1977, a Sunday afternoon, 8-year-old Lori Lee Farmer, 9-year-old Michele Heather Guse and 10-year-old Doris Denise Milner and some 140 other Scouts left Tulsa



Bettye Milner

on buses for Camp Scott.

By early the next afternoon, all but three of the campers had been rushed back to the city.

On the way to the shower just after 6 a.m. that Monday morning, a counselor noticed sleeping bags beside a camp road. Then she saw the body of Denise Milner. Zipped in the sleeping bags were the bodies of Lori Farmer and Michele Guse.

In the camp's Kiowa unit, a tent was empty and bloody.

Ten days after the murders, Gene Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist, was charged.

And in what was described as the state's largest manhunt, hundreds of law officers and volunteers combed the thick woods around Locust Grove looking for Hart. In the air they searched for humans in the jungle with a heat sensor. Crop-dusting planes sprinkled water to try to improve a scent for tracking dogs.

But it was 10 months after the warrants were issued that agents of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation found Hart living in a tar paper shack in the Cookson Hills.

By June 1979, Hart had been caught, tried and acquitted — and was dead of a heart attack.

TO MEMBERS of the three girls' families, the milestones in the last decade have included the birthdays and high-school graduation dates which would have been.



Sheri Farmer

Richard Guse, Michele's father, said he places no real importance on the passing of a decade.

"It's another year without Michele," he said.

Sheri Farmer, Lori's mother, said, "One minute you get one phone call and every-

See SCOUTS, page 4A

TULSA CITY-COUNTY
REFERENCE DIV.

Scouts From page 1A

thing changes."

Mrs. Farmer has become a high-profile crime victims' advocate. In honor of what would have been Lori's 16th birthday she and her husband, Dr. Charles A. Farmer, founded the Oklahoma chapter of Parents of Murdered Children.

Mrs. Farmer, 42, said she lectures, on an average, at least twice a month. "I like talking about Lori," she said. "I like sharing things about Lori with people other than just her death."

Guse, 52, is a member of the Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Board and was an organizer of a local chapter of Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have lost children from any cause.

As a working, single parent, Mrs. Milner said, she has been immersed in her children, college and changing careers. Her ex-husband, Walter, is a Tulsa police officer.

Mrs. Milner, 42, said she sometimes has escaped in romance novels and non-fiction. At times when upset, she has read up to three books a day.

TO A LESSER degree, the murders became a part of the lives of many others. Virgle Shipp, a member of the jury which on March 30, 1979, acquitted Hart of the murders, said he thought a lot about the case for a couple of years.

None on the jury ever openly favored conviction, Shipp said.

"What bothered me is I wondered if we'd done the right thing," said Shipp, 57, the Pryor city gas department foreman. "I was hoping I had."

Hart was a convicted burglar, kidnapper and rapist who in September 1973 had sawed through the bars of the Mayes County Jail in Pryor and escaped.

But he was also the hometown boy whose mother still lived near Locust Grove.

The trial prosecutor, former Tulsa District Attorney S.M. Fallis Jr., recalls the open sympathy of many courtroom spectators toward Hart.

"I remember walking into the courtroom," Fallis said. "It was like running the gauntlet of people who were mad."

In the restroom once, Fallis said he heard a voice say, "You ought to be dead."

Fallis said people still ask if he thinks Hart was guilty. Fallis said his reply is basically: "I don't think I know."

Fallis, 52, said he joined a Tulsa law firm about two years after the trial, partly because he was tired and disillusioned as a prosecutor — and the Hart verdict was a contributing factor.

Two months after the verdict, Hart, at 35, was dead. An autopsy showed he died of a heart attack in the prison exercise yard June 4, 1979. He had been returned to McAlester to serve time for his previous crimes.

The Mayes County sheriff when the girls were killed, Glen "Fete" Weaver, now tends to his cows on a ranch 20 miles northeast of Pryor.

Weaver said the stress from the case caused him to have two heart attacks. The case became a political issue, which Weaver attributes directly to his re-election defeat in 1980 and his loss in a 1984 bid for his old office. People were unhappy there was no conviction in the case, Weaver said.

"Gene Hart is not the first guilty person to walk out of a court acquitted and will not be the last," said Weaver, 66. "The only good aspect of it is that that individual will never do it again."

Hart's would-be prosecutor, former District Attorney Wise, whose district included Mayes, Rogers and Craig counties, ran unsuccessfully for attorney general in 1978. His term as district attorney ended before the trial.

Wise, now 58, is a part-time municipal judge, a real-estate instructor and junior college law teacher in Bullhead City, Ariz.

Wise said he has four boxes of photos, videotapes, documents and personal notes from the investigation he helped direct.

"I would say that probably I have been drawn to them in mid-June on a kind of an annual basis," Wise said. "I don't know why. It's a very sad time."

Camp Scott was closed hours after the bodies were found.

Its signs were removed to discourage the curious.

"It's gone back to nature," said Bonnie Brewster, 51, executive director of the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts for 13 years.

The council's board of directors in September 1985 voted not to use the camp again, Brewster said. There could have been



Gene Leray Hart, later acquitted, is escorted from the Mayes County Courthouse in 1978.



Virgle Shipp



S.M. Fallis Jr.



Glen 'Fete' Weaver



Dan Scott



Michelle Heather Guse



Doris Denise Milner



Lori Lee Farmer

business arguments to reopen, she said. But stronger was the emotion and the memories.

"We could not remove that tragedy by redesigning a camp. We have no intention of even trying to forget."

THE CAMP has about 410 acres in two sections and has been valued at some \$700,000. Brewster said the council's first intention would be to sell it to an organization that would return the land to use as a youth camp.

The council's summer camps resumed in 1981 on the Zink ranch north of Sand Springs. A high fence surrounds the main part of the camp — an example of the security consciousness after the murders. Public brochures about camps no longer include exact locations.

To Dan Scott, the camp's closing is another part of the tragedy.

The camp was named for his parents, H.J. "Scotty" and Florence Scott, Tulsa Boy and Girl Scout workers who donated 24 acres for the core of the camp in 1928.

Scott, 60, said he views the murders as an isolated tragedy, and would like to persuade the Girl Scouts to reopen the camp.

For the families, there are memories and tangible reminders.

Never seen in the Guses' attic in Broken Arrow is Michele's sleeping bag and other possessions from camp, her father said.

"I just didn't want anybody else to have them," he said.

Michele's room — now a guest room — remains much as the little girl's room it once was, though her clothes were removed and toys were stored.

Her African violets remain.

Guse, a retail credit manager, said he and his wife, GeorgeAnn, have been through many stages in the last decade. For him, there first was acceptance of the death, and hate.

He said he has vented his anger by speeding in the car by himself. One stage was a feeling of not caring, and in the early months he even thought about suicide.

Working with the victims' groups has helped, Guse said. "The best thing was to feel that I wasn't completely crazy."

Mrs. Farmer said one of her ways of feeling close to Lori is wearing her daughter's heart-shaped, gold ring on her little finger.

THE FARMERS and the Milners sued the Girl Scout Council. Mrs. Farmer said the purpose was that she wanted the Scouts

to be held accountable for the girls' safety. In 1985, a jury decided against the parents, and their appeal failed this spring.

Mrs. Farmer said she continues to have some anger toward the council. "But I don't walk around angry every day."

Mrs. Farmer, the mother of four other children, said she thinks often of Lori.

"It's not a dwelling or sitting around teary-eyed every day," she said. "There's a big difference in being so consumed and overwhelmed you can't function and do positive things."

In Mrs. Milner's Tulsa home, possessions Denise took to camp are sealed in a box in her closet. She said she has no intention of opening it. "It is a part of her," she said.

In her Bible, Mrs. Milner keeps a copy of a letter — a never-mailed letter Denise wrote at camp.

"Dear Mom," the little girl wrote. "I don't like camp its awful (sic) the first day it rained ... Mom I don't want to stay in camp for two weeks."

Mrs. Milner said she may not look at it more than twice a year but always knows it is there. "In a way, I guess it's my last real contact with her."

Mrs. Milner recalls how she used to think — and hope — that as the years passed her life would return to the way it was before Denise's murder. Now, she said, she does not think it will.

Mrs. Milner said she tried for a while to fill the void left by Denise. Several years ago, she said, she tried to arrange to raise a niece along with her other daughter, now 15. In 1982, Mrs. Milner had a baby girl.

"I couldn't tolerate having one child," she said. "I've never been the type of parent who wanted to raise one child."

Before the murder, Mrs. Milner had been working as a teacher's aide at Burroughs Elementary School, Denise's school. She said she worked in the job one more school year.

"I felt the need to be close to things she had been close to," said Mrs. Milner, now a hospital medical laboratory technician.

Mrs. Milner said she considered leaving Tulsa, but there was a stronger tug inside not to leave.

"To leave or to give away her things was like trying to escape or reject her," Mrs. Milner said.

She added she no longer thinks daily about Denise, except around the June anniversary and Christmas, and has tried not to dwell on Denise's death for the sake of her other two children.

"I laugh and visit with people," Mrs. Milner said. "But I know in myself that I'm not the person I once was."

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Lid Kept on DNA Results in Girl Scout Killings

By Jim Myers
World Capital Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Officials on Tuesday were attempting to put a tight lid on questionable DNA test results that some sources say may link the late Gene Leroy Hart to the 1977 murders of three Girl Scouts.

Others say the controversial DNA — deoxyribonucleic acid

— tests of Hart's body fluids were too inconclusive. DNA is the basic component of all living matter.

Rusty Featherstone, deputy director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, refused to release any information on the results.

Featherstone cited a state law that forces officials to keep all OSBI investigations confidential. Hart was tried and acquitted in the Girl Scout murder case, one of

the state's more notorious and unsolved crimes.

He died later in prison, where he was serving a sentence for an unrelated conviction.

Many, including key state investigators, remained convinced Hart was the killer, and last summer the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation asked the FBI in Washington, D.C., to conduct the DNA tests.

Evidence forwarded to the FBI reportedly included a pillowcase stained with seminal fluid as well as a known blood sample of

Hart's. OSBI officials asked the FBI to conduct the tests even though they had been told the federal lab had no experience handling such old and deteriorating evidence.

They received the results Monday and immediately put a lid on them.

A source told the Tulsa World the FBI conducted five so-called probes on the DNA supplied by the OSBI and that three of those appeared to be positive on Hart's. See DNA on A-4

...DNA

Continued from A-1

sample.

He said that kind of result indicated there was one in 7,000 chances the killer was someone other than Hart.

According to published reports, however, the results were more inconclusive.

Sheri Farmer of Tulsa, the mother of one of the three slain girls, was quoted as saying Featherstone told her the results were "not definite."

"It came out somewhere in the middle," Mrs. Farmer quoted Featherstone as saying.

News reports also indicated that Mrs. Farmer concluded the tests failed to solve the question of who murdered her daughter, Lori Lee, 8; Doris Denise Milner, 10, also of Tulsa, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow.

The three girls were found mutilated and bludgeoned or strangled at Camp Scott, south of Locust Grove, on June 13, 1977.

Featherstone refused to confirm such reports, citing the state

confidentiality law.

He confirmed he talked to the families of the dead girls but added he did not "get into specifics."

"We let them know the information was back," he said.

Featherstone said his office has forwarded the report to Mayes County District Attorney T. Jack Graves.

"All I can say is that we are going to follow the law," he said.

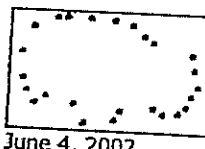
Graves did not return a phone call.

A staff member told a reporter the district attorney would hold a press conference at 10 a.m. Wednesday to discuss the report but late Tuesday even that plan seemed to fall through.

"My understanding is that he is not going to hold a press conference," Featherstone said.

He said the state law also banned Graves from discussing or releasing any information included in an active OSBI investigation.

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Minister recounts notorious slayings

But authorities say story offers little new in Girl Scouts' deaths in '77

By Arnold Hamilton Oklahoma Bureau of The Dallas Morning News THE
Published August 19, 1990

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LOCUST GROVE, Okla. -- It remains the most notorious unsolved crime in Oklahoma history.

Early in the morning of June 13, 1977, someone slipped into the wooded solitude of nearby Camp Scott and murdered three young Tulsa-area Girl Scouts on their first night of summer camp.

Within two weeks, authorities named a Mayes County jail escapee, **Gene Leroy Hart**, as their prime suspect. The one-time local football hero and convicted rapist eluded deputies and state agents for 11 months before being captured.

Yet, when he finally stood trial, the case unraveled: Mr. Hart was acquitted, and investigators were left empty-handed.

Now, 13 years later, a small-town minister from south-central Oklahoma says he has information that could crack the infamous case. He said it could answer whether Mr. Hart was involved or was simply a convenient target for authorities under pressure to solve the high-profile crime.

The Rev. Gerald Manley, a former counselor in the Afton, Okla., public school system, has told the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and other state officials that he was in the campground soon after the girls were killed.

He said at least four men were present, including two he did not

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know. He did say, however, that one could have been Mr. Hart, whom he had never met.

Mr. Manley's account, if accurate, could provide authorities with testimony that implicates more than one assailant in the crime. But Oklahoma officials said they have no evidence to support his claims.

The investigation bureau never ruled out the possibility that more than one person was involved, but agents insisted that their investigation pointed to Mr. Hart as the lone culprit.

Mr. Manley, 52, has passed a polygraph examination administered by a Tulsa County sheriff's deputy. But the bureau said it has been unable to fully corroborate his story.

"Really, as I see it, I don't have anything to gain by telling it," he said during one of three extended interviews with The Dallas Morning News. But, he added, "I've always felt the truth is something people should know."

The slayings of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10, not only gripped Oklahoma, but also commanded national attention.

Almost immediately, Locust Grove, a town of about 1,000 residents, nestled in the wooded hills about 30 minutes east of Tulsa, was flooded with reporters and investigators, all searching for details about the girls.

According to state autopsy reports, Doris Denise Milner died of strangulation, and the other two girls were fatally beaten. All three were sexually assaulted.

Mr. Manley, a soft-spoken, husky man with a thin, dark moustache and glasses, said he attempted at least six times in the three years after the killings to point authorities toward those involved.

He said officials did not seem interested in information that did not point to Mr. Hart. He also said investigators may have ignored him because he offered only sketchy details out of fear for his safety if it became public that he had talked with police.

Finally, two years ago, Mr. Manley said, he met a former private investigator who listened seriously to his story.

Ted LaTurner, who first tracked the murder case as a special assistant to former Sheriff Paul Smith, arranged for Mr. Manley to take a polygraph examination and to undergo hypnosis. He also traveled with the minister to Oklahoma City to meet with an assistant to Attorney General Robert Henry.

Mr. LaTurner, who lives in Spavinaw, about 20 miles north of

Locust Grove, said he is convinced that Mr. Manley's version is legitimate.

"If the guy just had a dream, it's a bad one," he said. "I firmly believe the truth is somewhere around Gerald Manley."

Mr. Manley, who is the pastor of United Methodist churches in Paoli and Wayne, Okla., about an hour south of Oklahoma City, said he had left the ministry because of his divorce and was working as an Afton school counselor at the time of the slayings.

Mr. Manley said he lived in a small, rustic cabin near Chouteau, 11 miles west of Locust Grove, and he befriended several men who he said were in need of a Christian influence.

He said he routinely played dominoes with the men, all related by blood or marriage to one another. And he occasionally used his car to ferry them on errands.

The night of the killings, Mr. Manley said, he drove around the Locust Grove area in search of one of his acquaintances.

Finally, growing tired, he parked his car along a rural road just west of Camp Scott and went to sleep. Sometime later, he was awakened by one of his domino partners who wanted him to "come with me to go down to where some of the guys are."

After a brief drive and hike, Mr. Manley said, he found himself in the Girl Scout camp, being led by his acquaintance into a tent.

In the darkness, he said, he could see at least four men in or around the tent: two of his domino partners and two men he did not know.

Once inside, with only light from a partially covered flashlight, he said he saw the body of a girl on the wooden floor. And he also said he saw two sleeping bags, zipped up, which appeared to contain bodies.

"I was scared to death," Mr. Manley said. "I didn't know whether they'd kill me or not."

"I was afraid of those guys, especially those I didn't know."

After he had been in the tent a short time, the men decided to leave, carrying the bodies with them. About 150 yards down a path leading to a service gate, the men became frightened, dropped the bodies, and ran in separate directions.

With the first hint of morning, he finally made his way back to his car. And, trying to collect his thoughts, he drove to nearby Chouteau for coffee, said Mr. Manley.

Later, he said, he stopped at a second restaurant, where he encountered a nervous man whose boots appeared to be covered with blood. The man resembled the size and build of one of the two men at the camp that he had not recognized.

Mr. Manley said he wrote down the license tag number of the man's car, thinking that it might be significant. However, neither of two tag numbers he recalled under hypnosis was valid in 1977, according to Oklahoma Tax Commission records.

Mr. Manley said he was afraid of the men and did not immediately call police.

In Mr. Hart's trial, defense attorneys attempted to link a former Okmulgee, Okla., construction worker, Bill Stevens, to the crime. But Mr. Stevens, then imprisoned in Kansas on a kidnap-robbery-rape conviction, denied any involvement.

Mr. Manley said it is possible that Mr. Hart and Mr. Stevens were the two men at the campground that he did not recognize.

If that is true, then only two of the four men that Mr. Manley can place inside the Girl Scout tent are still alive.

According to authorities, one of the men is serving a life sentence in an Oklahoma prison for murder. The other continues to live in the Locust Grove area.

Both Mr. Hart and Mr. Stevens are dead. Mr. Hart died of a heart attack in prison on June 4, 1979, just three months after he was acquitted of the murder charges. Kansas prison officials report that Mr. Stevens committed suicide five years later.

Both the state investigation bureau and aides to the governor and attorney general discount Mr. Manley's story, saying that although they believe that he is truthful, they have been unable to substantiate his claims.

"We can't find any corroborating evidence' -- physical or otherwise, said bureau Director Robert Hicks.

"I think the man legitimately believes what he's saying to us is correct . . . (but) all you've got is what he says.'

Moreover, Mr. Hicks said, most, if not all, the information that Mr. Manley provided could have been gleaned "from the trials and newspaper reports.'

But several people who have known the minister for years said it would be uncharacteristic for him to lie or attempt to draw attention to himself.

"I would think that if he says he's got something, then probably he does, and probably it's pretty factual,' said Ben Patrick,

former chaplain at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, where Mr. Manley attended clinical pastoral education courses.

"I've gotten an indication that the OSBI didn't investigate the accused -- they've investigated me," he said.

"It's frustrating in that I'm afraid all it's going to do is bring me a bunch of bad publicity and hurt me in my work, and they'll never get to investigating the people who need to be investigated."

Bureau officials said they are prohibited by state law from discussing what steps they took in investigating -- and ultimately rejecting -- Mr. Manley's story.

But they said their findings are included in a confidential, 300-page report they forwarded to Mayes County prosecutors earlier this year.

Mayes County District Attorney Patrick Abitbol said he has scanned the bureau report but has not had time to review it thoroughly.

He said, however, that he would be willing to order further investigation if the facts warrant it.

"If there is something I'd want them to look into further, I'd make that request," he said.

Although the investigation bureau never ruled out the possibility that more than one person was involved in the crime, many remain puzzled how one man could have assaulted and killed three girls without awakening other campers.

"Not one single piece of evidence collected at that crime scene . . . has ever indicated there was anybody else there except the man charged with the murder," said state Sen. Dick Wilkerson, the bureau's chief of investigative operations during the murders.

"After this guy (Mr. Manley), there's going to be someone else' come forward, he said. "There's always going to be someone else - because it was never resolved in the public's mind."

FBI says private lab should test DNA

Age of evidence in Girl Scout slayings cited

Associated Press

State officials acted against the recommendation of an FBI official when they sent evidence from the 12-year-old Girl Scout murders to the FBI for DNA testing.

John W. Hicks, deputy assistant director of the FBI's Laboratory Division, wrote Attorney General Robert Hony on June 30, 1988, suggesting the evidence be sent to Cetus Laboratories of Emeryville, Calif.

Cetus had developed a DNA test

designed for the analysis of old or degraded DNA," Hicks wrote Henry. He said that while the test would not identify a culprit, it would exclude Gene Leroy Hart if he were not the attacker.

Hart was tried in the case but was acquitted. He has since died. Hicks also wrote that the evidence might not be in acceptable condition.

"It is my understanding that the known sample from Hart is in the form of a dried bloodstain

which has been stored at room temperature since it was taken," Hicks wrote.

"A sample of that type does not provide the best possibility for successful DNA typing," he added. "However, success cannot be totally ruled out."

In addition, Kenneth Nimmich, chief FBI analyst, said his lab had not matched DNA on evidence older than five years.

The three Girls Scouts were killed at Camp Scout south of Lo-

cust Grove on June 13, 1977.

Hart, the only suspect ever arrested, was acquitted by a jury but later died of a heart attack while in prison on an unrelated crime.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation recently sent evidence in the killings to the FBI for DNA testing. The state agency has refused to say what that evidence is.

It was understood that the evidence included a pillowcase stained with seminal fluid as well as a known blood sample from Hart.

Hicks said if the blood had been kept at room temperature, "that DNA is gone, most likely."

Ed Blake of Forensic Science and Associates said the FBI lab is not designed to test DNA from "broken-down" samples.

He said that using another type of test, he had successfully matched samples as old as 15 years. But he said he would hesitate to take on the Girl Scout case because of the way the evidence had been preserved.

Blake said that Hart's known blood sample should have been

dried and then frozen. "The pillowcase also should have been frozen," he said.

Nimmich said the 5-year-old case the FBI lab had been successfully with DNA testing involved evidence that had been preserved by freezing.

OSBI officials from the beginning had conceded there was an 85-90 percent chance against a successful DNA test. They said they agreed to ask for the test after a number of inquiries by the attorney general's office and others interested in the murders.

These dumb Bastards were told about Dr. Ed Blake at Cetus in Henry Bellmons' Office approx. 18 months earlier. Re Charles Farmer (Luis father) and I had conversation with him and he agreed to do this DNA procedure for the State of Oklahoma.



Gene Leroy Hart

"There was consistency in what they had to it being Gene Leroy Hart," said the former district attorney who prosecuted Hart.

DNA tests fail in 1977 murders

► No link is established between Gene Leroy Hart and the three slain Girl Scouts.

By PAM OLSON
World Correspondent

The latest attempt to use DNA testing on evidence in the most notorious criminal case in state history — the 1977 Girl Scout murders near Locust Grove — have failed to link the late Gene Leroy Hart to the crimes.

Hart was tried and acquitted of the murders in 1979. There are no other suspects in the deaths of Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow and Lori Lee Farmer, 8, and Doris Denise Milner, 10, both of Tulsa.

On June 13, 1977, the three Girl Scouts were raped and killed on their first night at Camp Scott, near Locust Grove in northeastern Oklahoma.

"There's nothing else to hope for, is there?" said Bettye Milner, the mother of Doris.

"This puts away any hope we might have for any solution. I was really counting on that. I was counting on DNA to give us the definite an-

SEE DNA A-22

DNA:

The mother of the 10-year-old victim questions whether the evidence was handled properly over time.

FROM A-13

answer as to whether Hart could be excluded or confirmed that he was definitely the person involved in the murder.

For the tests, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation officials tried to use a semen-stained pillowcase that had been retrieved from the crime scene. The semen was suspected to have been Hart's.

FBI tests on samples from the same pillowcase in 1989 were inconclusive.

In Tulsa, OSBI spokesman Chuck Jeffries said the recent efforts to extract DNA from the pillowcase were not successful. The samples tested were insufficient and too deteriorated.

"There is no DNA to test. The lab tried to obtain but could not come up with anything to test," said Jeffries, inspector of the OSBI's Northeast Regional Office.

The polymerase chain reac-

tion/short tandem repeat test that was used represents state-of-the-art forensics technology and has a good track record with old, deteriorated evidence.

Conducted by Joann Kihaga, head of the OSBI's criminal DNA lab, the analysis began on Dec. 18, 2001, in the Oklahoma City OSBI office.

"She tried twice to get the genetic markers to make the call," Jeffries said. Both tests were unsuccessful.

"I don't think this has anything to do to eliminate him," Jeffries said. "She just couldn't get anything out of the samples that she had."

Investigators were able to retrieve what OSBI spokeswoman Kym Koch described as a "partial DNA profile from a female."

"But we do not know which female," said Koch.

The information was partial and not sufficient for comparison to the girls, she said.

Koch said the analysis continued in February. Unlike 13 years ago, when three out of five probes matched body fluids from Hart, there were no matches this time.

"No results. We got nothing," said Koch.

The recent re-examination of the evidence was prompted by a written request from Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tem

'There is no DNA to test (from the pillowcase). The lab tried to obtain but could not come up with anything to test.'

Chuck Jeffries

inspector of the OSBI's Northeast Regional Office and OSBI spokesman

Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, Mayes County District Attorney Gene Haynes also made a verbal request to the OSBI.

Taylor said he asked for the testing at the request of a constituent who hoped to resolve the crime's mystery. He did not reveal the constituent's name.

"She felt — and I agreed — that such an examination could provide the victims' families with at least some of the answers they have sought for so many years," Taylor said in a prepared statement.

Results of the DNA tests were a bitter disappointment to Milner, who has been a lab technician for 21 years at Tulsa's Hillcrest Medical Center.

"I don't understand why the specimens have deteriorated so much. I find it shocking that they talk about so many other cases where the samples are older than this, and you hear that the crime was solved. Evidently, the specimens weren't handled properly, or they would have still been good," she said.

She still believes that Hart committed the murders but does not believe that he acted alone. For that reason, she believed that the DNA testing was critical.

"It would have given us peace of mind that the right person was charged and that there is not anyone else out there," she said.

S.M. "Buddy" Fallis Jr., the former Tulsa County district attorney who prosecuted the case, is not discouraged.

"It would be nice if they could have gone and had a full result in order to resolve any doubt that some people might have had, but it certainly doesn't change my belief as to Hart's guilt, and it does not support any belief that he was not the person," Fallis said.

Fallis says he still has confidence in the 1989 FBI analysis. "There was consistency in what they had to it being Gene Leroy Hart," he said.

Then, when three out of five

probes matched Hart's DNA, the results were deemed unreliable.

However, experts who are familiar with the test noted that with that kind of result, only one in about 7,000 American Indians would match the fluid samples taken from the crime scene. Hart was a Cherokee.

Hart, a prison escapee at the time of the attacks, was tried and acquitted of the murders in 1979 in Mayes County. He was returned to prison and died from a heart attack later that year. Despite his acquittal, many still believed Hart to be the killer.

Followers of the case, which made national headlines, were hopeful that DNA testing — vastly improved since the FBI last tried to analyze his specimens in 1989 — could once and for all link Hart conclusively to the murders or exonerate him.

The 33-year-old Hart had previously been convicted of rape, burglary and kidnapping.

The case is still open but considered inactive. Tips on the case, frequent at one time, are no longer being reported.

DNA testing was not available to the OSBI until 1994.

Koch said there is a backlog of literally hundreds — and maybe thousands — of cases without a known suspect.

He can't forget

Former sheriff Pete Weaver still haunted by Camp Scott murders

By CHARLES W. SASSER
Special to The Tribune

OCUST GROVE — "I never look at those hills but what I think of the horror and hell that happened by the burning sadness flooded my eyes east upon the rugged slope of timbered hills near Locust Grove.

"Now 60, Glen "Pete" Weaver as Mayes County sheriff that summer four years ago when the triple murder of Tulsa area Girl Scouts Lori Farmer, B. Michelle Wise, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 3, shocked the nation and focused the eyes of the world on a rural lawman and the fugitive who became his prime suspect in the crime.

No longer sheriff, Weaver still feels the scene of the tragedy. He can't conceal the pain as he strides slowly among the decaying apt platforms at Camp Scott.

The camp was closed on June 13, 1977, the day following the night a man sneaked into tent number 241 and killed three young girls. He assaulted and murdered the three children. It has not opened since.

"Even now, four years later," Weaver says, "I can still look over by that tree and see those girls' bodies. You're an ex-cop. You know the suffering a thing like this can cause."

Until that night, nothing like this had ever happened in Mayes County. It is a predominantly rural county where men wear cowboy boots and carry rifles in racks in windows of their pickup trucks. Much of the population is either veteran or proudly claims Indian heritage. The sheriff picks up rank on Saturday night, investigates a cattle rustling or a moon-

shine still, and occasionally handles a shooting.

Sheriff Pete Weaver was unimpressed to be thrust into the breach that perspective of the world's press. It changed his life.

"I still don't understand it," he admits in his slow Western drawl. He has the furrowed, tough-jawed face of an Idaho Dodge City marshal. "How could a man like Gene Leroy Hart become a folk hero?"

Gene Leroy Hart was a convicted rapist and burglar. In September 1973 he served through the bars of Sheriff Weaver's jail in Pryor and escaped, owing the state of Oklahoma a debt of 315 years in the state penitentiary. Weaver chased him for four years in the hills surrounding Camp Scott. Two months before the Camp Scott murders, a deputy almost captured Hart when he spotted him walking on the road toward Locust Grove. Hart fled into the forest; he knew so well and again escaped.

It was 10 months from the time the murder warrants were filed on Hart until agents with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation captured him in a tarpaper shack 30 miles southeast of Locust Grove. The issuance of the murder warrants and Hart's ultimate arrest stirred up a county-wide manhunt. Mayes County residents, many of whom could not or would not, believe a native son could commit such a horrible crime.

The sheriff was accused of harboring a personal vendetta against the escapee, of manufacturing evidence in order to convict Hart. Citizens started defense funds for Hart, held chicken dinners and rallies to raise money to pay his lawyers.

T-shirt appeared bearing his voice and the sentence returns to his

eyes. Pete Weaver is a man accustomed to being the good guy. He was reared in these same hills which produced Gene Hart. He fought in the Pacific during World War II. A sheriff for eight years, he was a man respected for his honesty and his dedication to the pursuit of justice. What had happened that the honest lawman suddenly became the bad guy, who had escaped conviction became the good guy?

"The only thing I tried to do," Weaver continues, "was my job the best way I knew how." It is almost as though he feels he must apologize for it.

Defense attorneys for Gene Hart filed a federal court suit against the sheriff alleging civil rights violations. The case was dropped, but not before it had cost Weaver \$1,500 in attorney fees. He suffered a heart attack in August 1976, four months after Hart's capture in the Hill elections he was defeated.

Now a private citizen recovered from the heart attack, retired forever from law enforcement, Pete Weaver can never forget those dark years which began at the Girl Scout camp on the night of June 12, 1977. Justice became a farce, he believes; justice was mocked.

The ex-lawman lifts his eyes toward the south. Gene Leroy Hart lies buried within two miles of where the Girl Scouts died. A simple stone marker in the little hillside cemetery tells solemnly that Hart died on June 4, 1973.

Two months after he was acquitted of the murders, he collapsed and died of a heart attack in the exercise yard at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary where he was serving time on previous convictions.



Former Mayes County sheriff Glenn "Pete" Weaver at the scene of the Camp Scott murders.

Hart had no known history of being violent. The case against the hills around Camp Scott who believe justice was served after all.

where the three little girls had died. Weaver says he never believed justice was served after all.

Pete Weaver is one of those. With a last look at the platform of tent 8

He will return again and again to the scene, Sheriff Pete Weaver will never forget.

"Oh Lord! We've got to count the children!"

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Girl Scout Murders Locust Grove, June 12, 1977

Camp counselor Carla Wilhite's wind-up alarm clock rang at six a.m. that Monday, June 12, 1977. It was the first full day of Girl Scout summer camp at Camp Scott, located in the rugged Cookson Hills of northeastern Oklahoma in Mayes County near Locust Grove. The Girl Scouts, 137 of them, and their counselors had arrived Sunday afternoon in bedlam to be sorted out into nine campsites, each of which was named after an Indian tribe.

Kiowa was the most isolated of the nine, thrust back into a dense grove of trees at the far southwestern edge of the camp. There were seven Scout tents at Kiowa, stretched on foot-high wooden platforms fifty feet apart, arranged in a half moon facing the single counselors' tent occupied by Carla Wilhite, 23, Susan Emery, 18, and Dee Ann Elder, 20. The counselors were in charge of 28 girls, many of whom were attending their first summer camp.

There had been a rain-and-lightning storm Sunday night, contributing to first-night jitters. But the air had been washed clean, Carla noted, as she rose early to pad to the staff house to take a warm shower before rousing the others.

On the trail through the trees out of Kiowa, the young counselor spotted a pile of sleeping bags at a fork in the trail. Thinking it missing luggage or possessions the counselors from another campsite may have found and returned during the night, Carla thought nothing of it.

But, then, drawing near, she froze in her tracks.

The good, clean morning went haywire. Carla couldn't believe what she was seeing. It was so out of place, so *obscene*.

The small body of a light-skinned black girl lay sprawled on its back between an elm tree and two sleeping bags. Naked from the waist down, her flannel nightshirt was bunched up around her chest. Her legs were wrenched far apart, like open scissors. Dried blood marred the little dark head.

A scream exploded from Carla's throat. She screamed again and went flying back down the path to camp to set into motion a chain of events that would bring into question the very meaning and conduct of justice.

Flinging open the counselors' tent flaps, Carla Wilhite sounded the alarm: "There's a little girl dead! On the trail! Oh, Lord, Dee, we've got to count the children! We've got to count the children!"

Mayes County Sheriff Glen "Pete" Weaver answered the early morning telephone call at his home in Pryor, the county seat. At 56, Sheriff Pete Weaver was the prototypical western lawman, complete with wide-brimmed hat, boots and the lean, grizzled face of a man who had spent most of his life outdoors.

As he left home for Camp Scott, he hurriedly explained to his wife: "That was the highway patrol dispatcher. Something about *three little girls* dead out at the Scout camp."

Highway Patrolmen, agents of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) and other state and local lawmen were already converging on Camp Scott when Sheriff Weaver arrived.

"Lord, I've never seen anything like this," OHP Trooper Harold Berry exclaimed. "They were carried here from their tent."

The first little girl, the one Carla spotted, was lying on the ground uncovered. The other two were in their sleeping bags next to her. The first was Doris Milner, the 10-year-old daughter of Tulsa Police Officer Walter M. Milner. She lay on her back with her arms bound tightly behind her with a small rope and black duct tape. A gag made from a towel sweatband hung loosely around her neck. The right side of her face was swollen and discolored and had gashes that indicated to the sheriff that a weapon had been used. Dried blood webbed her face. She had been brutally beaten on the head and face, but the state medical examiner was to rule that she died of ligature strangulation.

On the trampled ground between the little girl's legs, Weaver discovered a pair of men's footprints. About size ten, he estimated. Their owner had stood with his heels in, toes out, balancing his weight on his inside soles. *Duckfooted*, Weaver called it.

Concentric circles on the ground at the child's elbows, like ripples made from a stone thrown into a pond, attested to the violence of the attack. She had been raped.

So had the other two little girls. All three raped.

Michelle Guse, 9, and Lori Lee Farmer, 8, each in her own sleeping bag, lay piled one on top of the other, as though simply discarded after they had been used.

Lori Lee was not bound. There was a single laceration to the right side of her head, just above the ear, with a resulting skull fracture. It was Dr. Neil Hoffman's opinion that she had been raped *after* death. Hoffman was a state medical examiner.

Michelle had been bound with her hands pulled underneath her thighs and her knees drawn toward her face. She died of multiple skull fractures. She had been both raped and anally sodomized, probably before she died but after she was beaten.

The little girls had stayed their first night in Tent Eight at Kiowa. Inside the tent, the mattresses of the first two bunks were caked with drying blood. An enormous puddle of it, black from coagulation, had pooled on the wooden floor next to the bunk on the right. Inside one thin patch of blood was a large footprint with a military-type sole like that found next to the body of Doris Milner.

Etched in blood on the tent ceiling above one of the bunks was a rectangular mark about three inches long, obviously made by an intruder's weapon as he flailed his way through the three little girls.

Sheriff Weaver tried to piece together the events based on what evidence he saw: "They were assaulted and beaten here first, then carried off. . . How could he have kept three of them quiet long enough to rape them, unless. . .? He beat them first. . . They were *dead* when he. . ."

"They were killed here, raped in the trees. Except the little black girl. The elbow marks. . . She must still have been alive, dying but alive. . . And *one* man. It had to be a single man. There *couldn't* be two men in this county who would get together for something like this."

Sheriff Weaver had only himself, an undersheriff and three deputies at his command. The OSBI dispatched 21 agents to help work the Camp Scott case, over half the bureau's allotted officers. Regional Agent Cary Thurman was designated case agent as

forensics lab technicians flew from Oklahoma City in the bureau's private plane and landed at Pryor's tiny airstrip.

By the end of the day, as officers and agents worked to retrieve evidence, Pryor was filling with newsmen, including all three TV networks and reporters from the *New York Times* and other major papers. The Girl Scout Murder Case quickly became one of the most publicized murder cases in the history of the United States. Something was to appear about it in the media nearly every day for at least the next two years.

Evidence at the crime scene proved scarce — a third footprint like the other two on a little used trail behind Kiowa campsite; a pair of women's eyeglasses and a hair clasp dropped in the leaves of last fall; a partial roll of black duct tape like that used to bind the black girl; a red-and-white Sportsman's 6-volt flashlight with its lens masked down with green plastic from a garbage bag to a hole one-inch in diameter. Burglars commonly did their flashlights like that.

Investigators reconstructed the killer's path through the camp by questioning Girl Scouts and their counselors and piecing the information together. Whoever the monster was, he had been prowling Camp Scott at least since the prephase period the week before. Perhaps he had been there even before that.

A year before, during the previous summer camp, a counselor found a scrawled note threatening to rape and kill Girl Scouts. She thought it was some kind of prank and threw the note away. This year, the previous week, two young women counselors had been walking at night on Cookie Trail when someone with a flashlight followed them. Whoever it was fled when the counselors yelled at him and ran to hide.

Three nights later, Carla Wilhite was disturbed by someone lurking around the staff house where she was sleeping alone.

But it was on the night of the killings, after the thunderstorm, that the stranger's presence was widely noted. A counselor had seen a dim light moving in the tree line; a half-hour after that a Girl Scout returning from the latrine dropped her towel on the trail. When she bent to pick it up, her flashlight beam struck a man's black shoes and the bottom of his khaki trousers. She gasped and fled to her tent, where she crawled deep into her sleeping bag and covered her head.

Still another little girl saw a dim light in the forest that night. Another was awakened in her tent to find the large, dark form of

a man glaring in at her. Even later, Dee Ann Elder and Carla Wilhite were jarred straight up in their bunks by a deep-throated moaning sound, almost like an animal's growl. It seemed to originate near where a barbed-wire fence cornered into a plank gate near the trail. The noise stopped when Carla stepped outside and swept her light through the trees.

"I couldn't see anything," she said. "It must have been an animal."

Something about the way the little Guse girl was bound in her sleeping bag — arms behind her and then drawn down around her thighs to expose her bare buttocks, knees nearly touching her chin — rang an oddly familiar bell with Sheriff Weaver. The sheriff and his deputies had been watching a ramshackle farmhouse about a mile from the Scout camp in hopes of nabbing a convicted rapist who had escaped from the Mayes County jail nearly four years earlier.

"Do you know who lives over there about a mile away?" Sheriff Weaver asked his undersheriff, Al Boyer.

"Gene Leroy Hart's mother," Boyer promptly replied. "Just across the field there."

"Gene Hart. Now there's a man who is damned sure capable of something like this. There are a lot of similarities for what happened to the Girl Scouts and what Hart did to those other women."

Eleven years before, in June 1966, Gene Leroy Hart, then 22, a Cherokee Indian, had kidnapped two young women from a downtown Tulsa nightclub parking lot. He locked them in the trunk of his car and drove them to a wooded road near Locust Grove in Mayes County, where he raped both of them. He climaxed each time during the rapes with an awful series of low howls, like that an animal might make.

He then tied the women, arms behind their backs and drawn underneath their thighs, their knees nearly touching their chins, like little Michelle Guse had been bound. He noosed the ends of the ropes around the girls' necks so that when they struggled they would strangle themselves. He left them in the woods to die either of exposure or strangulation.

One of the girls, however, managed to escape her tethers. Hart was convicted of kidnapping and rape and sentenced to serve ten years in prison. He was paroled on March 19, 1969, two and one half years later.

Three months after Hart's parole, Tulsa police arrested him again for breaking into an efficiency apartment occupied by an off-duty female police detective. Evidence found in his car led him to confess to three other similar burglaries.

Hart's parole was revoked. Tulsa County juries found him guilty of four burglaries and sentenced him in February 1970 to serve a total of 305 years in the state penitentiary, the longest sentence ever to have been handed out in the county for crimes other than murder.

On April 25, 1973, Hart's request for a post conviction relief hearing on his 1966 rape convictions was granted. He was transferred to the county jail in Pryor, from which he and two other prisoners escaped on May 20 by using a hacksaw blade.

Hart was recaptured on May 31. But then, using another hacksaw blade, escaped again on September 16. He was 29 years old at the time. He was now 33. For almost four years, FBI agents, highway patrolmen and Sheriff Weaver and his deputies had been unable to trap the fugitive in the rugged and wooded Cookson Hills of Oklahoma.

No fugitive in modern times had managed to elude the law for so long while living in the backyard of those who searched for him. Each time Gene Hart, aka Sonny Buckskin, evaded capture, his reputation in the hills climbed another notch. Some people compared him to another famous outlaw, "Purdy Boy" Floyd, who robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. Only, Sheriff Weaver noted, precious little of the loot from houses Hart burglarized during the four years he had been running free ever found its way to the coffers of the poor.

"Sonny only breaks into houses to get enough to eat, and he don't break into houses of people he knows," one hill man told a deputy looking for Hart. "He wouldn't do that neither if the law would leave him alone."

"Hart raped two girls and left them to die," the deputy argued.

"That's what the law said he done," the man replied. "Folks around here thinks it was them city gals what got Sonny in trouble."

The Indian Gene Leroy Hart had become a thorn in Sheriff Weaver's side, a festered place that never healed.

Had the killer been captured soon after the crime, the nation's eyes would have drifted west or east searching for new grist, for

something else to divert and amuse, and Mayes County would have been spared to settle its own affairs. As things stood, however, and as the days passed without the capture of a suspect, the case unfolded bit by bit, like any good mystery novel, like a 1940s cliff hanger, keeping newsmen around and giving them time to become familiar with the principals playing out this drama. Newsmen snooped around in Locust Grove, sniggering at the unpaved side streets and the little unpainted shacks on the outskirts, trying to interview overalled tobacco-chewing locals for the amusement of their readers and viewers.

At first the press was patronizing. Soon, however, it grew impatient. With impatience came doubt as to the local authorities' competence. It never occurred to lawmen that prejudicial pretrial publicity could work against *the state* as well as against a defendant, that a critical and skeptical press could so prejudice against the state that the state could not receive a fair trial.

The list of possible suspects grew rapidly. Weaver contributed the name of Gene Leroy Hart, the escaped rapist whose mother lived less than a mile from the murder scene. Other names on the list included those of 17 paroled child molesters found to be living within 40 miles of Camp Scott. Theories about how the crime was committed, by what type of person, even whether the suspect was male or female, abounded at the police command post at Camp Scott.

The place at the top of the suspect list was taken by a 60-year-old part-time rancher named Jack Shroff. Shroff, who lived in Tulsa, owned a spread a mile-and-a-half west of the Girl Scout camp. He often spent weekends at his ranch. On the morning of the triple murder at Camp Scott, Shroff discovered his cabin had been burglarized once again. He had complained so many times to the sheriff's department about the constant break-ins that he wasn't even going to report this one until he heard the news about the murders on the radio.

He called Sheriff Weaver's office. "Look, I wouldn't have bothered you boys at all," he said, "only I got to figuring there might be some connection between this and what you're working on over at the camp."

OSBI agents and crime scene experts swarmed to the ranch. They found the back door pried open with what appeared to be a crowbar. Missing from the house were packaged meat from the deep freeze, along with several Bama pies and some canned goods. Also, a partial roll of black duct tape and some nylon three-eighths inch rope.

"The little girls were bound with rope and black duct tape exactly like these," an OSBI agent explained.

The discovery of a footprint on a scrap of white carpet used as a doormat for the back door set off a new round of excitement. It was exactly like the ones discovered on the trail and in the blood at Camp Scott.

During the next several days, agents used tracking dogs in making a connection between Shroff's cabin and Camp Scott. "Super dogs" from Pennsylvania backtracked a trail from the cabin to Camp Scott. They worked another trail from Camp Scott to the cabin. One afternoon, the agents used dogs to try to sniff out evidence from a farm pond on Shroff's property.

Officers took Shroff's fingerprints and samples of his pubic hair, blood and saliva. They suggested he submit to a polygraph test.

"I'm telling you everything I know," the rancher insisted.

"What do you think about Shroff?" an OSBI agent asked Sheriff Weaver.

"My honest opinion is — I don't know. Maybe. I still think we ought to take a closer look at Gene Hart."

"His mother says she hasn't seen him in a year, that she thinks he's in Canada."

"She's lying," Weaver declared. "One of my deputies came up on him outside Locust Grove two or three months ago, but he ran off in the woods and got away."

While scientific analysis proved that the rope and tape used by the killer on his victims were the same as that stolen from Shroff's cabin, analysis of the assailant's hair samples recovered from the girls' bodies compared to Shroff's proved that Jack Shroff could not be the killer. OSBI chemist Ann Reed said the hairs were all black and with basically Mongoloid characteristics.

"Meaning," she explained, "that your suspect is either an Oriental or an American Indian."

The OSBI checked on Gene Hart's whereabouts, just in case.

"He's still in these hills," Pete Weaver insisted. "He'd be like a catfish on dry land the moment he left. He'd be in jail within a month. As long as he stays here, he has relatives from here to Sallisaw who'll hide him out and you won't get a word from any of them."

Agents found that to be true. Everyone in the hills, especially the Cherokees, met investigators with an inscrutable Indian silence.

Two weeks after the Camp Scott murders, two squirrel hunters stumbled upon a cave in the rugged timber-furred mountains behind the house of some of Hart's relatives. Sheriff Weaver, who had received a tip several years before that Sonny Buckskin was hiding out in a cave in that vicinity, had looked for the cave a number of times without success.

The cave appeared that someone had been living in it. There were fire rings at the entrance. Although skeptical that the cave had any connection with the slayings of the little girls, Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers followed the squirrel hunters back into the mountain. They had orders from the homicide command post to collect everything with any possible significance.

Troopers collected from the caves a pair of lace-trimmed red panties, green cotton work gloves, a pair of women's sunglasses in a beige vinyl case, two torn and crumpled photos depicting women at some kind of semiformal affair and, outside the cave, pieces of a newspaper upon which someone had wiped himself after defecation.

"If you boys need to crap again," joked OSBI Agent Arthur Linville when he sorted through the "evidence," "how about burying your ass wipe instead of bringing it back with you?"

But then the date and issue of the newspaper caught his eye: *Tulsa World*, April 17, 1977. It was the same date and issue of the pieces of newspaper folded up around the battery inside the red-and-white Sportsman's flashlight believed to have been left behind at the slaying site by the killer.

More investigation at the cave turned up further evidence: a partial roll of masking tape like that used to blind out the suspect's flashlight; it even had a tiny bit of green plastic like that on the flashlight stuck to it. The end of the roll of tape corresponded exactly with the pieces of tape on the abandoned flashlight.

Hairs from the cave were characteristically Mongoloid and precisely matched those recovered from the dead girls' bodies. Four cigarette butts from the cave revealed the smoker to be an O-type secretor. Records from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary showed Gene Hart to have an O-positive blood type.

To make the link even tighter between the cave and the crime scene, Camp counselor Susan Emery identified the sunglasses as having turned up missing from her purse the night of the Camp Scott tragedy. One of the women depicted in the photographs looked remarkably like Gene Hart's ex-wife. While it was not her, officers traced the photos to a wedding photographer named Lindsay who had shot the wedding on May 25, 1968. The photographer worked days at the Granite State Reformatory and moonlighted as a photographer. His assistant in the prison photo lab at Granite had been a young Indian serving time for rape — Gene Leroy Hart.

"I don't know if Gene ever made copies of the pictures for himself," Lindsay said, "but it certainly would have been a simple matter for him to have done so."

Hart, lawmen surmised, might have kept the photos because one of the women in them reminded him so much of his ex-wife.

There could be little doubt now: the killer had been at the cave before and after he murdered the Girl Scouts. Who but a wanted man like Gene Hart, Sheriff Weaver wanted to know, would be hiding out in these tick- and snake-infested hills?

"If he did it, let's get him," declared OSBI Agent Ted Limke. Lawmen soon determined Gene Hart was still hiding out around Camp Scott and was not in Canada, as his mother claimed. On Saturday, June 11, 1977, the day before the slayings, a lay preacher had visited Hart's mother and found her fugitive son staying with her.

"I tried to get him to turn himself in to the law and accept Jesus Christ as his personal savior," the preacher said, "but he got mad at me. Gene was still at Ella Mae's up to at least six p.m. on Saturday.

On Sunday, the same day of the slayings that night, a Pryor couple canoed past an Indian man fishing on the banks of Little Spring Creek less than a quarter-mile from Camp Scott. They identified the man as Gene Leroy Hart, nee Sonny Buckskin.

On June 22, 1977, Mayes County DA Sid Wise, Sheriff Pete Weaver and OSBI Agent Ted Limke batted around the facts of the case for over an hour, analyzing them, looking at them from every angle. The cave connected to the murder scene through Susan Emery's sunglasses, through the newspapers used as toilet paper and as a brace for the batteries in the flashlight, and through the

masking tape and green plastic trash can liner. Gene Hart could be connected to the cave, and thus to the crime scene, by the fact that the cave was at the site of his grandmother's old homeplace, as well as by the now-famous photographs. Secretions found in cigarette butts at the cave corresponded with O-type foreign secretions analyzed from the dead girls, all of which fit Hart's O-type blood. There was also the fact that Hart was seen near the crime scene the afternoon of the murders. He was an escaped rapist with an MO for rape involving multiple orgasms, for anal sodomy, for tying his victims in that peculiar way with their hands drawn beneath their thighs. He also had an odd quirk for stealing women's sunglasses. Sometimes, Weaver said, Hart stood duckfooted, as the footprints between Doris Milner's legs showed the suspect to have stood. Limke felt the "Mongoloid" hairs found on the victims' bodies would match Hart's once the fugitive was brought in to face justice.

It *was* an impressive body of evidence. On June 23, 1977, DA Sid Wise filed three charges of first degree murder against Gene Leroy Hart. Within hours old mug shots of the accused child killer flashed across the nation's front pages.

THE LARGEST MANHUNT KNOWN IN OKLAHOMA HISTORY! newspaper headlines screamed.

For the next ten months, hundreds of FBI and OSBI agents, marshals, deputies, policemen from cities across the nation, tracking dogs, National Guardsmen and even posses numbering up to 600 men scoured the rugged Cookson Hills in Mayes and Sequoyah Counties searching for the Indian Sonny Buckskin. Lawmen used informants and ex-convicts from Hart's past in attempts to trap the murder suspect. They tailed Hart's relatives, used stakeouts and helicopters and airplanes.

Sonny Buckskin eluded the dragnet month after month.

Almost everyone around Locust Grove knew Gene Hart as something of a local football hero in the 1960s. People liked to recall those days when Sonny put the little town on the state map, when he could be depended upon to come through in a pinch, say in the fourth quarter when it was the last down and the home team was one touchdown away from going to State.

But there had been a dark side to Hart's nature even then.

"There was a bunch of them boys and Sonny called themselves the Horse Collar Gang," said a former Hart friend. "I know several girls they took out and gang-raped after football games."

A woman who had lived down the road from Sonny Buckskin when she was 13 recalled the football hero: "He kept trying to get me off by myself. One day I was in a car by myself and he came up and tore off the door handle so I couldn't get out. I had to fight him to get away. He was growling and carrying on like some kind of animal.

"He was like that with his own sisters. I don't know at the times his mother came running up to the house to get Papa to go down and pull Sonny off to keep him from raping his own sisters."

One of Hart's relatives looked frightened when she talked to police. "Don't let on I ever told you this," she warned. "The rest of them would kill me if they knew I was speaking out against the family, but there's something wrong in the head with that Sonny.

"Right after he got married, I left him in the house with my two-year-old son while I was out hanging out wet laundry. I heard the baby scream something awful. I ran back inside and found the baby on the sofa crying and Sonny lying on the floor watching TV like nothing had happened. . .

"A few days later the baby came down with diarrhea and I took him to the doctor in Fort Smith. The doctor started asking me questions, like did I use a syringe to give the baby an enema or something. He said something large had been stuck up his rectum. The doctor said it might have been a penis. I know it was Sonny did it."

As the long manhunt continued, the nation's press became increasingly critical of lawmen and their apparently bungling efforts to catch Hart. At the same time, by some bizarre logic, the press saw in Hart's long bout for freedom the ultimate proof of his innocence and of his persecution at the hands of the white man's law. Gene Hart had successfully eluded lawmen, FBI agents, posses, and the National Guard for four years. Such a hero could not possibly be a convicted rapist and burglar, an accused child molester and murderer. It didn't fit the image.

Before long, the press ceased mentioning Hart's long criminal record, except in passing. The New York *Times* intimated Hart was innocent of the rapes for which he had been convicted, because, it suggested, he had been framed after the victims volunteered for sex and their husbands found out. Another New York *Times* article openly proposed murder charges had been filed against the Cherokee based on nothing more substantial than a rural sheriff's prejudices. Police investigators were accused of a frame-up.

Headlines screamed:

**SCAPEGOAT OR MURDERER?
LOCUST GROVE RESIDENTS REMEMBER HART — THEIR
FOOTBALL HERO
MAN CHARGED IN TRIPLE MURDERS CALLED "GOOD
LOOKIN' KID"**

During the manhunt, lawmen located another cave in the mountains that had been used as a hideout. Scrawled in Magic marker on the wall was the taunting message: 77-6-17 *The Killer Was Here. Bye Bye Foots.*

Thomas Pittman, the most experienced handwriting analyst in Oklahoma, spent three weeks comparing the inscription with samples of Hart's writing and printing taken from prison documents. His conclusion: "The message and Hart's letters so closely resemble each other that it's like he was signing his own name."

In March 1978, OSBI agents worked with an informant who thought that Hart might be hiding out with a relative named Pigeon in nearby Sequoyah County. One rural mail carrier pointed out, however, that of the 220 families on his route, almost half were Pigeon relatives.

Patience finally paid off. Shortly after one o'clock of a cool spring afternoon, April 6, 1978, OSBI agents finally received the word about Hart's hideout. The man who had eluded authorities for nearly five years, ten months of that as an accused mass murderer, was hiding out with Sam Pigeon in a cabin south of Tahlequah near the Marble City cutoff.

OSBI agents donned bulletproof vests, loaded shotguns and piled excitedly into a van and a blue Agency Pontiac. The Pontiac lost a muffler to the rocky ruts of the road that climbed uphill through timber to Hart's hideout. A tarpaper shack huddled morosely among a scattering of old, rusted car bodies and dilapidated buildings. The afternoon sun gleamed dully off the tin roof.

"There's somebody in there!" an agent hissed, spotting movement at the front window.

Agents scurried to their assigned positions, surrounding the shack. Minutes later they burst inside and arrested a surly, comical-looking fat Indian wearing women's eyeglasses.

"You SOB's," snarled Hart. "will never pin those murders on me."

Gene Leroy Hart, Sonny Buckskin of the mountains, became overnight an instant national celebrity. Partly it was the climate in which a member of a minority, especially an American Indian, could not possibly be guilty. The *Oklahoman* was only one of thousand of examples:

PRYOR — Americans in growing numbers are becoming pen pals with one of Oklahoma's most notorious native sons — Gene Leroy Hart, suspect in the murder of three Girl Scouts.

Every day, sitting in his private cell block in the Mayes County jail, Hart writes thank you notes to the dozens of people who send him money and words of encouragement. . .

It was the cult of the celebrity which seemed to fog people's minds that spring and summer of 1979. T-shirts appeared bearing messages such as: GENE L. HART FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL; GENE L. HART SAYS STOP THE MAYES COUNTY RAILROAD.

"Framed!" people shouted on the streets.

Women swooned. "We love you, Gene."

"Cover up," men shouted.

"Nobody gives a damn about the victims," one lawyer candidly admitted. "I'll bet you can't find two people who can give you all three names of the Girl Scouts. But everybody knows the name Gene Leroy Hart. They remember *him*, and they'll remember the attorney who takes this case. This is the case all criminal attorneys dream about. This is the big one that'll launch them into the big time."

Of the dozens of lawyers who volunteered to take the case, Gene Hart selected two brash young lawyers from Oklahoma City whose courtroom antics helped turn the trial into a media circus. One of them was charged with contempt of court for his behavior during the trial.

Tulsa County DA Buddy Fallis joined the prosecution team with Mayes County DA Sid Wise. Once the trial began on March 5, 1979, the prosecution swamped the court with evidence obtained before Hart's arrest, then followed up with additional evidence.

During the search of the Pigeon cabin following Hart's arrest, OSBI agents had collected numerous items of evidence including a tiny corn cob pipe. A counselor for the Choctaw unit at Camp

Scott on the night of the murders identified it as hers, stolen from her tent on the same dreadful night when someone also stole Susan Emery's sunglasses and murdered Michelle, Doris and Lori Lee. How else could the pipe have appeared in Gene Hart's hideout but that Hart took it while he was prowling about Camp Scott the night of the slayings?

Black hairs recovered from the cave, from the girls' bodies and from the suspect were, said OSBI chemist Ann Reed, "consistent in microscopic characteristics and have even the same source or a source with exactly the same microscopic characteristics."

While in jail awaiting trial, Gene Hart proved to be a chronic masturbator. Officers obtained his semen-stained underwear. OSBI Chemist Janice Davis and New York's Dr. John MacLeod, the world's foremost authority on male fertility, compared semen from Hart's underwear to semen recovered from the victims. That was the era before the use of DNA.

"It has been learned," said Dr. MacLeod, "that the pattern of sperm morphology is as individual as a fingerprint."

Hart's sperm and the sperm from the murdered girls, Janice Davis said, were exactly the same.

"If you took our results and compared them to the entire one hundred million American male population," she said, "the odds are ten thousand to one against Hart's innocence. . . If you compare only the male population of northeastern Oklahoma, you're probably saying, based solely on sperm, that Hart has less than one in a million chances of being innocent. . . Hart murdered those little girls."

There was not a single law enforcement officer of the hundreds who worked the Girl Scouts case who felt Gene Leroy Hart could be anything but guilty. The evidence against him seemed overwhelming. Yet, the anti-police climate spurred on by the news media had made a hero of the Cherokee suspect, had made it, complained officers, virtually impossible to convict the man. Hart was even giving news conferences that were broadcast across the nation.

"We might do better to forget about the sideshows," editorialized the *Tulsa Tribune*. "The. . . news media has rarely looked worse than it did in the television interview of Gene Leroy Hart. . . The image was that of a politician running for Good Guy of the Year. . ."

One officer remarked, "A jury would convict him all right — if he weren't an Indian and if there hadn't been so much publicity. I think the way things have turned out, a jury wouldn't convict him if we had a full confession and a preacher for an eyewitness. The jury doesn't want to believe that a monster can walk and talk and live among people like an ordinary man. People want to believe atrocities are committed by demons, and they don't want to believe the demon lives with them."

On Friday morning, March 30, 1979, word flamed among the hundreds waiting in the hallways and outside the Mayes County courthouse: "The jury has a verdict."

"We, the jury, duly impaneled and sworn to try the above cause, upon our oath find the defendant, Gene Leroy Hart. . ."

Sheriff Pete Weaver caught his breath.

" . . . not guilty."

"There is nothing I can say that's printable," Weaver muttered. "I've carried one picture in my mind for nearly two years — that of little Lori Farmer when we opened her sleeping bag that morning. Now all this makes you wonder if it ever happened at all."

Although Gene Leroy Hart was acquitted of murdering Lori Lee Farmer, Michelle Guse and Doris Milner, he still had the remainder of 305 years to serve in the State Penitentiary for his rape and burglary convictions. Nine weeks after his acquittal, however, irony struck with a terrible vengeance: Gene Leroy Hart, the football hero Sonny Buckskin, collapsed and died of a massive heart attack on June 4, 1979, while exercising in the State Penitentiary at McAlester.

"Sometimes," said Sheriff Weaver, "Justice takes a roundabout path."

"I brood still that somewhere out there is a killer who kidnaps, rapes and savagely mutilates beautiful young girls and whose crimes go unpunished because I'm not shrewd enough or lucky enough to catch him."

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Jekyll-and-Hyde Murders Tulsa, February 5, 1975; April 24, 1975; August 27, 1975

The so-called "Jekyll-and-Hyde" murders were unquestionably the most notorious crimes of the century in Tulsa. They captured the public imagination — and fed the public fear — by introducing to Tulsa what was possibly its first serial killer, a depraved murderer whose specialty was the butchery and mutilation of young women. Years later, while the victims' names may have been forgotten, nearly everyone recalls "the TJC student, the stripper and the jogger" who, one by one, met their dark fates during that one bloody year.

It all began on a cold winter's evening. At 7:30 p.m. on February 5, 1975, a strikingly attractive coed named Geraldine Martin left her art class at Tulsa Junior College downtown to walk alone to her Volkswagen parked in a nearby lot. Miss Martin, twice divorced at age 28, was tall and slender with wonderful blue eyes.

She never made it to her Volkswagen. Somewhere along the way, a killer waited.

Her boyfriend reported her missing the next afternoon. Most "missing persons" eventually return home safe. However, in this instance, a series of mysterious occurrences soon convinced police that foul play could not be dismissed as a possibility.

Jury Rules Against Parents in Suit Over Slaying of Girl Scouts

By BILL BRAUN
Of the World Staff

A Tulsa jury Wednesday returned a verdict in favor of the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts and against the parents of two of the three girls who were

Related photo on D-1

slain almost eight years ago at a summer camp near Locust Grove.

The six-man, six-woman jury, after more than 4½ hours of deliberations, awarded no damages to Dr. and Mrs. Charles Farmer and Walter and Bettye Milner of Tulsa. The verdict also exonerated the Hartford Co. Magic Empire's insurer, of liability.

Nine of 12 jurors concurred in the decision, the minimum number needed to reach a verdict in a civil trial.

After Associate District Judge Bill Beasley read the verdict, solemn jurors quietly filed out of the courtroom. Tears flowed freely from trial participants and spectators.

Attorney Dan Rogers, representing Magic Empire, said, "It's the hardest case I ever tried. Believe me, we really feel for those families. It was a tragic thing that happened, and we feel for them. They had to tell their stories, the jury had to hear it, and we understand that."

In closing arguments, Rogers said a verdict for the parents would "destroy camping as we know it."

He told jurors, "This is a case that the Girl Scouts have got to win. You are the only ones who can preserve what we've got."

The parents sought damages totaling \$5 million. The case fo-

cusled on whether the 1977 rapemurders at Camp Scott resulted from negligence by camp operators or an unforeseeable criminal attack.

The parents' attorneys, Jack Gaither and Benjamin Faulkner, claimed that Magic Empire failed to provide adequate security for its young campers and should have been alerted to its security shortcomings by incidents involving prowlers and intruders prior to the fateful night of June 12, 1977.

The bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Doris Denise Milner, 10, both of Tulsa, and Michele Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow, were discovered early June 13 approximately 125 yards from the tent they shared.

Denise Milner died of strangulation. The other two girls were fatally beaten. Michele's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guse, were not plaintiffs in the wrongful death case.

"You can't secure against an incident such as this," Rogers argued. "We're dealing with a sex-crazed maniac who (former Mayes County Sheriff Pete) 'Slim' Weaver couldn't keep in his locked cell."

The reference was to Gene Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist who escaped from the Mayes County Jail in 1973 and eluded capture for four years prior to the killings, plus an additional 10 months after the slayings.

In 1979, Hart was acquitted of the murders. He died that year in prison, where he was serving time for unrelated offenses.

Gaither told jurors that on the dark, rainy night of June 12, "every girl in Camp Scott was the target in a deadly game" in which a "diabolical cri-

surely shopping for his victims."

Gaither charged that the camp staff "didn't hear anything, they didn't see anything, they didn't do anything."

He alleged that disturbances, and criminal activity at the camp during previous sessions were concealed from Barbara Day, the new director of the 1977 summer gathering.

"Not only has there been rampant negligence for many, many years, but there has been a cover-up," Gaither told jurors.

Although attorneys steered away from focusing on Hart during testimony, Rogers referred to him in his final argument.

Rogers said he sensed that the spirit of Hart was in the courtroom, "wanting you the jury to exonerate him ... I don't want to give that man the satisfaction of knowing he destroyed the Girl Scout movement by what he did at Camp Scott one night."

Rogers said, "We know the Girl Scout council wasn't prepared for what happened out there ... but was it reasonably foreseeable?"

Gaither said that because repeated security breaches were ignored, "something like this was bound to happen."

He said, "It's like playing horseshoes in a minefield. They tossed one more horseshoe and it landed right on the detonator button."

The parents claimed that Hartford voluntarily assumed a duty to eliminate hazards at Camp Scott by inspecting the premises in February 1976 and filing a written report regarding liability risks.

Attorney Richard Honn, representing Hartford, said a Hartford

Jury Rules Against Parents

Continued from A-1

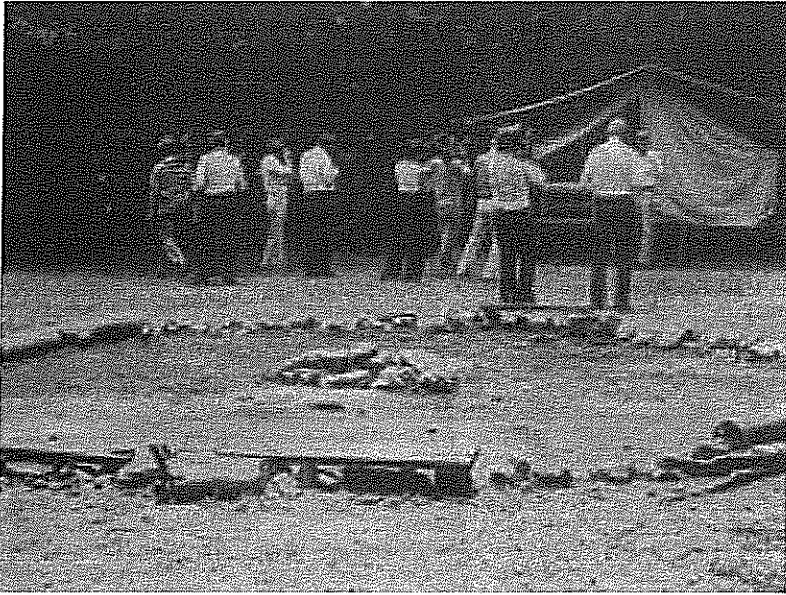
employee went to the camp only to look at food services at the request of insurance underwriters. He said Magic Empire never asked Hartford to survey security and said Hartford never assumed a duty regarding security measures.

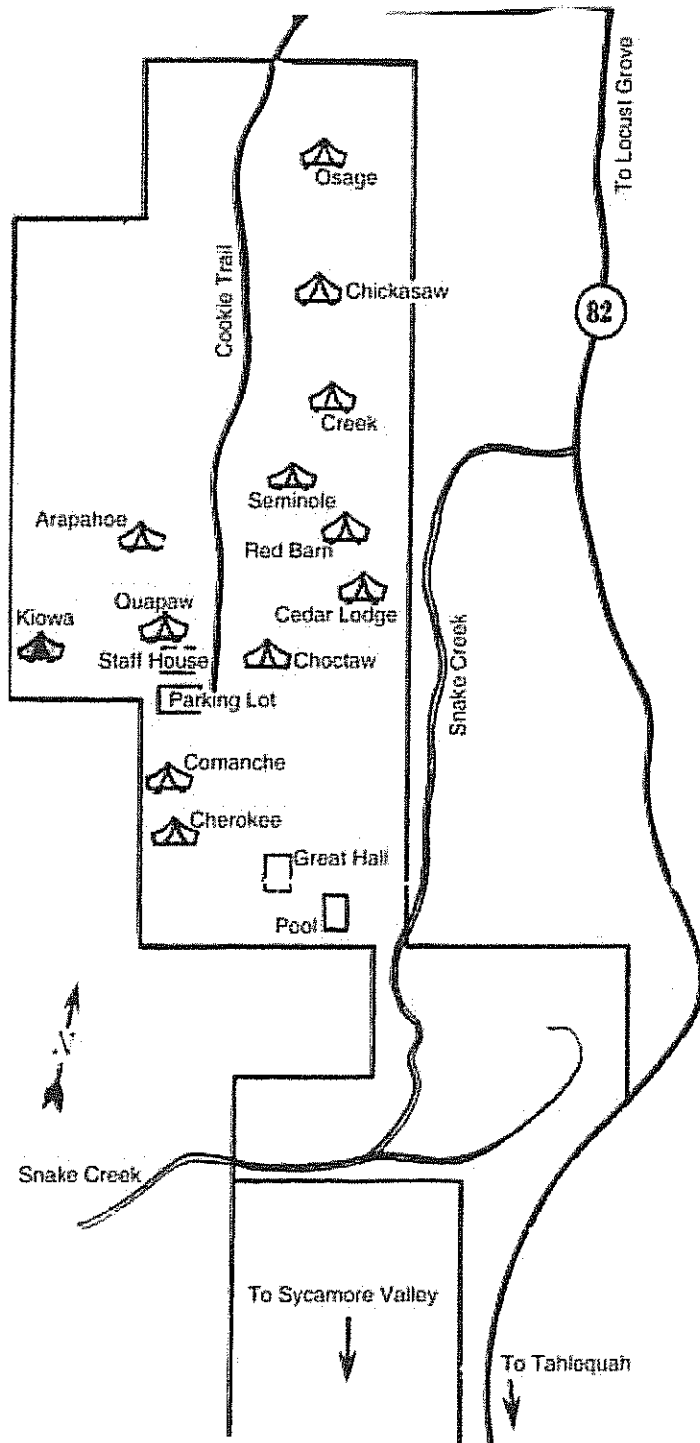
Gaither asked jurors to send a message to the Girl Scouts that "it's time to mark the

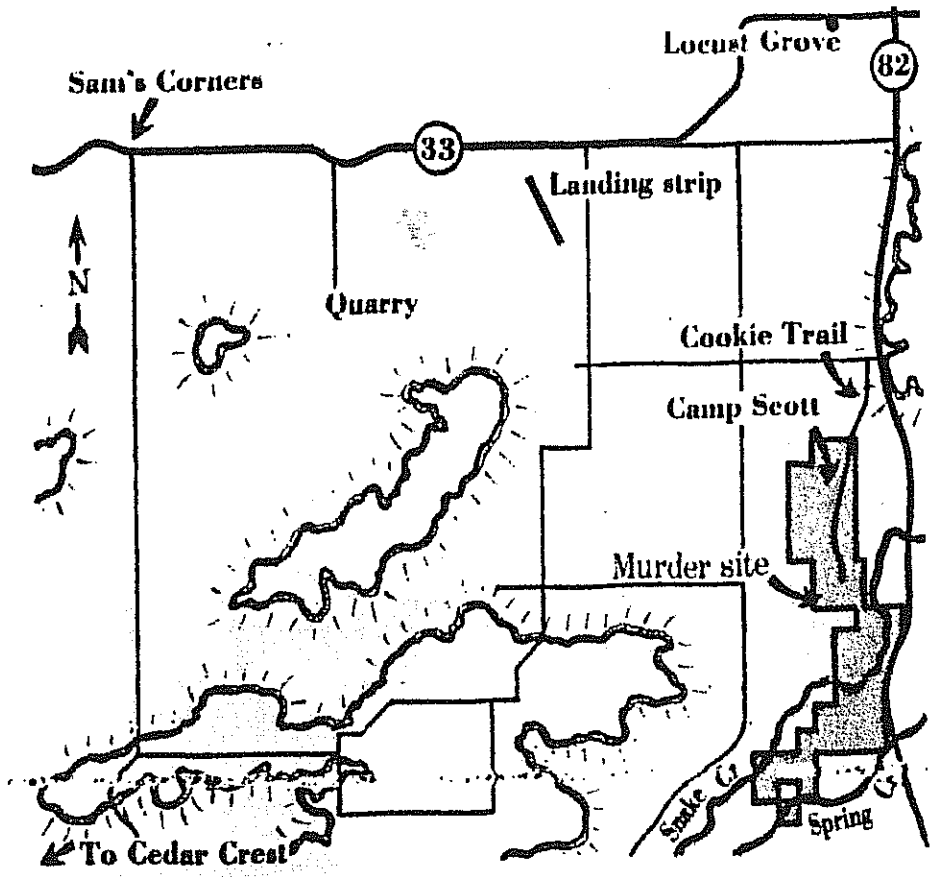
which we live. We're living in perilous times. Had the slightest measure of common sense been taken, these little girls would have been alive today."

Rogers said no judgment could "cure their (the parents) hurt."

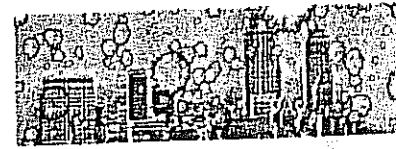
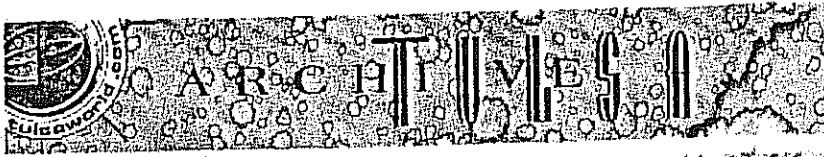
He said jurors can give the parents "all the love and compassion in your heart without







SEARCH AREA — A six-square-mile area south of Oklahoma 33 and west of Oklahoma 82 was searched today by lawmen looking for Gene Leroy Hart. The map shows the area's few roads, and the heights are represented by contour lines at 800 feet of elevation. Altitudes in the brushy area vary from less than 700 to more than 900 feet. (Tribune map)



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Documentary to Focus On Girl Scout Murders

James D. Watts Jr.
10/01/1994

The three years it took Tulsa film maker Michael Wilkerson to complete his documentary, "Someone Cry for the Children," being broadcast Saturday night on the Discovery Channel, represent only a fraction of the time he has spent on the events in the film.

Wilkerson was the lead agent for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation when it investigated the 1977 murders of Lori Lee Farmer, Michelle Guse and Doris Milner at a Girl Scout camp near Locust Grove.

Wilkerson later collaborated with his brother and fellow OSBI agent, Dick, on a book about the strange and twisted case, also titled "Someone Cry for the Children."

Wilkerson's documentary will have its world premiere at 7 p.m. Saturday on the Discovery Channel (cable Channel 32 in Tulsa). The film will be repeated at 10 p.m. Saturday. The film, made under the auspices of Wilkerson's Barrister Studios, combines interviews with eyewitnesses, families of the three girls and law enforcement personnel with recreations of some of the case's events, shot on location.

Actor Dale Robertson and singer Johnny Cash are narrators. Tulsan Mike Brown composed the score, and Wilkerson's wife, Robyn, wrote the title theme in 1979 as a tribute to the three girls.

"We don't take any side, but just try to tell the story as objectively as possible," Wilkerson said. "We also tried to tell it from as many perspectives as we could. So we have interviews with everyone from the prosecutor (S.M. "Buddy" Fallis) to Ross Swimmer, who was principal chief of the Cherokee Nation at that time."

Wilkerson said he offered to show the completed film to all who were interviewed.

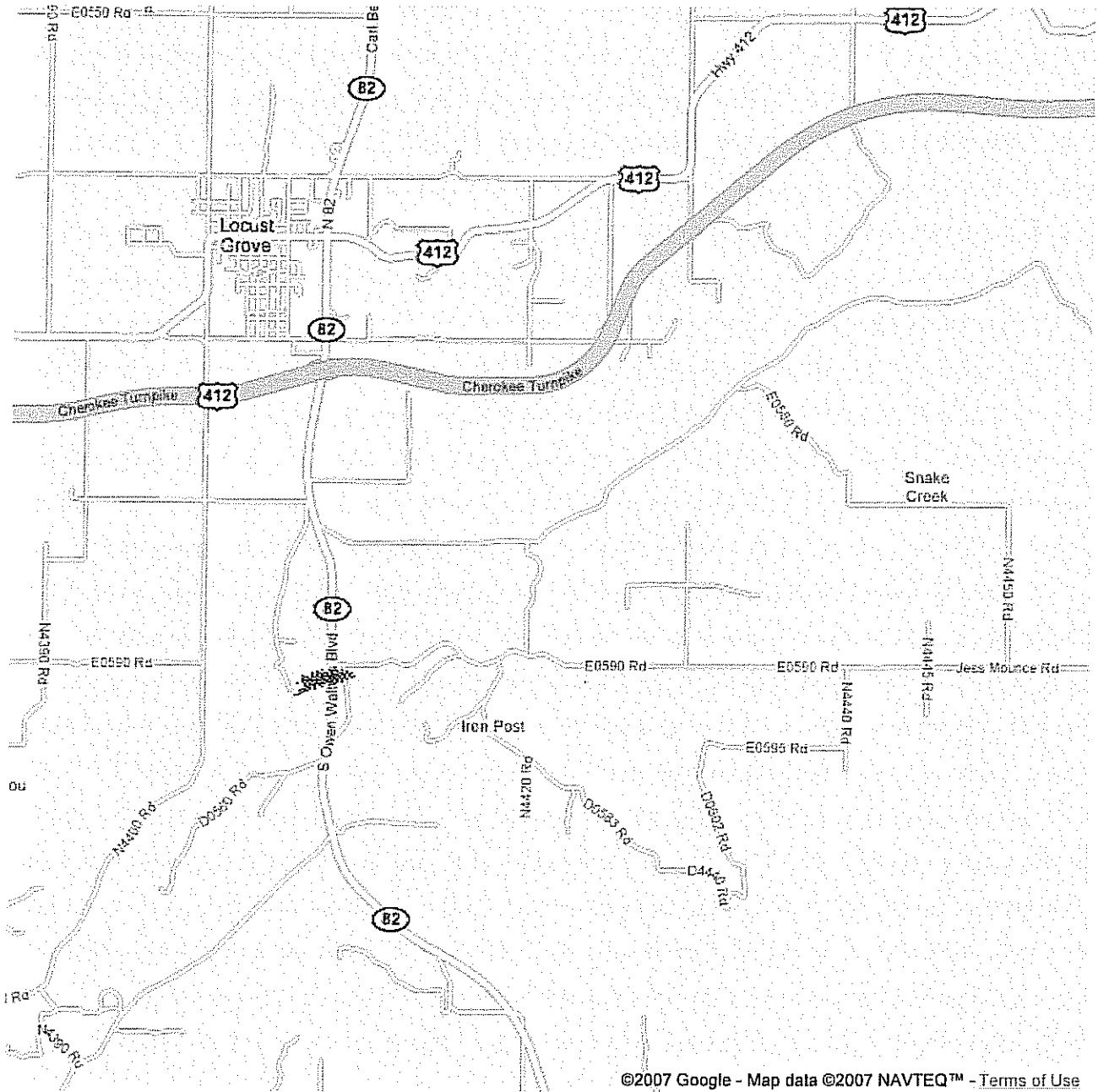
"The first time I saw it - and it was very hard to watch - what overwhelmed me the most was the way (Wilkerson) had portrayed the children," said Sheri Farmer, mother of Lori Lee Farmer. "That was very important to me, because so often people say this is the story of Gene Leroy Hart (the

accused killer). It's not. It's the story of Lori Lee and Michelle and Doris, three young children who died needlessly."

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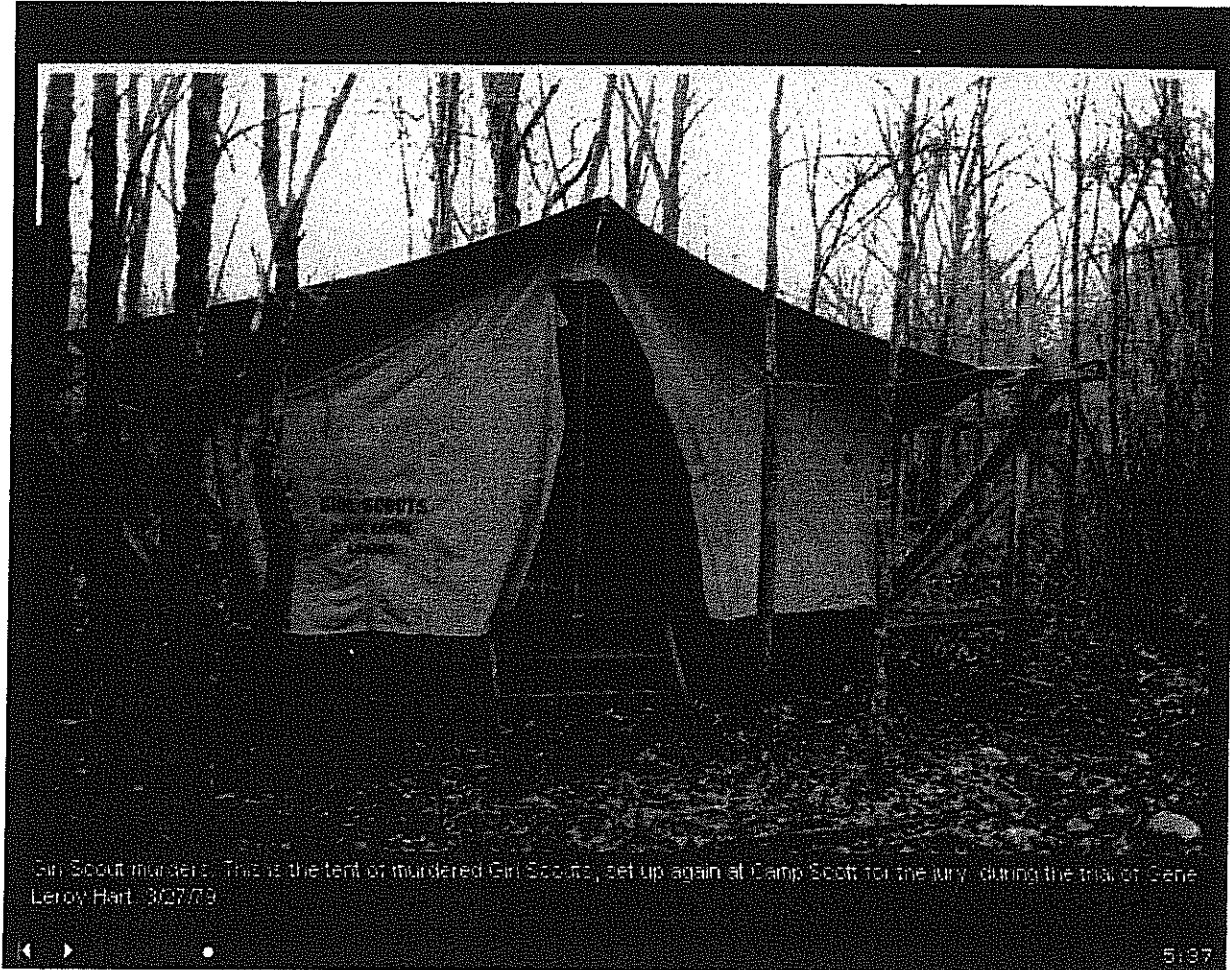
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1977 Camp Scott Murders



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THE CAMPFIRES won't be ignited this summer following the tragic slaying of three girl scouts at Camp Scott near Locust Grove. The camp was evacuated and closed as newsmen moved in to photograph the grounds.

Salina Drug hit

SALINA — Salina Drug's entire stock of narcotics was taken in a burglary last night, according to owner Mary Rutherford.

The burglar or burglars used a brace and bit to drill holes in the store's roof then chipped out a 12" x 12" opening to gain entry.

In addition to drugs, the thieves also took a family treasure — an antique hand-made shotgun.

Mrs. Rutherford said shelves were ransacked and a hot water heater was damaged, apparently from being used as a step down from the opening chiseled in

the ceiling. The Salina Police Department and Mayes County Sheriff's Deputies were investigating the break-in this morning after an employee discovered the burglary when opening the store for business.

A neighbor worked in a nearby yard until past midnight, Mrs. Rutherford said, and had noticed nothing out of the ordinary.

Authorities were checking the premises for fingerprints



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Underway For

11-27-43

No. 79547

Name GENE LEROY HART Color INDIAN Age 25

Rec'd 11-19-69 Term 40 to 120 years Max 11-10-2089

County TULSA Case No. NR-69-855 Min 11-19-2009

Crime BURGLARY, FIRST DEGREE, AFCF

P. A. W. to Tulsa Co. Sheriff: 11-28-69 / R. P. Marten 11-28-69

P. A. W. to Tulsa Co. Sheriff: 1-5-70 / R. P. Marten 1-5-70

P. A. W. to St. Paul Bureau: 2-29-72 / R. P. Marten 11-5-69

Package for Meyer Co. Jail while on W. 4-25-73

OSP 4-7-78

11 27 43

No. 74417

Name GENE LEROY HART Color INDIAN Age 22

Rec'd 10-15-66 Term 10 yrs. Max 10-14-76

County MAYES Case No. 1848 Min 10-12-71

Crime RAPE, FIRST DEGREE

NOTE: TWO, 10 yr. C.C. CASES #1859 #1860 (Kidnapping)

J. Q. ADAMS

10-14-66

1st Farmer

No. 20985 Min. 10-12-71

Name Gene L. Hart Color Indian Age 22

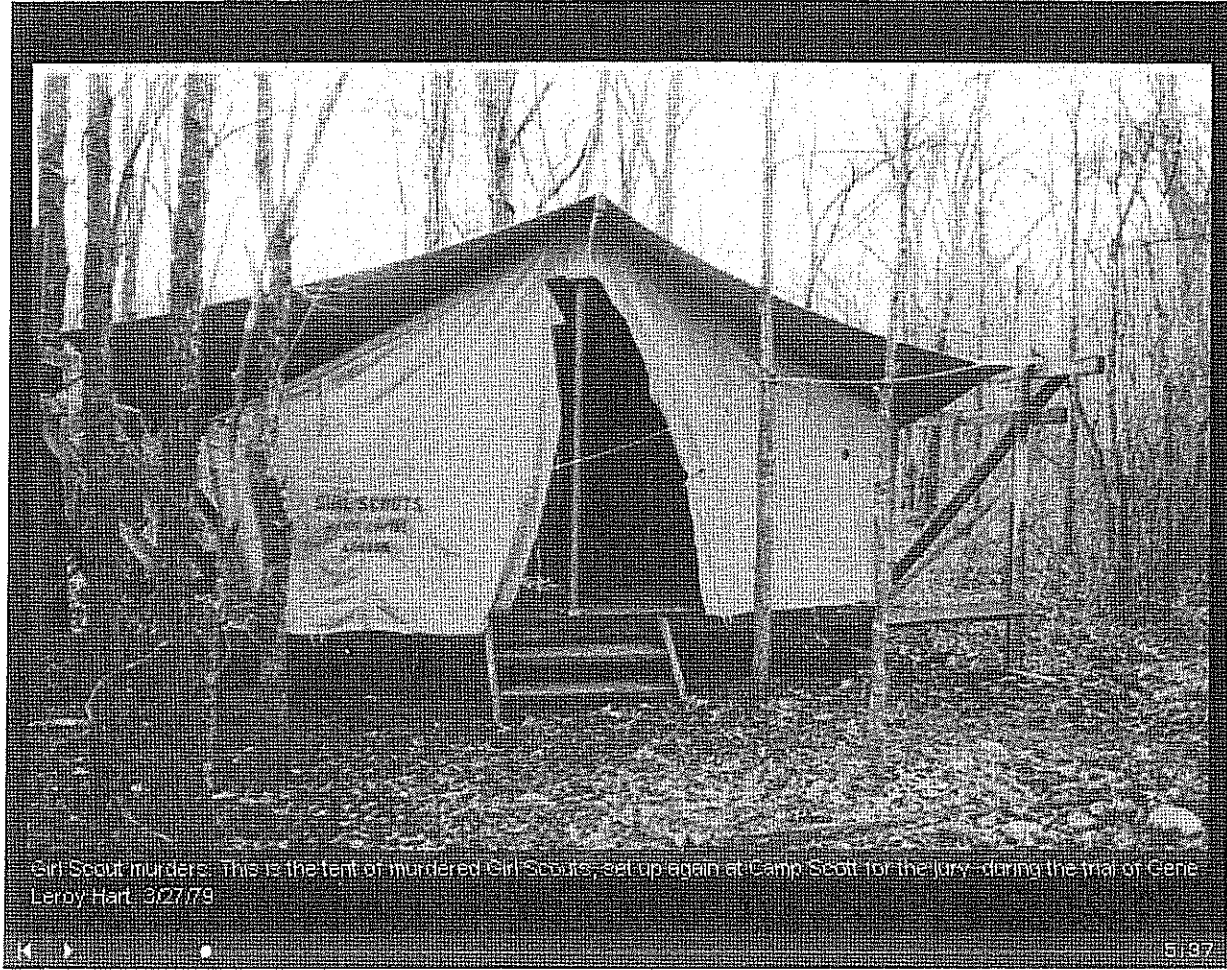
Sentence Begins OSP 10-15-66 Tr. 11-2-66 Term for (10) CC yr.

Crime Rape 1st Deg. & Kidnapping county Mayes

PAROLED: 3-17-69

PAROLE REVOKED: 12-2-67

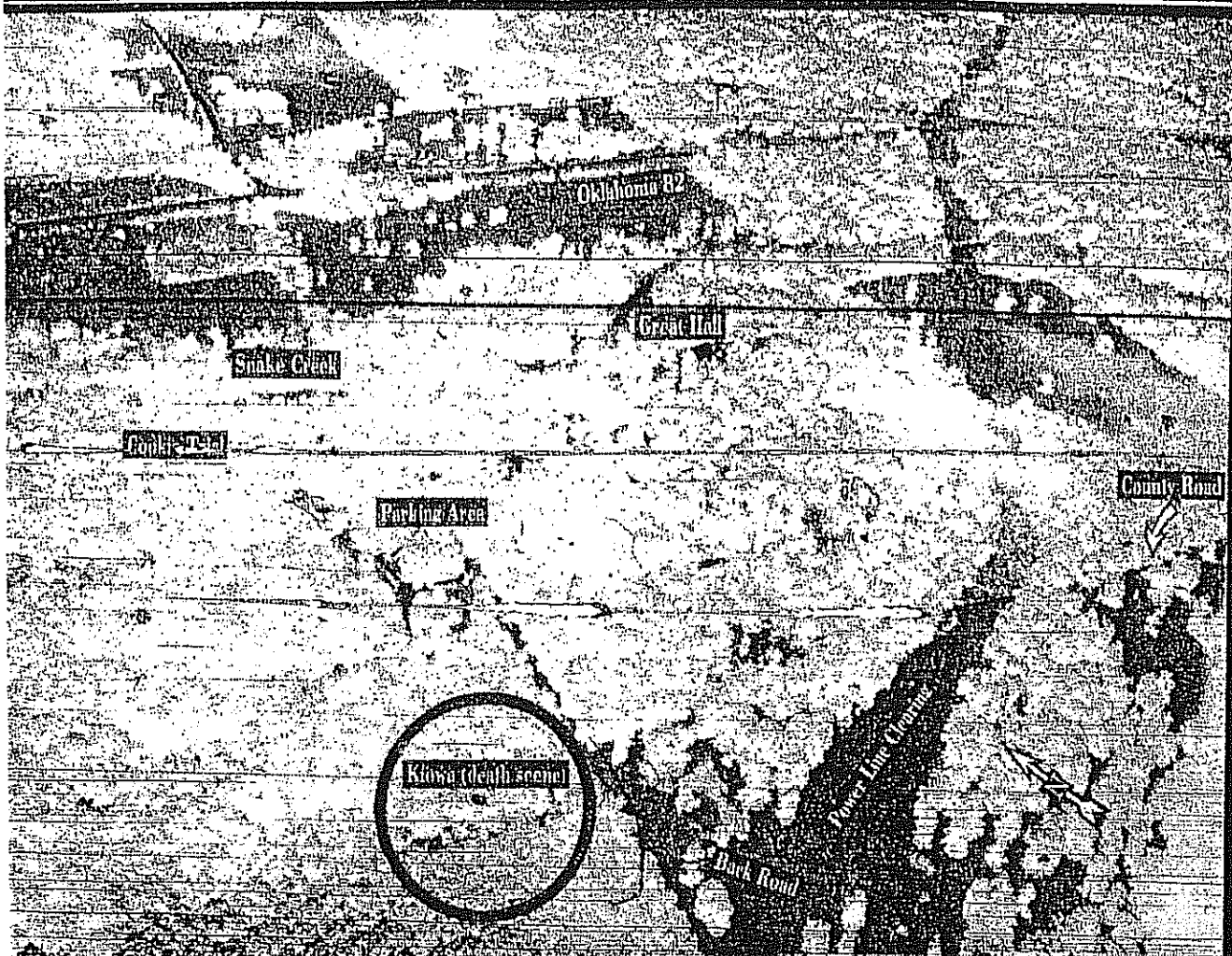
1977 Camp Scott Murders



Girl Scout murders: This is the tent of murdered Girl Scouts, set up again at Camp Scott for the jury during the trial of Gene Lerby Hart. 3/27/79

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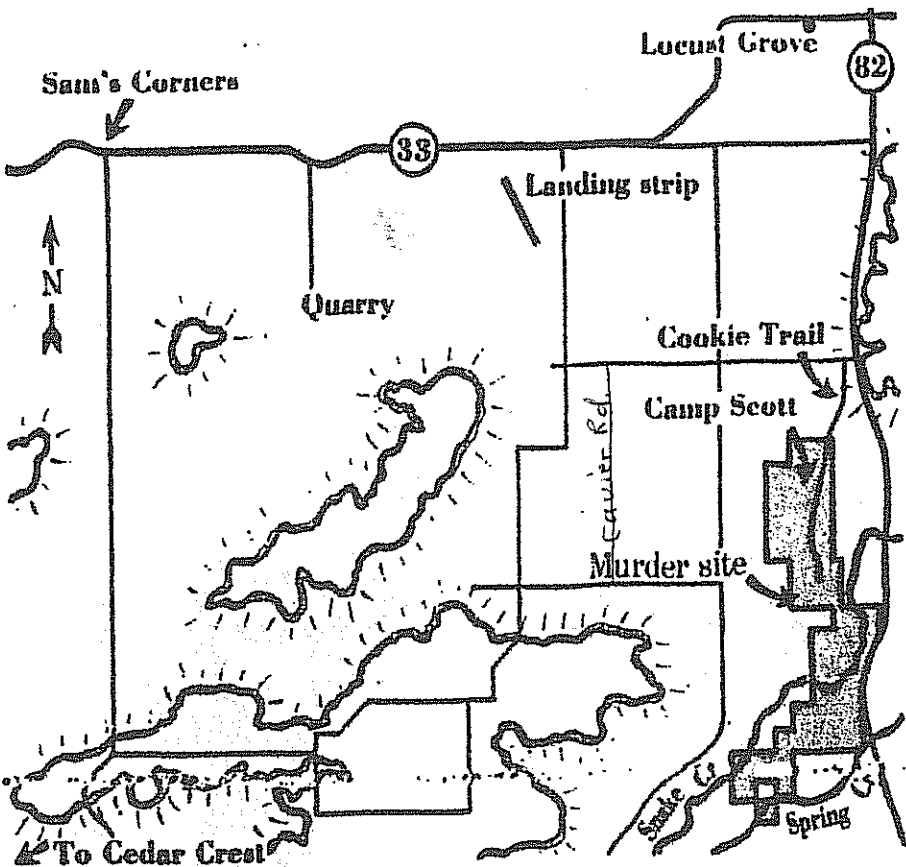




CAMP — A summer outing turned to horror and tragedy when a murderer crept into scenic Camp Scott south of Tulsa and killed three young girls. The heavily wooded area where thousands of girls have camped and played over the years is almost a sea of trees from the air. Authorities say the girls have slipped into the camp from a county road that runs south on the west side of Camp Scott, crossed over a

locked gate and walked up the "Back Road." The tent where the girls were slain (similar to tent in upper right photo) was nearest to the Back Road. The girls were staying in Kiowa tent, which normally sleeps four Scouts, when they were beaten and strangled and their bodies carried some distance away and dumped beneath trees. (Tribune Photo)

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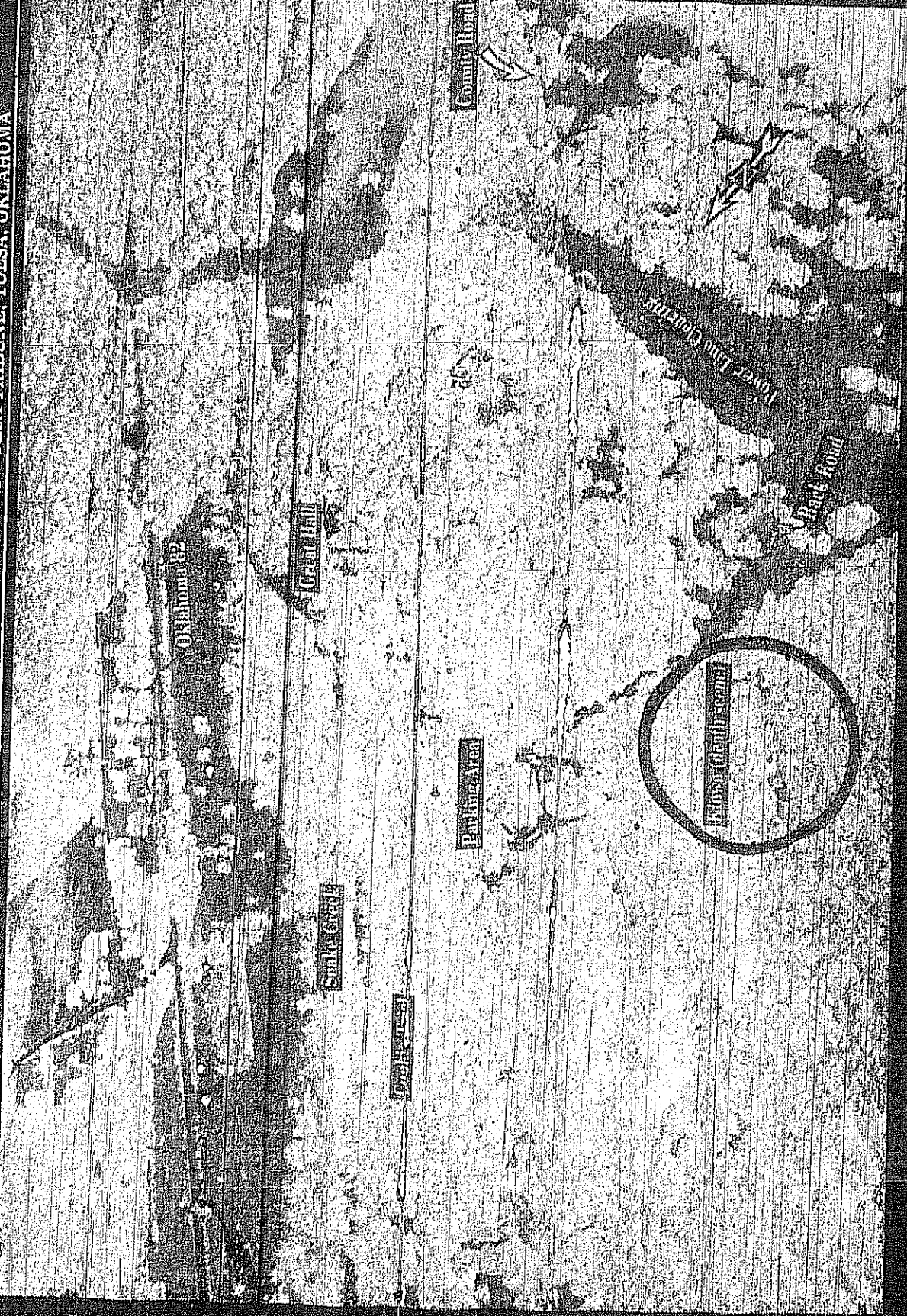


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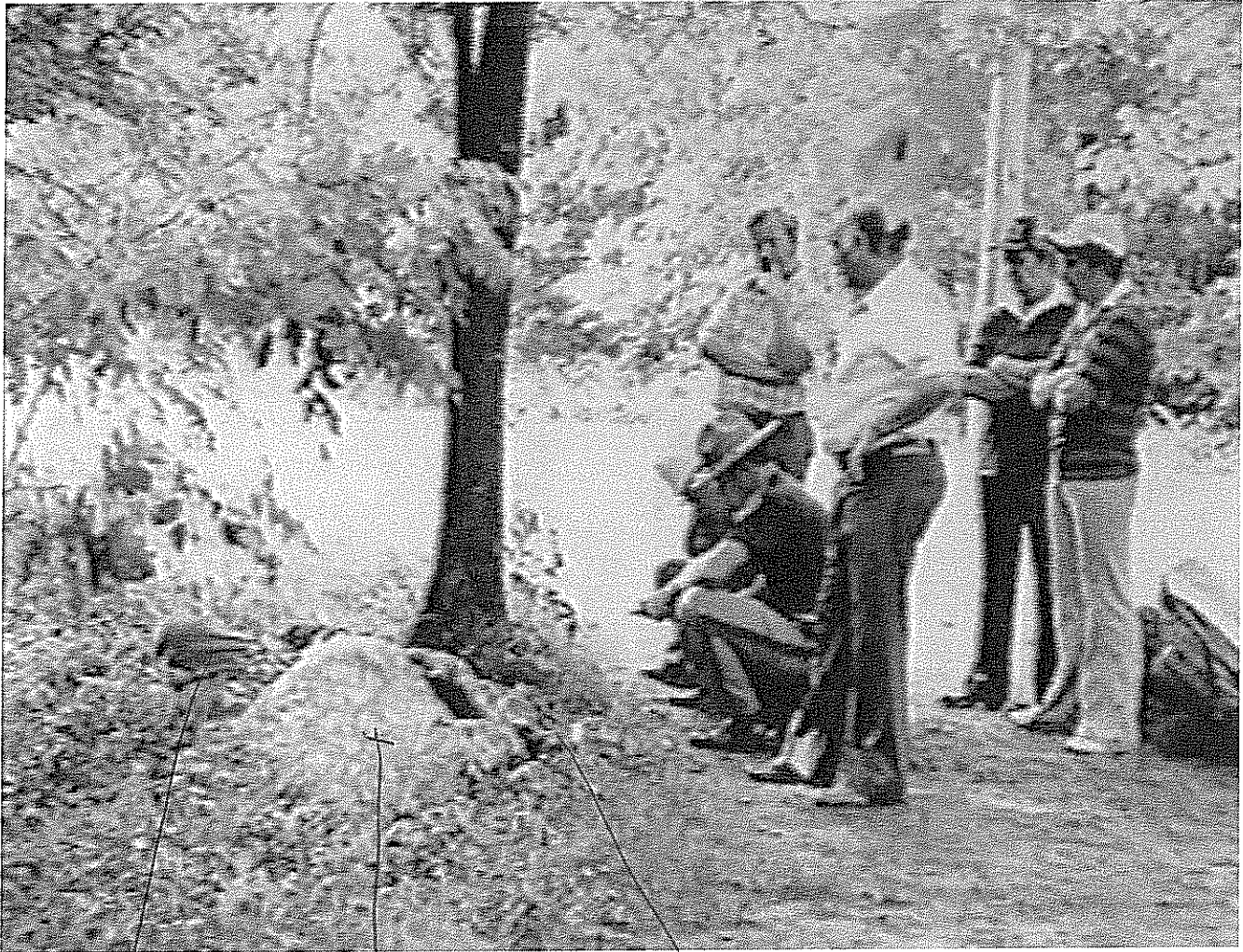
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S



DEATH CAMP—A summer outing turned to horror and tragedy Monday when a murderer crept into scenic Camp Scott south of Locust Grove and killed three young girls. The heavily wooded camp, where thousands of girls have camped and played over the years, is almost a sea of trees from the air. Authorities say the killer may have slipped into the camp from a county road that runs north and south on the west side of Camp Scott, crossed over a

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michele

Cory

Doris

