

Hart Dies of Heart Attack

Continued From A-1
of Hart, once the town's high school football hero.

At the time of Hart's arrest for the Girl Scout murders, he was a fugitive from justice, facing 105 years in prison for burglary, rape, kidnapping and jail escape.

Hart twice escaped from the Mayes County jail of Sheriff Pete Weaver, who spearheaded part of the manhunt in connection with the Girl Scout murders.

Notified Monday night of Hart's death, Weaver said: "It didn't come as any great surprise. I really didn't expect it this soon. I can't say I was shocked because I expected it."

Numerous law enforcement personnel throughout the state had predicted Hart's death within the penitentiary from inmates who thought he was guilty of the sex-slayings.

Following Hart's acquittal, Weaver and other lawmen who participated in the search said they would not resume their search. They indicated the guilty man had been acquitted.

"Justice will prevail, maybe not on this earth, but it will prevail," Weaver said Monday night. "The case is closed, but there is always the remote possibility that other people could have been involved."

There is "no evidence that another person was there," Weaver said, "but there is no evidence that an-

other person was not there. That avenue is still open."

Weaver was notified of Hart's death by a prison chaplain. He reportedly was told there was an emergency at the prison, and was asked to contact Hart's mother, Mrs. Ella Mae Buckskin.

Weaver said he and the chaplain decided it best to call the Rev. Bill Grass, a Locust Grove pastor who handled many benefit dinners for Hart.

Tulsa County District Attorney S. M. Fallis, who spearheaded Hart's prosecution, said he did not "rejoice" at news of Hart's death.

"The only reaction I have is that I don't rejoice in the death of any individual," Fallis said. "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 girls."

"I don't mean to be critical of the jury," Fallis continued, "they had their job to do, but the trial left me satisfied beyond any reasonable doubt that he was the perpetrator of those crimes. Nothing has occurred since then to change my opinion."

A prison physician, who asked not to be identified, said Hart made no mention of any deaths when he was dying.

Dr. Farmer, contacted at the emergency room of a Tulsa hospital where he was on duty, declined comment regarding Hart's death.

Garvin Issacs, Hart's defense attorney since his arrest for the murders, was unavailable for comment, but Gary Pitchlynn, co-counsel with Issacs, said he was "shocked and saddened by Gene's death."

"We talked with Gene for four or five hours Friday and he was in peak condition," Pitchlynn said. "He was in a good frame of mind. We had begun to work on appeals for several previous cases."

"I have never seen Gene when he wasn't in good health," Pitchlynn continued. "I have never known him to have any serious illness or any history of heart trouble."

When asked if he suspected foul play in connection with Hart's death, Pitchlynn replied, "No, I have no reason to suspect foul play, but like in the trial, we will wait until all the evidence is in. It's easy to suspect a heart attack, but we won't be satisfied until we get the results of the autopsy."

"Because of the nature of the case and the way it was prosecuted and all the politics involved, I will not be willing to accept anything (regarding the death) until I see it in black and white," Pitchlynn said. "I will reserve judgment until an autopsy report has been made."

He said money to defray legal fees for Hart was still being raised as of last week.

Hart, who studied with lawyers to assist in his own defense, drew

praise Monday night from State Corrections Director Ned Benton.

Benton said, "To some Hart was a hero for his legal success."

Hart was acquitted by a jury that deliberated 4½ hours on March 29. The jury resumed deliberations for 40 minutes the next day, before returning the innocent verdicts.

After the ruling, one juror told a reporter the panel had made up its mind within five minutes after beginning deliberation.

Sid Wise, former Mayes County district attorney, said Hart's death reflected "the hand 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," Wise said. "The hand of fate or the Almighty steps in when the system fails."

Wise said he never doubted Hart's guilt. He said the investigation into the slayings "always pointed positively" toward Hart and to no one else.

Weaver said Monday night that Hart's arrest and trial had provided valuable information and experience to law enforcement personnel in Oklahoma.

"I know I gave it the best I had," Weaver said. "Sleeping will not be easy tonight."

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Reward fund re-established in slayings

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Officials of the Girl Scouts and of banks at Pryor and Tulsa have announced plans to re-establish reward funds for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer of three Girl Scouts.

Earlier reward funds had a July 31 deadline. Officials at the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts said contributors to the earlier reward funds would be contacted to see if they want to transfer their donation to the new funds.

There will be no deadline on the new reward funds, but the money will be returned to the contributors if law enforcement officers feel the funds are no longer useful.

More than \$15,000 has been collected at various reward funds set up by the council, the Fourth National Bank of Tulsa and the First National Bank of Pryor.

The money is to serve as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of Lori Lee Farmer, Michelle Guse and Doris Denise Milner. The three Tulsa area Girl Scouts were sexually molested and killed June 13 at Camp Scott near Locust Grove.

Dist. Atty. Sid Wise has filed three first-degree murder charges against Gene Leroy Hart, 33, an escaped rapist, in connection with the slayings, but Hart has not been arrested.

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11

Scouts...

Continued from page 1D.

an intervening third party's criminal act," Hill's motion to delete the Farmer girl's brother and three sisters from being listed as plaintiffs in the lawsuit still was rejected by Beasley, although he gave Hill 20 days to respond to his ruling.

Bruce Galtner said under a 1975 state statute the brother and sisters were entitled to damages.

"It's ridiculous to say that Lori Farmer's brother and sisters have not been damaged here," he argued.

HASLEY SAID some of Hill's objections to fact allegations made in the Farmer petition "can be dealt with more properly at the pre-trial hearing."

Beasley, overruling Hill's demurrer, said "We're dealing with young children here who are under the control" of the scout council. He said the situation was not similar to a supermarket or hospital where customers "are free to come and go."

Hill had cited such cases in his brief to support his motions to dismiss the lawsuit.

The original petition filed in the case said that the Magic Empire Council "failed to exercise care and caution even though numerous youths and occurrences it knew or should have known would have motivated a reasonable and ordinary camp operator to be extremely careful."

Galtner said today the council "should have coordinated the move to the summer camp with law enforcement authorities."

Hill escaped from jail four years ago after being returned to Mayes County from a state prison and had not been recaptured at the time of the slayings.

THE MURDER suspect had been reportedly seen in the Locust Grove area late as September, 1977.

Weaver said the abandoned structure where a camper was spotted would be "searched and printed" later today, although he personally doubted it is the intruder.

Weaver did say, however, that information about the place "is the best information we've had in quite some time."

Weaver, who has dogged Hart's trail daily, said he still doesn't think Hart "is too far away."

"He may not be right around Locust Grove, but he's around," the sheriff said.

The FBI, seeking Hart as a fugitive from justice, also is involved in the investigation, along with the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation.

1-12-78
TJ
MAYES CITY-COUNTY LEGAL REFERENCE DIVISION

Scouts lawsuit begins

By JERRY WEBER
REFERENCE DIVISION

Attorneys for two Tulsa Girl Scouts murdered on the first night of a summer camp near Locust Grove last June argued today that the Magic Empire Council should "bear responsibility" for the well-being of youngsters entrusted to its care.

It was the first court appearance of attorneys for both sides in a \$3 million lawsuit filed Sept. 22 to recover damages for the deaths of two of three girls murdered June 13.

District Judge Bill Beasley overruled several motions filed by the attorney for the Magic Empire Council of the Girl Scouts of America, setting the stage for a pre-trial hearing on the merits of the case later.

MEANWHILE, MAYES County Sheriff Pete Weaver and a half-dozen deputies were preparing to storm an abandoned cabin near Locust Grove where someone has been camping in recent weeks.

Weaver, who has led a seven-month search for a 33-year-old suspect charged in the slayings, said for the first time today he is "not as confident as I have been in the past that Gene Leroy Hart is still in our area."

Weaver said he was "not overly optimistic" that today's search would produce the elusive Hart, a Mayes County jail escapee charged June 22 with killing the three girls.

Lois Leg Farmer, 8, Doris Denise Miller, 10, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow, were beaten to death and their bodies carried across the Locust Grove, where they were found in sleeping bags.

1-12-78
TJ

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LEGAL REFERENCE DIVISION

THE OPENING arguments in the civil case today in Tulsa came from Jack I. Galtner and Bruce Galtner, two attorneys for the family of Miss Farmer, the youngest victim. A separate suit, filed on behalf of the Miller family, is to be heard in District Judge Robert Green's court later.

The Guse family did not join in the lawsuit.

"It's an intolerable situation," Jack Galtner argued, "if a corporation cannot take responsibility for the safety and well-being of an 8-year-old girl entrusted to its care."

Galtner cited a number of cases in his legal brief, including one concerning a camper who was sexually assaulted in California.

"WE'VE CITED for the court 50 to 75 cases," Galtner said, "and none of them are, in my opinion, stronger than this [Farmer] case."

Mike Hill, the Magic Empire attorney, argued that there was "no foreseeability as to the acts that occurred" and that the deaths "were

See SCOUTS, page 2D

Manhunt costs put at over \$138,000

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12-31-77

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Two state law enforcement agencies report they have spent more than \$138,000 in the fruitless manhunt for the killer of three young Girl Scouts near Locust Grove June 13. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation estimates it spent "in excess of \$100,000," a spokesman for Gov. Boren said Friday. Rob Pyron, Boren's press secretary, said the Department of Public Safety placed a price tag of \$38,000 on its part in the weeks long search for a suspect. Pyron said the money went for extra mileage, daily expenses, over-

time, telephone and other operational costs for the extensive investigation. The Oklahoma National Guard, which also contributed manpower to the search in the rugged area for alleged killer Gene Leroy Hart, did not immediately make an estimate of costs. The figures were made available Friday as the state gathered information for its response to a request from the board of commissioners of Mayes County. The request, received in the governor's office earlier in the week, did not specify how much the investigation had cost Mayes County law enforcement, Pyron said. "There's no way to estimate how much it all cost," Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver said Friday. He indicated its effect on his budget will not be felt until the fiscal year nears an end. "There's not a day that goes by that we don't receive some kind of call about it," Weaver said of the continuing search for Hart. Hart, a fugitive believed to have a woodsman's knowledge of the rugged hills around Camp Scott in northeast Oklahoma, was charged with murder in the deaths of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, and Doris Denise Milner, 10, both of Tulsa, and Michele Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow. "The sheriff said his office was to defray investigation expenses. The state obviously went all out," Pyron said. "Expense was never a factor."

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FBI Releases New Drawings of Hart 'Sightings,' Interviews Used



Drawings of Gene Hart...

The FBI Monday released new sketches of Gene Leroy Hart, accused in the June 13 slayings of three Tulsa-area Girl Scouts near Locust Grove.

FBI agent Wayne Oliver said the latest artist's conceptions are based on information gathered from interviews with persons who allegedly have sighted Hart prior to and since the killings of the three girls.

Oliver declined to place a date on the most recent reported sighting of Hart, 34, who has been at large since 1973 when he escaped from the Mayes County jail while seeking relief in Pryor from 1966 prison sentences for kidnapping and rape.

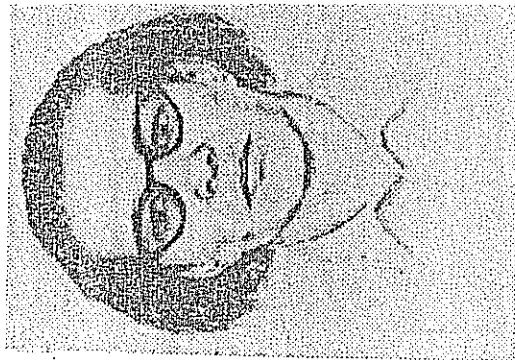
Oliver said the FBI "definitely"

believes Hart is still in Oklahoma and said that several agents are working full-time on the case.

In the latest sketches, Hart appears older and heavier with his collar-length hair pulled back severely from his forehead. The sketches show him with and without glasses.

The only other sketch of Hart was released on June 28 by the state Crime Bureau. In that drawing, Hart had shoulder length hair and appeared slimmer and younger than in the FBI drawings.

Murder charges were filed against Hart 10 days after the killings of the Girl Scouts, ages 8, 9 and 10, at Camp Scott. Photos, which authorities claimed belonged to Hart, were found in a cave near the camp.



...released by FBI

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...didn't want to hurt anybody. "He said, 'There's nobody in there.' Then," Wilkerson said, "I shook every agent's hand and told them they did an outstanding job. I guess it only took a couple of minutes but it seemed like hours. "I can't tell you what you feel when you're doing that. There's fear in you but the adrenalin is pumping. The main thing going through our minds was not to let him get through. The director had told us he would not get through. "The agents took Hart back to the Tahlequah OSBI office to be fingerprinted. From there, three cars of agents escorted him to the state prison at McAlester, the most secure place they knew to take him. The 34-year-old Indian said little during the afternoon and evening. "IN TAHLEQUAH, agents with the OSBI interrogated Pigeon, an employee of a Tahlequah nursery, for about 1 1/2 hours before returning him to his Cookson Hills home. "Officers said all of their information will be given to District Attorney Sid Wise today. "Several agents arrested Pigeon at his home about 8 p.m. Thursday and searched the shack. Their findings were taken to the Tahlequah OSBI office where they were being analyzed today. "Agents believe Hart had been at the house since November. "Hart, a convicted kidnapper and rapist who escaped from the Mayes County jail in 1973, has been sought since shortly after the June 13 slaying of three girls. "Hart sawed his way through jail bars in Pryor to freedom while awaiting transfer to the state prison to begin serving a rape sentence. "Authorities linked him to the girl Scout slayings after finding two tattooed photographs in the cave-filled forests around the camp. The pictures were taken at a 1968 wedding in southwestern Oklahoma. "Authorities believe Hart printed the photos in a prison darkroom after acting as a photographer's assistant at the ceremony. "THE SLAYINGS of the three Tulsa area Girl Scouts shocked the nation. A camp counselor found the battered and sexually assaulted bodies of the girls near the camp entrance at daybreak June 13 and one of the most intensive manhunts in Oklahoma history began. "Two of the dead girls were in sleeping bags and the third lying nearby, all about 150 yards from their tent. The girls' hands were bound with adhesive tape, two of the girls' mouths were taped. "The camp was closed immediately and the other young campers were bused to Tulsa for fearful reunions with their parents. "Officers said the girls had been sexually molested. One had been strangled and the other two beaten to death with a blunt object. "Hart was charged with murder June 23 but, because of his skills as a woodsman and his life-long knowledge of the woods, evaded the edge of the woods. "More than 200 officers and 400 volunteers, including the father of one of the girls, came to help. They scoured the tick- and snake-infested woods, searching in vain for Hart. "Expensive heat sensing devices were used to search the rugged hills of northeastern Oklahoma. "Highly regarded search dogs from the East were flown into the area. One dog died from heat exhaustion during the search. "MORE THAN \$20,000 in reward money had been posted for information leading to the arrest of Hart, but OSBI officers said no one will collect. "They said they were led to Hart's arrest Thursday by interviewing dozens of persons, chasing down countless rumors and piecing the puzzle together. "Someone would tell us Hart was living in the hills and someone else would say he's living with an old man," Wilkerson said. "The information developed over months. Everything fit into place. "He was there."

Continued from page 1A
back yell 'Halt, or we'll shoot.' "Just about then Jack kicked in the front door. Gene had been at the back door and had just moved into the living room. "He had a moment of indecision. Jack told him to freeze. He didn't immediately. "Jack asked him if he wanted to die today and told him again to freeze. That time he did. "Jack told him to put his hands on the wall and pitched his shotgun to Roger. I ran out to make sure the house was secure. The other agents broke in the back door and by then Jack had Gene handcuffed and was on his way out the front door with him. "JACK LAID HIM on the ground. I asked him if there was anybody else in the house. He didn't answer. I asked him again and told him we

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4-2-78

VIETNAM VETERANS

brought to his county today for an appearance before a judge. "We eliminated one problem (capturing Hart) and created another one," Weaver said, explaining that special precautions would be taken to assure security in the county jail from which Hart twice escaped. Weaver said he expected Hart to stay only a few hours today before being returned to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester. "But looking at the future, I'm sure there will be times when Hart will be staying here (in jail) again," Weaver said. "It's 100 miles between here and McAlester," he said. The arraignment is to be held before District Judge Edwin Moore. Sheriff Weaver said his office has received anonymous information "which could possibly be considered threatening" on Hart's life and he is beefing up security in an attempt to prevent the suspect's injury or death. UNDERSTANDING Al Boyer said he fears three primary elements in a possible attack on Hart — the radical wing of the American Indian Movement, an area individual "with a grudge" or one of the slain girls' close friends or family. Boyer said Hart, suspected of being hidden by the AIM until last November, would be under 24-hour surveillance by two deputies while he is here. It is not known whether Hart will be kept here after the arraignment or will be returned to the Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester, District Attorney Sid Wise said. "We've already had phone calls from people concerned about Hart's safety," Boyer said. "You can't tell there are some radicals who would hurt or killed and to make it look like it was our fault. "There are a hell of a lot of people who don't think he did it and are scared something will happen to him. "And the worst thing, the last thing we want, is for something to happen to him," Boyer said. Weaver said he has information that Hart had sought assistance from several "radical members" of the AIM and that he had been "hiding out" near White Oak. White Oak, the once-proposed scene of an AIM rally, is located between Chelsea and Vinita. Weaver said several steps are planned to aid in providing security for Hart. They include: Two deputies watching him at all times, the non-disclosure of exact arrival times, "unobtrusive" police transportation between jails, additional Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers and possibly guard dogs. The mother of one of the victims said she hoped the arrest would answer questions that have plagued the families since the June 13 tragedy. "I've tried very hard to cope with it and to understand what happened," said Betty Milner, mother of Doris Denise Milner. "I have to look at her picture to believe she was really here. "I don't know whether he (Hart) really did it or not," Mrs. Milner said, "but his capture may give us some answers." Walter Milner Jr., the girl's father and a police officer, declined to comment Thursday night or early today.



S.M. Falls Jr. ... efforts fail

Garvin Isaacs

GARY PITCHLYNN
TULSA CITY COMITY "editorial time"
REFERENCE DIVISION
3-30-79

Hart case unmatched

Search, trial kept state on edge

By MARY HARGROVE

It was one of the most bizarre crimes in the history of the state. Three little Girl Scouts sleeping within a few hundred yards of their counselors were murdered in the night without a sound, their mutilated bodies tossed on a foot-worn trail outside their tent.

And in the nearly two years following the slayings at Camp Scott, Oklahomans have been treated to a parade of events almost as phenomenal as the original killings.

Perplexed Oklahomans have warily watched the state's most massive and controversial manhunt, the discovery of strange writings on a cave wall, the sensational testimony of a convicted felon at the preliminary hearing, accusations of unethical conduct lodged against both the defense and the original prosecutor, and last-minute evidence at the trial indicating another suspect may have surfaced.

THE SAGA OF Gene Leroy Hart, began when he was charged with the Camp Scott murders 10 days after the June 13, 1977, slayings.

A Cherokee Indian from Locust Grove, Hart, 35, was serving 105 years in prison when he saved his way out of the Mayes County Jail in September 1973.

Bunch testified Hart told him in June 1977 and was not s whether he had killed the girls. Isaacs had expected Bunch.

See CASE, page 4A

ISAACS, AN UNKNOWN OKLA

Described as one of the most experienced woodsmen in the state and aided by relatives in the area, Hart eluded lawmen until April 6, 1978, when they closed in on him in a ramshackle hut in the Cookson Hills.

That capture culminated 10 months of intensive searching by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. In the course of the state's largest manhunt, tracking dogs, helicopters, airplanes with infrared sensors, 200 lawmen and 400 volunteers wandered through rattlesnake and tick infested woods combing for clues.

"Positive proof and invaluable evidence," including fingerprints lifted from the bodies, surfaced

THE CONFLICTING reports undermined rumors that dissension and petty jealousy among the various agencies was hampering the search. As the search dragged on, a stunned and sympathetic public responded in the only way it knew how. Reward funds sprouted daily, some for tips leading to Hart's capture, others for Hart's defense. Oklahomans even established a memorial fund for two tracking dogs. One had died of heat stroke, the other when it was hit by a car.

Reports from a variety of Indians who claimed to be in contact with Hart sent lawmen scurrying. Members of the American Indian Movement vowed to protect Hart, whom they charged might be murdered by overzealous lawmen who wanted to use him as a scapegoat.

Hart's capture did little to tone down the momentum of strange events that seemed to characterize the case.

During the month-long preliminary hearing and in later court actions before the trial, both Hart, cocky and untested defense attorney, Garvin Isaacs, and the ally ambitious chief prosecutor, Wise, would find their own actions under public scrutiny.

11-11-81

He can't forget

Former sheriff Pete Weaver still haunted by Camp Scott murders

By CHARLES W. SASSER
Special to The Tribune

LOCUST GROVE — "I never look at those hills but I think of the horror and hell that happened here one time."

"I still don't understand it," he admits in his slow Western drawl. He has the furrowed, tough-jawed face of an 1890s Dodge City marshal. "How could a man like Gene Leroy Hart become a folk hero?"

Gene Leroy Hart was a convicted rapist and a liar. In September 1973 he was sentenced to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary for a rape. He had 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 murder warrants were filed on Hart until agents with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation tracked him down. They captured him some 30 miles southeast of Locust Grove. The issuance of the murder warrants and Hart's ultimate arrest stirred up a controversy among 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-shirts appeared bearing the slogan, "Pete Weaver is a man accused of 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 to the honest lawman suddenly became the bad guy while an escaped convict 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 1978, four months after the case's closure. In the 1980 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, 1978. 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 Ballou Cemetery near Snake Creek proclaims for all eternity that Hart died on June 4, 1979.

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.

pointed messages to chide the sheriff and the district attorney prosecuting the case. "Stop The Mayes County Railroad" one said. Every major press service in the nation covered the preliminary hearing and the trial. The case turned out to be the longest and most sensational in Oklahoma history.

On March 30, 1979, Gene Leroy Hart was acquitted. "I just don't understand it," the ex-sheriff repeats, gazing down at that spot where he had first seen the little girls wrapped in their bloody sleeping bags.

"There wasn't a lawman who helped Hart in this case. From the OSBI and the FBI to the Tulsa police department, who doubted that Hart was guilty."

While the case is still officially open at OSBI headquarters and at the Mayes County sheriff's office, unofficially it is closed. Over 200 law enforcement officers worked on the case; saw the evidence and collected Hart's prints. Many thought Hart guilty. Many thought Hart innocent. Tulsa County District Attorney S. M. Feltner, who assisted in Hart's prosecution, was stunned when the jury returned an acquittal.

"Everything about the trial was a circus," Weaver recalls. "The defense attorney was cited for contempt of court. Two defense witnesses were charged with perjury. A third claimed that the defense attorney threatened him. The husband of a woman on the jury sat with the Hart family during the trial. Another juror conspired the family after the verdict."

"Because of Hart being made a hero, we couldn't have convicted him if we had motives of him doing it."

Here, the bitterness enters his voice and the sadness returns to his face.

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 to the honest lawman suddenly became the bad guy while an escaped convict became the good guy?

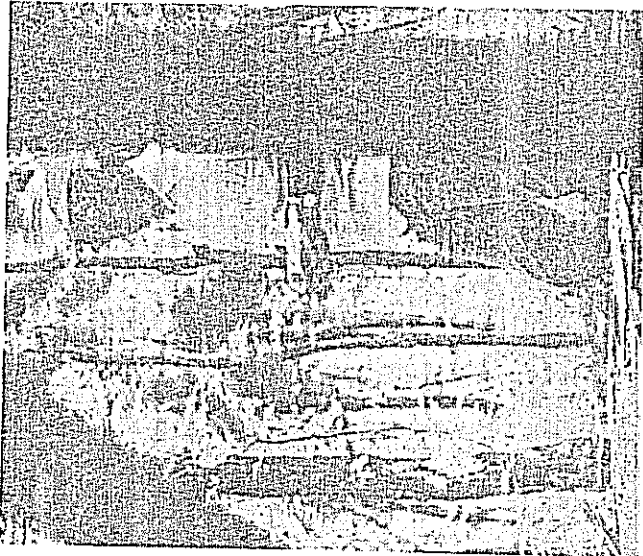
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Former Mayes County sheriff Glenn "Pete" Weaver at the scene of the Camp Scott murders.

Hart had no known history of heart problems. There are some in the hills around Camp Scott who believe justice was served after all.

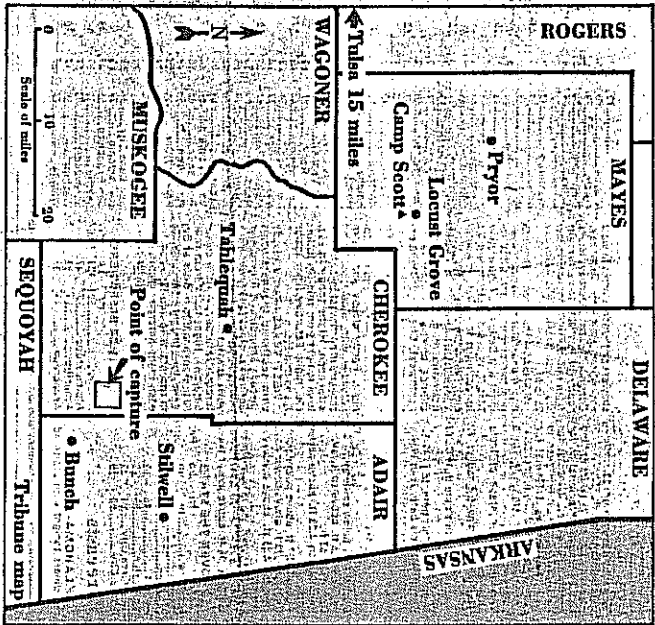
Pete Weaver is one of those. With a last look at the platform of tent 8 where the three little girls had slept that fateful night, the ex-sheriff turns wearily and walks away through the growth-up underbrush.

He will return again and again to the scene. Sheriff Pete Weaver will never forget.

End of a long hunt!

Girl Scout slaying suspect is captured

77-4-2278



CAPTURE COUNTRY — State agents caught fugitive Gene Leroy Hart in one of the most rugged sections of northeastern Oklahoma, in the Cookson Hills about 45 miles southeast of the Girl Scout camp where three young girls were murdered.

By PEARL WITKOP

The nationwide manhunt for Gene Leroy Hart ended Thursday afternoon in a manner that seemed like a fairy tale to the authorities, who captured the elusive prison escapee 33 miles from where he allegedly killed three Girl Scouts 10 months ago.

It was a quiet ending to one of the most frustrating searches in state history.

Hart tried to flee one more time, but this time he couldn't run through the woods that had hidden him since he escaped from a Mayes County jail five years ago.

The only place to run was into one of eight shotguns pointed at him.

The hunt and the flight were over.

MIKE WILKERSON, who took over Monday as head of the northeastern office of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and has been in on the hunt since the battered bodies of Doris Denise Milner, 10, and Lori Lee Farmer, 9, and Michelle Guse, 9, of Broken Arrow were found at Camp Scott near Locust Grove June 13, said the "pieces of the puzzle just fell into place Thursday."

"After checking out so many leads and crossing places off the map, everything pointed to this place," he said.

The place is a two-room, tarpaper-and-wood shack in dense growth on a mountain in the Cookson Hills in far eastern Cherokee County.

The final chapter of the arrest began about 2 p.m. Thursday when Wilkerson called the OSBI office in

Oklahoma. City with news they thought they had Hart spotted.

"I said it looks real good and they said to take him."

OSBI Director Tom Kennedy said "He will not get away this time, will he?"

BY THEN the agents were having a state-marked van painted blue to cover the seal and had another vehicle scouting the hill where they believed Hart had been living with an

Related stories, photos on pages 1B, 4B

elderly man named Sam Pigeon Jr. Back at the office, the agents planned their attack, put on their bullet-proof vests, loaded the van and two cars with tear gas and every weapon they could find.

By 4 p.m. they were at the foot of the hill where Pigeon lived.

"I took the lead," Wilkerson said.

"It wasn't even a road. It was a log trail that was nothing like a road. I wore up my car going up Jack Lay was driving the car behind me. We drove up to the front of the shack. The van with the other four agents went to the back."

I GOT OUT of the car. Jack jumped out. Roger Christo was in the car with me. We started in a dead run toward the front door.

"And then we heard somebody in."

See **MANHUNT**, page 4A



HIDEOUT — This tiny house, tucked in the trees in a remote part of eastern Cherokee County, was the hiding place of Gene Leroy Hart, who was arrested Thursday as a suspect

in the June 1977 slayings of three Girl Scouts near Locust Grove. Eight Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents took part in the capture. (Tribune airphoto by Royce Craig)

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DIVISION

Ruling for Girl Scouts Affirmed

The state Supreme Court has affirmed a lower court's ruling in favor of the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts and its insurer in a lawsuit focusing on the murder of three girls at a summer camp in Mayes County 10 years ago.

In March 1985, a Tulsa jury returned a verdict in favor of the council and 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 insurance, of liability.

In December the state Court of Appeals upheld that verdict. The Supreme Court recently resolved the case by deciding to let the Magic Empire failed to provide adequate security for its young campers.

Gene Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist and Mayes County jail escapee, was acquitted of the murders in 1979. Hart died in 1979 in prison, where he was serving time for unrelated offenses.

The Farmers and the Milners sued for damages totaling \$5 million, claiming the Tulsa-based Magic Empire failed to provide adequate security for its young campers.

Gene Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist and Mayes County jail escapee, was acquitted of the murders in 1979. Hart died in 1979 in prison, where he was serving time for unrelated offenses.

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REFERENCE DIVISION



Richard Johnson, with wife, Cindy, and daughter, Carrie Lynne.

Explanation still sought in deaths

By SUSAN WITT
Tulsa Writer

Richard Johnson loved to write.

After he quit reporting for newspapers, he penned songs to play on his guitar and poetry manuals to help in his career as a police officer. There was this desire to express himself as a part of everything he did.

They cannot understand why he would not have left them an explanation of the manner that occurred in his Bixby home the night he and his family died.

Johnson, 30, his wife Cindy, and their 5-year-old daughter, Carrie Lynne, were found shot to death Feb. 9.

BIXBY POLICE say Johnson apparently shot his wife and child as they slept, then turned the gun on himself. They say no suicide note was found.

"A first none of us believed it," said Johnson's sister, Karen Hawthorne.

"When the police seemed so sure Richard had done it, we tried to believe it. We couldn't understand how he could do it, but we tried to believe it," she said.

"Now, because we have so many unanswered questions and have been told so many conflicting facts, we are even more determined to find out what happened. We failed to find out what happened at the Bixby County sheriff's office or

the district attorney's office of the slayings, said Chief Prosecutor Rick Dunn. He said such notification is standard procedure.

Off-duty Sheriff's deputy Bob McAlister arrived at the scene between one and two hours after the bodies were discovered. After hearing on his police radio Bixby police talking about the slayings, a coroner called to the scene. State medical examiners' offices in Tulsa. No autopsies were performed even though a family member requested them.

DUNN SAID he assumed such examinations had been done because Johnson Polm investigated for the medical examiner's office. He said autopsies were not necessary because "it was obvious what the cause and manner of death was and the only reason we do autopsies is to determine that."

The cause of Richard Johnson's death was listed as suicide by a gunshot wound to the head. Mrs. Johnson and Carrie were reported to have died of two gunshot wounds each to their heads.

Polm said blood samples were taken from the bodies to determine whether there was alcohol in the bloodstream, and all tests were negative.

Bedding and mattresses apparently were burned the next day, and witnesses said a Bixby police officer did the burning, although Johnson's sister said she protested that they mistreated the bodies.

Johnson studied commercial art at Okmulgee Tech and worked as a reporter and photographer for the Okmulgee Daily Times. The newspaper job often sent him to the scene of wrecks and crimes, and it was then, his sister said, that he developed his interest in police work.

The couple moved back to Sand Springs, where Johnson worked as editor for the local newspaper, and then for the police department. He wrote a policy and procedure manual for the Sand Springs police, as he later did when he went to work for the police department in Bixby, she said.

Her brother completed about 100 hours in police academy, she said, and his wife became interested in Bixby police and researched both locally and nationally.

When he moved to Bixby, Mrs. Hawthorne said, "Richard fell in love with the town."

"He found our house for us and talked us into moving here," she said.

He worked as investigator and juvenile officer for Bixby police until June 1984, when he was named assistant city manager.

"I was relieved when he got out of police work. I had worried about him ever since he got into that type of work," Mrs. Hawthorne said.

Mrs. Johnson worked at a Bixby day care center and took care of the couple's daughter, a kindergarten student. They were close. "I think he would not let me," Mrs. Hawthorne said.

"Sometimes we just want it all to die down, we can't go on, because you have so many questions."

"Someone has to know something. And if talking about this will bring them forward, then it is worth it," she said.

OC MURDERS - Girl Scout Trial begins in \$4 million suits over 1977 Girl Scout deaths

Eight years after the state and nation were shocked by the brutal slayings of three Girl Scouts near Locust Grove, the trial of civil lawsuits filed by two of the girls' families begins today.

A Tulsa District Court jury is being asked to separate lawsuits totaling nearly \$4 million to determine whether the murders occurred because of the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts' negligence.

The only other legal action in the case came in 1979 when the only person ever charged in the murders, Gene Leroy Hart, was acquitted by Mayes County District Court jurors.

Much of the evidence that surfaced in weeks of intensely publicized criminal court proceedings for Hart, who died in prison weeks after he was found innocent, is expected to be brought before

Tulsa jurors.

The bodies of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michelle Giese, 9, and Doris Damm, 10, were discovered on June 13, 1977, lying on a path near their tent at Camp Scout 400 near Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Farmer.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Farmer and Walter M. and Betty M. Miller, all of Tulsa, filed their first petition in the lawsuit in November 1977, claiming the Magic Empire

Council of the Girl Scouts failed to protect their daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gustin of Broken Arrow returned to jail in the lawsuit.

The Farmers and the Millers each ask for \$1.9 million in damages in their separately filed lawsuits. The two lawsuits have been consolidated for trial.

The trial is expected to take two weeks, said Jack Gauthier, attorney for the families. Associate District Judge Bill Beasley will hear the case.

The Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co., Hartford Casualty Insurance Co., and Hartford Fire Insurance Co., insurance agents for the Girl Scout council, were named as co-defendants in the action.

The girls were molested and beaten to death on their first night of summer camp.

The bodies were found with their sleeping bags about 100 yards from their bloody plaid tent.

Officials filed first-degree murder charges against Hart, 23, after finding photographs belonging to him alongside evidence linked to the slayings.

A massive search began for See SCOUT, page 1A.

Girl Scout deaths re-investigated

PRYOR (AP) — Mayes County Sheriff Paul Smith says three people are being investigated in the 1977 slaying of three Girl Scouts.

Smith said Friday he is "having one weapon examined at this time" and is "still running down leads, which we've been doing for almost four years. We're very close to charges . . . people are starting to volunteer more information."

Smith would not identify the three — whom he termed "prime suspects" — other than to say one is in prison. He added one of the people is a Mayes County resident and the third resides elsewhere in the state.

Smith said the three were "well known" to Gene Leroy Hart, who was charged in the triple murder that took place at the Camp Scott Girl Scout Camp. He said one of the people assisted Hart after his escape in 1973 from the Mayes County Jail.

Hart was found innocent of the June 13, 1977, rape and murder of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Doris Denise Milner, 10, and Michelle Guse, 9. Shortly after the 1979 trial, Hart died of a heart attack at McAlester State Penitentiary where he had been returned to finish serving a sentence for rape.

"I don't believe Gene did it," Smith said. "The jury said he wasn't guilty, so we were compelled to go out and investigate."

He said he began the investigation when he took office three years ago but could not get the cooperation of state investigators and prosecutors in the case.

He said they all felt Hart was guilty and refused to change their minds.

Smith claimed he has not contacted the Mayes County district attorney's office or other agencies because of their unwillingness to cooperate with his investigation.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation spokesman Paul Renfrow said Smith's announcement "comes as a surprise."

He said the Girl Scout murder case remains open but "is listed as inactive."

"If he (Smith) has information, we would be happy to hear it," Renfrow said.

Smith said autopsy reports indicate to him more than one person was involved in the crime.

"If one man was to the someone up, he would have used one kind of knot," he said, "but two separate types of knots were used to tie up the girls."

Smith said wounds on two of the girls indicated different instructions.

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY REFERENCE DIVISION

Smith said he and his staff has been assisted in the investigation by Tulsa private investigator Sherry Cumber.

Smith said he and his staff has been assisted in the investigation by Tulsa private investigator Sherry Cumber.

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 89 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 Ether 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 Kee-loowah band of the tribe. He said that band, which is also known as the Nighthawks, is "religious, highly conservative and traditional."

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 Millie 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

4-13-78

See Girl Scout on D-12

down with tape, Weaver said. In
throat, with her arms pinned
cord tightly bound around her
back, a gag beneath her chin.
with her arms bound behind he
found nude from the waist down
the tent, Weaver said. She wa
transported several yards from
Milner, while still conscious, we
Evidence indicated Dennis
their bunk.
Lori Farmer and Michelle Guse
the assassin tore a hole in th
Weaver said evidence indicate
unit in 1977.
heavy undergrowth at the Kiowa
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film and slide photographs depic
the foliage," he said. Jurors sa
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at Locust Grove is the kind
"the kind of crime that happene
senting Magic Empire, contenc
Attorney Dan Rogers, repre

Girl Scout Camp Had No Security, Ex-Sheriff Says

Continued from D-1
The bodies of Lori Farmer and Michelle Guse were found away from the tent in "small wads" in the corners of zipped-up sleeping bags, as if the assailant had thrown them before putting them down, Weaver said. Forensic evidence indicated Dennis and Lori had been sexually assaulted, according to testi- my.

he believed the convicted rapist (Hart) — who had been at-large for four years since escaping the Mayes County Jail — committed the killings. "I'm sure of it," Weaver re- plied. Testimony resumes Wednesday.

By BILL BRAUN
Of the World Staff
Former Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver testified Tuesday in his opinion "there was no security" at a Girl Scout camp where three girls were assaulted and murdered. Weaver said he did not know that 136 young girls were camped near Locust Grove on June 12, 1977. Weaver said if he had known the girls were there, he would have advised camp counselors of a \$5 million lawsuit filed by parents of two of the girls against the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts and the Hartford Co., the county's liability insurers. The suit by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Farmer and Walter and Betty Milner alleges the girls' deaths were caused by negligence on the part of Magic Empire and Hartford in failing to provide adequate safeguards and precautions to protect the girls. Attorney Jack Galtner, representing the parents, told jurors that because of an "unbelievable lack of caution and alertness" by camp supervisors, a "despicable monster roamed that camp at night."

Galtner said the sheriff's office was never notified that the camp was open and occupied, and that camp officials never reported to law officers previous suspicious activities that should have alerted camp officials to possible hazards. The suit by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Farmer and Walter and Betty Milner alleges the girls' deaths were caused by negligence on the part of Magic Empire and Hartford in failing to provide adequate safeguards and precautions to protect the girls. Attorney Jack Galtner, representing the parents, told jurors that because of an "unbelievable lack of caution and alertness" by camp supervisors, a "despicable monster roamed that camp at night."

OK - MURDER - LOCUST GROVE
TW 3-20-85
REFERENCE DIVISION
Slayings of Girl Scouts Retold During Civil Trial

See Girl Scout on D-12

down with tape, Weaver said. In
throat, with her arms pinned
cord tightly bound around her
back, a gag beneath her chin.
with her arms bound behind he
found nude from the waist down
the tent, Weaver said. She wa
transported several yards from
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Evidence indicated Dennis
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Weaver said evidence indicate
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"the kind of crime that happene
senting Magic Empire, contenc
Attorney Dan Rogers, repre

OK - MURDER - LOCUST GROVE
TW 3-20-85
REFERENCE DIVISION
No Security at Camp, Ex-Sheriff Says

Ex-newsmann, wife surrenders in Hart case

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DIVISION

THE EVENTS HAVE effectively delayed the trial and may mean that Wise, who has been criticized privately by law enforcement officials for his handling of the case, may not be involved in the trial.

Surprise testimony Friday revealed the agreement to co-author a book by Wise and Grimsley, former news editor for the Pryor Daily Times.

Under the five-year contract, Wise is to receive 75 per cent of any profits from any book.

In the affidavit purportedly signed by Grimsley, he claimed Wise had given copies of all OSBI memos and reports to Grimsley for use in writing the book.

See PRYOR, page 7B

PRYOR — A former Pryor newsman and his wife surrendered to Mayes County authorities early today after a judge ordered them arrested to testify about an agreement the newsmann had with Mayes County District Attorney Sid Wise to co-author a book about the 1977 Girl Scout murders.

Wise said Ron L. Grimsley and his wife, Jolene, "came forward voluntarily" today after District Judge William Whistler Monday ordered a warrant issued for their arrest as material witnesses in the Gene Leroy Hart case.

A motion hearing in the Hart case was scheduled to resume this afternoon.

The murder case, set for trial Monday, was thrown into a talispin Friday when defense attorneys presented an affidavit purportedly signed by Grimsley which stated Wise had turned over Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation reports on the case to the reporter for use in the book.

BY SUSAN WITT
Of The Tribune Staff

ing the book.

THE REVELATION of the book contract drew criticism from the parents of one of the slain girls, and OSBI Director Tom Kennedy said he is "very upset" that Grimsley reportedly had copies of the bureau files.

Mrs. Charles Farmer, mother of Lori Lee Farmer, one of the slain Girl Scouts, said the news that Wise had signed a contract to co-author the book had caused her to lose "all confidence" in the prosecutor.

Wise earlier had denied he was a partner in Grimsley's book, and had testified in an earlier hearing that he had given copies of OSBI reports only to law enforcement and investigative agencies and his staff.

HART'S ATTORNEYS have tried to prove Wise had made a "deal" with Grimsley to defer prosecution against Grimsley's wife, Jolene, who was accused of embezzling money from an Enid bonding company, in return for work on the book.

"No one man does all the work in a book for 25 per cent," defense attorney Garvin Isaacs said, referring to the contract which set out the 15-25 split in profits.

A representative from the bonding company testified Monday that they had agreed with Wise's office to defer prosecution if the woman made \$4,800 restitution at the rate of \$300 a month.

The representative said the woman paid only \$200 and the company asked Wise's office to proceed with prosecution in the case last August.

He said the woman mailed in a second \$200 check Oct. 30.

Isaacs is asking the judge to order Wise to turn over all investigative reports to the defense.

Under Oklahoma law, prosecutors are only required to turn over technical reports and sworn statements, with other reports considered "work product."

The work product rule is waived, however, if a substantial portion of the reports are shown to a third party.

Grimsley and Wise had been close friends, and the newsmann quit his job at the Pryor newspaper the day after Hart was arrested and became campaign manager for Wise, who made an unsuccessful run for state attorney general.

Wise later fired Grimsley, claiming he had no funds for a campaign

Pryor

Continued from page 1B

Grimsley's dismissal came shortly after the newsmann ran a classified advertisement in newspapers for \$500 shares in the book "by the only newsmann who covered the Hart case continuously from the inside."

Wise received widespread criticism when it was learned the telephone number listed in the advertisement was for the Wise campaign headquarters.

The telephone was disconnected shortly thereafter, and both Wise and Grimsley denied they were partners in the book.

Grimsley was charged with obtaining money by false pretense in Mayes County last May for allegedly writing hot checks.

According to testimony, Grimsley met with Hart's attorneys July 17 and turned over copies of reports he said Wise had provided him.

Hart's attorneys claim they hired Grimsley as an investigator and paid him \$800 to turn over the rest of the OSBI reports.

The following day, according to Mayes County court records, Grimsley appeared in court, made restitution on the check charges and the charges were dismissed by Wise's office.

Hart's attorneys say Grimsley told them that when his wife learned he was planning to turn the OSBI reports over to them, she mailed them back to Wise.

Isaacs claimed Mrs. Grimsley feared Wise would prosecute her in the embezzlement case if her husband turned over the files to Isaacs.

District Attorney-elect Jack Graves of Claremore, who replaces Wise Jan. 2, said he is making plans to try the Hart case and considers it a "real possibility" at this point.

Graves said if he prosecutes the case he probably will ask Tulsa District Attorney S.M. Fallis to assist him.

Fallis has assisted Wise in the case since Wise sought his help shortly before the preliminary hearing.

Fallis reportedly has considered getting out of the case after the controversy involving Wise developed, but apparently has decided to remain in the case after conferring with the parents of the slain girls.

Mrs. Farmer said Monday she considered Fallis "the only stabilizing force for the prosecution."

Parole...

Continued from page 1A

child and leave, Hart was arrested at a Tulsa apartment complex and sentenced to prison for 305 years for a series of burglaries. Dry said that he saw the pictures that originally connected Hart to the slayings of the Girl Scouts. Dry said he saw them while the two men were living together in the cellar in the woods.

THE CONVICT SAID HE was able to pick the pictures out of a stack of about 50 pictures handed to him by OSBI agents.

The pictures were of a wedding in Mangum. Hart assisted a photographer from the state reformatory. The pictures reportedly were found in a cave about 300 yards from the woodland cellar as investigators probed the woods following the slaying of the three little girls.

The OSBI originally wanted Dry assigned to a community treatment center at Muskogee so he would be

available to help them. The Granite classification committee refused, however, because he had three times escaped from custody and was considered too great a risk.

The OSBI then appealed to Boren and the process was set in motion that led to Dry's parole.

Dry would not say exactly what he would testify to in the Hart preliminary hearing.

"A lot of people like around Locust Grove just see one side of Gene Hart," he said. "If he was in a certain mood, he changes his moods."

"I'VE SEEN THAT. One time we were down there in the woods and we got to talking about my wife and my kid and his wife and his kid and he just flipped out."

Dry says he believes his life is endangered because he helped authorities. "I figure," he said, "that I stand about a 75 percent chance of getting killed when I walk out of that courthouse."

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DIVISION

Phone Call On Bomb Is Hoax

Continued From A-1

the prosecution, 23.
At 10:13 a.m. Thursday while defense witness No. 73 was on the stand, Judge Clanton suddenly looked at a figure standing in a doorway leading to his chamber.
"We'll take a five-minute recess," Clanton said, hurriedly leaving the bench.

LESS THAN ONE MINUTE
later, Clanton returned and told a capacity courtroom audience of 108 persons: "The court requests that was a remote telecast room up the street known as courtroom B) get up quietly and leave the courthouse by way of the stairway."
Clanton, approached by news reporters, confirmed that a bomb threat had just been telephoned to the courthouse.

NEARLY 200 PERSONS WERE
evacuated from the courthouse as members of the Highway Patrol, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and sheriff's office began combing the third floor courtroom, adjoining law library and hallways for a bomb.
Pryor police officers also were called in as all three floors of the courthouse were inspected.
Hart was whisked to the Moyes County Jail. En route, he reportedly asked accompanying troopers, "What is going on?"

AT 10:34 A.M., SHERIFF PETE
Weaver privately reported that no bomb was found and that he considered the telephone threat a "hoax." Persons were allowed back into the courthouse at 10:46 a.m.
The threat — stating "there is a bomb set to go off in the courthouse at 10:30" — was received by Deputy Court Clerk Vicki Deffenbaugh in an office a few yards from the courtroom.
"She was scared stiff," said Court Clerk Eloise Gist.

THURSDAY NIGHT, AUTHOR-
ities were seeking the whereabouts of a former Chouteau resident in connection with the bomb scare.
Although it was the first bomb threat during the hearing, it was only one among several other threats reportedly received in connection with the case. Officers have declined to elaborate on the nature of the other threats. Only last week they searched cars surrounding the courthouse and took steps to beef up already-tight security for Hart.

indicated that he preferred that Hart remain in the county jail until his July 18 arraignment. However, Clanton gave Weaver an "open hand" to move Hart moved should he deem it necessary.

Shortly after 3 p.m., Hart was quickly ushered out of the rear of the jail and into a Highway Patrol car which took him to the state penitentiary in McAlester. Hart will be kept there on Death Row, which is considered to be the safest and one of the most isolated places within the prison.

Weaver said the transfer was necessary in light of the most recent threat and because security measures have "strained the OHP and have practically shut us down."

HART BROKE OUT OF THE
Mayes County jail twice in 1973 while seeking post conviction relief on felony convictions here. He was recaptured in the Cookson Hills near Tahlequah April 6 — nearly 10 months after he was charged with the three first-degree murder counts.

Hart's sisters, Nancy Baker and Millie Littlepage, visited with him moments before he was transferred to the prison. Mrs. Littlepage held back tears as she walked briskly from the jail.

Although the sisters attended each day of the hearing, neither was in the courtroom when the ruling was made. Deputy Sheriff A. D. David said he refused them admission because court was in session when they returned from a brief recess.

DAVID WAS FOLLOWING
orders set by Judge Clanton at the opening of the hearing.

Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Littlepage have steadfastly maintained their brother's innocence. Also supporting him is his mother, Ella Mae Buck, although she often has shunned the publicity that goes along with attending the hearing. She was absent Thursday, as she has been on many other days.

Clanton's order that Hart be tried apparently is based largely on "expert witness" testimony from OSBI agents. An OSBI forensic chemist may have provided the most damaging testimony when she revealed that hairs found on the oldest Girl Scout were microscopically paired with hair samples from Hart.

Another chemist testified that deformed and decomposed sperm found on Hart's undershorts — taken from his jail cells after his arrest — were similar to that found in the bodies of the three Girl Scouts.

Other testimony linked evidence found at the murder scene to a cave and cellar where Hart allegedly hid following his 1973 jail escape. Still other testimony showed that hair found in another area cave appeared to be the same as hairs from the death tent, another cave near the Girl Scout camp and samples from Hart.

No rulings on any defense motions are scheduled until after a transcript has been made of the hearing. This has already begun and probably will take at least a week.

7-7-78
TW

MUSKOGEE COUNTY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DIVISION

Phone Call On Bomb Is Hoax

SECTION A

Continued From A-1

the prosecution, 23.
At 10:13 a.m., Thursday while de-
fense witness No. 73 was on the
stand, Judge Clanton suddenly
looked at a figure standing in a door-
way leading to his chamber.
"We'll take a five-minute recess,"
Clanton said, hurriedly leaving the
bench.

LESS THAN ONE MINUTE
later, Clanton returned and told a
capacity courtroom audience of 108
persons: "The court requests that
spectators in courtroom A (there
was a remote lecture room up the
street known as courtroom B) get up
quietly and leave the courthouse by
way of the stairway."
Clanton, approached by news re-
porters, confirmed that a bomb
threat had just been telephoned to
the courthouse.

NEARLY 200 PERSONS WERE
evacuated from the courthouse as
members of the Highway Patrol,
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investi-
gation and sheriff's office began
combing the third floor courtroom,
adjoining law library and hallways
for a bomb.

Prior police officers also were
called in as all three floors of the
courthouse were inspected.
Hart was whisked to the Mayes
County jail. En route, he reportedly
asked accompanying troopers,
"What is going on?"

AT 10:34 A.M., SHERIFF PETE
Weaver privately reported that no
bomb was found and that he consid-
ered the telephone threat a "hoax."
Persons were allowed back into the
courthouse at 10:40 a.m.
The threat — stating "there is a
bomb set to go off in the courthouse
at 10:30" — was received by Deputy
Court Clerk Vic Deffenbaugh in an
office a few yards from the
courtroom.
"She was scared stiff," said Court
Clerk Eloise Gist.

THURSDAY NIGHT, AUTHOR-
ities were seeking the whereabouts of
a former Chouteau resident in
connection with the bomb scare.
Although it was the first bomb
threat during the hearing, it was
only one among several other
threats reportedly received in con-
nection with the case. Officers have
declined to elaborate on the nature
of the other threats. Only last week,
they searched cars surrounding the
courthouse and took steps to beef up
already-tight security for Hart.

per where OFFICIALLY STEP-
ping out of the case, Judge Clanton
indicated that he preferred that Hart
remain in the county jail until his
July 18 arraignment. However,
Clanton gave Weaver an "open
hand" to have Hart moved should he
deem it necessary.
Shortly after 3 p.m., Hart was
quietly ushered out of the rear of the
jail and into a Highway Patrol car
which took him to the state peniten-
tiary in McAlester. Hart will be kept
there on Death Row, which is consid-
ered to be the safest and one of the
most isolated places within the
prison.

WEAVER said the transfer was nec-
essary in light of the most recent
threat and because security mea-
sures have "strained the OHP and
have practically shut us down."

HART BROKE OUT OF THE
Mayes County jail twice in 1973
while seeking post conviction relief
on felony convictions here. He was
recaptured in the Cookson Hills near
Tahlequah April 6 — nearly 10
months after he was charged with
the three first-degree murder
counts.
Hart's sisters, Nancy Baker and
Millie Littlepage, visited with him
moments before he was transferred
to the prison. Mrs. Littlepage held
back tears as she walked briskly
from the jail.

Although the sisters attended each
day of the hearing, neither was in
the courtroom when the ruling was
made. Deputy Sheriff A. D. David
said he refused them admission be-
cause court was in session when they
returned from a brief recess.

DAVID WAS FOLLOWING
orders set by Judge Clanton at the
opening of the hearing.
Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Littlepage
have steadfastly maintained their
brother's innocence. Also supporting
him is his mother, Ella Mae Buck-
skin, although she often has shunned
the publicity that goes along with
attending the hearing. She was ab-
sent Thursday, as she has been on
many other days.

Clanton's order that Hart be tried
apparently is based largely on "ex-
pert witness" testimony from OSBI
agents. An OSBI forensic chemist
may have provided the most damag-
ing testimony when she revealed
that hairs found on the oldest Girl
Scout were microscopically paired
with hair samples from Hart.
Another chemist testified that de-
formed and decomposed specim-
ens found on Hart's underclothes — taken
from his jail cells after his arrest —
were similar to that found in the
bodies of the three Girl Scouts.

Other testimony linked evidence
found at the murder scene to a cave
and cellar where Hart allegedly hid
following his 1973 jail escape. Still
other testimony showed that Hart
to be the same as hairs from the
death tent, another cave near the
Girl Scout camp and samples from
Hart.

No rulings on any defense motions
are scheduled until after a tran-
script has been made of the hearing.
This has already begun and proba-
bly will take at least a week.

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1-24-78 - Tulsa City-County Library

State completes case against Hart

By SUSAN WITT
Of The Tribune Staff

PRYOR — The state of Oklahoma today completed presentation of its case against Gene Leroy Hart, charged with three first-degree murder counts in the sex-slayings of three Girl Scouts.

Special District Judge Jess Clanton recessed the hearing until Friday morning, when defense attorneys will argue for dismissal of the charges or ask for a 30-day delay before presenting defense witnesses.

After defense testimony, Clanton will decide whether the evidence is strong enough to order Hart held for trial.

Hart, 24, is accused in the death of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10.

THE MOST damaging evidence against Hart was presented Tuesday when a forensic chemist testified that hairs taken from the body of one of the slain girls had the same microscopic characteristics as hair samples taken from Hart after his arrest in April this year.

Prosecutors today called only one witness, an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent, who testified that Hart's ex-wife bears a "remarkable resemblance" to a girl in one of two wedding photographs which Hart developed in 1963 while a

Related pictures, story, pages 1D, 21C

trustee at Granite Reformatory. The photographs apparently were the first link to Hart in the case. Squirrel hunters discovered the photographs near a cave and cellar where other evidence linked to the crime scene was found.

THE PHOTOGRAPH of Hart's ex-wife, Patricia Dawson, was mounted next to an enlargement of the wedding photograph and introduced into evidence.

OSBI agent Arthur Linville said he went to the home of Hart's mother,

Ella Mae Buckskin, June 17 or 18 and asked her for a picture of her son's former wife.

Linville said at that time he thought the woman in the photograph was Hart's former wife.

The agent said Mrs. Buckskin cooperated in giving him the picture. People who know Hart have said that he was upset when his wife died about 1967, and she reportedly has refused to let him see his son.

The prosecution called 23 witnesses during the six-day hearing and offered 35 pieces of evidence to the court.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY Garvin Isaacs said today he plans to call a

number of defense witnesses in the hearing, but asked for the delay to talk to witnesses and prepare a legal brief for the court.

Clanton said he would listen to arguments on the defense motion to dismiss Friday and at that time will consider their request for a continuance.

The state offered no testimony during the six-day hearing about a farmhouse burglary near Camp Scott at about the time of the murders.

Special tracking dogs flown into the camp shortly after the murders reportedly linked the farmhouse to the death scene.

A roll of masking tape, a small piece of green plastic and a piece of newspaper discovered at the cave and cellar site were linked to a night-sate prowling lamp left near the slain girls' bodies.

The flashlight had a piece of dark green plastic taped over the lens with masking tape.

Crime technicians testified that the tape on the flashlight had been torn from the roll of tape found near the cave and cellar.

A piece of newspaper stuck into the battery compartment of the flashlight was torn from the same

See HART, page 4A

edition and section of a piece of newspaper found near the cave. Ann G. Reed, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation chemist, said she examined the hair samples taken from Hart and hairs recovered from the death scene and discovered that some hairs recovered at the scene "had either the same source or a source with exactly the same microscopic characteristics" as the hairs taken from Hart.

MRS. REED testified that she examined about 175 "unknown hairs" recovered as evidence in the case. She said a number of Caucasian and Negroid classified hairs recovered at the scene were dismissed when examinations showed they were consistent with hair samples taken from the slain girls.

Mrs. Reed said that the samples of hair taken from Hart and some taken from the tape and body of the girl "showed basically Mongoloid characteristics with some Caucasian characteristics" indicating a "mixed racial heritage."

Mongoloid characteristics are seen in Orientals, American Indians, and Eskimos, the chemist said.

Mrs. Reed said that there is no way to prove that a hair definitely came from a certain person.

She was not asked the odds of another person having exactly the same microscopic hair characteristics as Hart.

However, an OSBI technician later claimed to have conducted similar comparisons of hairs of identical twins and claimed to have been able to "tell the difference."

"HOW MANY Indians are there in Mayes County?" defense attorney Isaacs asked Mrs. Reed, apparently inferring that the Mongoloid type hairs could have come from any Indian.

"I don't know," Mrs. Reed said. "Well, are all Indian hairs alike?" prosecutor Buddy Fallis asked the chemist.

"No sir," she said.

OSBI agent Larry Bowles said he was with seven other agents when they arrested Hart at a tarpaper and wood shack in a remote area of Cherokee County.

He said Hart called him a "son of a bitch" and then said "You'll never pin it on me."

"You can get me for escape, but you'll never pin that on me," Bowles said Hart told him.

"I said 'what?' and he said, 'killing those three little girls,'" Bowles said.

OTHER TESTIMONY Tuesday linked evidence left near the bodies to a cave and cellar where Hart lived and played as a boy and reportedly hid out when he escaped from jail in 1973.

Spectators again crowded into the courtroom Tuesday after attendance had been dwindling, as hard evidence began to come out for the first time in the hearing, which dragged for the first three days with rarely a mention of Hart's name.

The mood of spectators appeared to have changed as some left the courthouse solemnly Tuesday afternoon.

One Indian girl, who claimed to be a friend of Hart's family, approached a reporter after the session and asked nervously "What did you think about today's testimony?"

When the reporter returned the question without an answer, the girl said sadly, "well, I've thought all along he is innocent, but a couple of times a little bit of doubt crept in."

"I don't think Gene did it, but whoever did, I hope they find out and punish them," she said.

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TT 6-14-78

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Exp. Murder - Call Court

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 Gene Leroy Hart plotted with her common-law husband jailed in Kansas to pin the 1977 Girl Scout murders on another Kansas inmate in hopes of gaining a pardon for the husband, according to 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

Hart, who died of a heart attack in June, was charged with first-degree murder in the heading deaths of Lori Lee Farmer, 3, Michele Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Miller, 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 plot perjury during the Hart trial for their testimony that Peters would be moved to 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 contacted 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 examination.

THE KBI REPORT states that Peters said he and Mrs. Paine conspired the plan shortly after Peters entered the Kansas prison.

He said they 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, the KBI agent who said he had followed Peters and 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 out of the prison, so it was arranged in Oklahoma, through Mrs. Paine, that Peters had contacted Mayes County officials, OSBI officials and Hart's defense attorney, Garvin 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 Yalima Indian tribe.

The polygraph examination indicated Peters was telling the truth according to the KBI report.

In a preliminary hearing on perjury charges Thursday, defense attorneys called four witnesses who previously testified for the prosecution.

AMONG THEM WERE George Beller, a former Seminole, contractor, and his wife, who testified in 1977 that Peters was never testified to by Sheriff Paine and was contacted by Stevens' sister, law, who told him Stevens was Seminole that day.

Perjury charges against Mr. Paine's other son, Owen Short, were dismissed in June. Prosecutors, who did not have a transcript of the Hart trial when charges against him were filed, discovered Owen Short did not corroborate Mr. Paine's testimony.

TT 6-8-78

Ch. Marshall - Civil Liberties

REFERENCE DIVISION

Governor swapped parole for Hart

Ex-cellmate freed for helping locate slaying suspect

By RALPH MARSH
Of The Tribune Staff

PRYOR — Gov. David Boren and state crime agents traded a parole to a convicted car thief and jailbreak artist in exchange for help in the manhunt and trial for accused child-killer Gene Leroy Hart.

Boren denied trading the parole, but conceded, "we certainly traded 60 days leave" for the convict.

"They asked me if I thought I knew where he (Hart) was," said 30-year-old Larry Dry from a jail cell in Delaware County. "They told me I would get a parole if they were able to catch Gene Hart."

"I came through on my end as best I could."

Dry, who escaped jail twice with Hart and lived with him for four months in a cellar in the woods, said, "I knew just about where Hart was and then they got the rest of the information from another person."

Boren said he "was very aware that they (state agents) wanted him out to track Gene Leroy Hart."

However, the governor said he handled the parole "routinely" and was not even aware when he signed it that Dry was involved in the Hart case.

Later, Boren said, "I remember somebody saying this is the guy that helped find Hart. It was an added plus for him."

Boren said Dry met all requirements for parole and "I would probably have paroled him irrespective of this."

"I certainly think my action was appropriate."

RECORDS SHOW DRY was signed out on leave from the state reformatory in Granite on March 28 by Boren and put in the custody of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

The initial leave was for 30 days and Boren later extended that to 60 days at the request of OSBI agents who told him Dry "was providing helpful information."

Boren said he was told that Dry "would be 24 hours a day in the custody of an OSBI agent, except when he needed to be alone to gather information."

Hart was captured on April 6. Dry was recommended for parole April 25. The parole was signed by Boren on May 18.

There is no indication in the records that Dry ever went back to prison to complete his term after the leave was signed by Boren.

"This is, to the best of my knowledge, the guy who

gave the information that led to the capture of Gene Leroy Hart," said one source close to investigators.

Dry, whose frequent escapes reportedly inspired remodeling of the Mayes County jail, sawed his way out of that jail in 1973 with Hart as an escape partner. Both men were caught a short time later.

THE TWO ESCAPED again, however, and Dry said they fled to an old woodlands cellar about three miles from Camp Scott where they lived for four months in 1973. Dry was captured in 1974. Hart remained at large until nearly a year after three Girl Scouts were found slain at Camp Scott.

Since his parole, Dry has been arrested and charged with robbery with firearms and larceny of some cabins near Grove, but there is no indication of any move to revoke his parole.

Dry shrugs off the charges and contends he is merely being held by authorities until he can testify in the preliminary hearing for Hart which is being conducted in Pryor.

Dry, who says he is a longtime friend of Hart's, said he saw a change in Hart during the time Hart was in

prison and after his wife divorced him and forbade him to see his young son.

"WHEN HE SAW A KID, he resented the fact other people were able to be with their children and to send them off to camp and things like that. His wife had divorced him and he had lost his kid forever."

"When I first knew Gene, he was a completely different person. He was always kind of easy come, easy go. And, he was lovable with kids."

Dry said Hart's attitude changed after he returned from prison.

According to sources close to the Hart probe, Hart's wife, Patricia, told authorities when Hart was sentenced to prison for rape that the two were getting along fine and that they divorced by mutual consent to try to avoid a long series of debts.

During Hart's stay in prison, however, his wife changed their son's name from Donald Gene so that he would share no part of the convict's name.

She then forbade Hart to see the boy when he came home from prison. Shortly after an emotional session in which Hart's wife reportedly threatened to take the

See PAROLE, page 4A

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Ex-Newsman Grimsley Sorry He Got Into Hart Case

By DOUG HICKS

Of the World Staff
PRYOR — Sitting in the law library of the Mayes County Courthouse, 37-year-old Ron Grimsley looked like a defeated man. He wasn't shaking as badly now as he had been when he was on the

Related story on A-1

witness stand a few minutes earlier. But he was still shaken by what his life had become.

Only eight months ago, Grimsley was editor of the Pryor Daily Times. An 11-year news veteran, he turned down chances to move to larger papers.

Then, on April 6, Gene Leroy Hart was unexpectedly captured in connection with the sex slayings of three Girl Scouts some 10 months earlier. Grimsley quit his job the next day.

There were two reasons: To devote more time to a book he was in co-author with District Attorney Sid Wise, and to become Wise's full-time, \$1,000-a-month campaign manager for Oklahoma Attorney General.

For awhile, things were looking bright. Then the world began falling in on Grimsley.

"MOST OF IT WAS MY OWN fault," he said Tuesday in an interview with the Tulsa World.

There were some bad checks. In addition, Grimsley's wife, Jolene, recently had been fired by an Enid bond company in connection with the loss of more than \$4,000.

Wise fired Grimsley. At about the same time, Grimsley ran an ad in a Tulsa paper in an effort to sell \$500 shares in the book. He didn't have a home phone, so he listed Wise's campaign headquarters number.

"I was trying to buy some time," he said. "I was trying to get something started in the book."

Grimsley, who had just moved to Claremore in order to run the Wise campaign, landed a job on a Drumright newspaper. He moved his wife and their three children to a small, rental home in nearby Cushing.

TEN DAYS LATER, HE WAS AR-rested in connection with a post-dated check. He lost his job.

Down and out, Grimsley sold confidential Girl Scout murder reports he had obtained while working with Wise to Gary Pitchlynn, one of Hart's attorneys, in late July. For his trouble, he got \$845.

Grimsley said it seemed like a fortune at the time. He used the money

coming from the Hart Defense Fund, to pay off bogus checks.

He had several other meetings and conversations with Hart's attorneys and associates, who allegedly pressed Grimsley for more of the reports. He had given them only 28 and had an untold number more.

THE LAST MEETING HE HAD with Hart's attorneys was on Sept. 8.

He told them he could not, or would not, produce any of the reports — which apparently have since been destroyed.

Pitchlynn threatened to kick in Grimsley's head, according to the ex-newsman's testimony.

Grimsley gathered with his family at his mother's home in Sapulpa and headed for Kansas City in a "bro-ken-down Olds."

"We had no place to stay, no food, and a dollar and thirty cents," Grimsley said.

"For two days we lived in a parking lot," he recalled. "My wife got a job as a waitress and finally got enough in tips so we were able to get a motel room. A motel room for five in Kansas City costs \$25.00 a day. We stayed there for 29 days."

GRIMSLEY SAYS HIS WIFE IS still waiting tables. He also has waited tables, but is out of a job now. He'd like to be a reporter again, but he's not going to be choosy.

As for his role in obtaining the confidential murder reports and turning them over to the defense, Grimsley says he regrets it all.

"I am sorry that I got as involved in the case as I did," he said. "I wish I money."

IT WAS ALMOST TIME FOR Grimsley and his wife to be ushered away from the courthouse. It remained uncertain what exactly would become of them. There was a warrant on a bad check in Lawrence, Kan., and there still remained the unresolved business of the bonding company.

TULSA CITY CLERK'S DIVISION
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CONFIDENTIAL - Girl Scout

Ex-OSBI Agent Brothers Sell Book About Girl Scout Killings

By Judy Fessett

A book about the 1977 slayings of three Girl Scouts near Locust Grove has been written by Dick Wilkerson, former deputy director of the state crime bureau, and his brother Mike Wilkerson, who was the agent in charge of the investigation.

Their book, "Someone Cry for the Children," is to be published by the New York publishing firm Dial Press and is scheduled for release this winter.

The Wilkersons' book is one of an estimated dozen being written and the first to be published about the sensational case which

ended with the 1979 acquittal of defendant Gene Leroy Hart. Hart died of a heart attack a month after the trial ended.

The Wilkerson brothers left the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation after Hart's trial to open private investigation and polygraph testing offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Dick Wilkerson said he was still deputy director when work began on the book, but he said the OSBI's classified investigation reports weren't used in the writing.

"As long as you talk about your personal experiences, there's not any problem, unless

you talk about specific things precluded by statute," Wilkerson said. "As far as this case goes, what we're talking about is public knowledge."

Garvin Isaacs, Hart's attorney, disagrees. "I think it's unethical for law enforcement officers to use their position to have access to classified information and turn it into a book."

Isaacs said he won't be able to tell how much of the book might have come from classified reports because "I didn't see all the investigative information law enforcement had compiled."

Ironically, the case attempts to obtain copies of OSBI reports before Hart's trial were based on their use in another book being written under a contract between a Pryor newspaperman and former Mayes County district attorney Sid Wise.

Isaacs unsuccessfully tried to obtain those reports on the grounds that Wise had waived their confidentiality by allowing a person unrelated to law enforcement to see them.

Wilkerson, however, maintains the emphasis of "Someone Cry for the Children" is on the effect the murders had on the victims' families and other involved in the case

rather than on the investigation itself. "This is more of a story about people," he said.

"There's very little of the trial in it. It's more on the whole thing and the effect it had on people. The news media forgot about the three kids. You can't find me anyone today who can tell me their names and ages."

"This is our commentary on it. Some of our biases come through, though we tried to guard against it."

He said he and his brother had the cooperation of the families of Lori Lee Farmer, 8,

See BOOK, Page 2

DO 8-28-80

Book

From Page 1

Doris Denise Milner, 10; and Michelle Guse, 9, who granted interviews to Mike Wilkerson and his wife. "They just visited them and they gave us some insight about what a dramatic impact this was."

Wilkerson said he and his brother learned nothing in writing the book which would shake their conviction that Gene Hart was guilty or which would have made the state's case against Hart any better.

"I think it was a very complicated case in retrospect. To me, it was a great circumstantial case, but unless someone has the ability to take every piece of evidence...no one thing would prove Hart was guilty."

"But there was no one thing that would prove Charles Manson was guilty. I said at the time I thought 'Helter Skelter' should be required reading for everyone in law enforcement because it was a terrific example of an overwhelming circumstantial case."

Wilkerson said he'd "toyed" with the idea of writing a book about the Hart case and had discussed it with his brother for some time before starting it.

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"One night at my home I started writing on an old legal pad a description of Locust Grove. I called my brother and read it to him and he liked it."

Neither Wilkerson nor spokesmen for Dial Press would disclose how much the brothers are being paid for the book, scheduled for February publication.

Associate Editor Cornelia Dana said the book came by mail, unsolicited "over the transom," in publishing parlance. She said it was in a six-foot high stack of other unsolicited books when it caught her attention.

Dana said she liked it and showed it to her editor in chief who was "intrigued."

The Wilkersons were "thrilled to pieces" when they were told Dial wanted to buy it, she said.

Dial publicist Stuard Derrick said it hasn't been determined how many copies of the book will be printed or how it will be promoted.

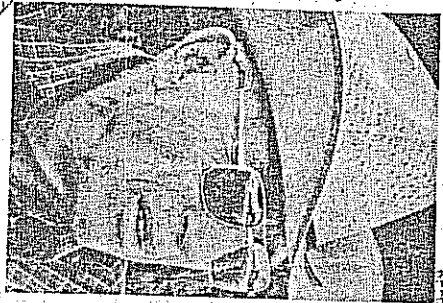
"We're hoping it will have more than regional interest," Dana said.

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OK-MURDERERS-Girl Scout TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY Girl Scout case heats Mayes sheriff race

REFERENCE DIVISION
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BY JOYCE PETERSON
Tribune State Writer



Ex-Sheriff Pete Weaver

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

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

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"ness 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.

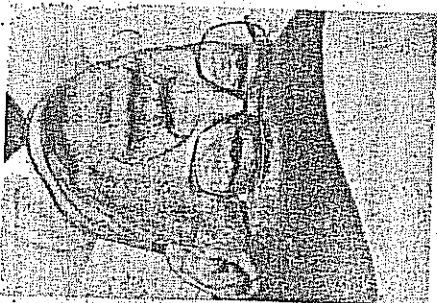
The reason for the turnaround is simple, said one Mayes County layman who did not want to be quoted by name.

"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



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PERIODICALS DIVISION

See SHERIFFS, page 4A

2. Charged in Tahlequah
With Harboring and
With Harboring and

Charles Holcomb, who lives near the
suspect in the Tailholt community
near Waller.
Pigson understands some English
but usually speaks in Cherokee, ac-
cording to Holcomb, who served as
an interpreter during the brief
arraignment.
"THIS AIN'T NO GOOD," HOL-
comb 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 Pigson's
eyes as he left the courtroom, but
Cherokee County sheriff's deputies —
who asked not to be identified — left
ANOTHER DEPUTY SHERIFF.
Sep 2 Accused in 17

BY DOUG HICKS
Of the World Staff
TAMLEQUAH — A Cherokee medicine man and another full-blooded Cherokee — who a deputy sheriff said were only "following the code of the hills" — were charged Wednesday with harboring accused Gilt Scout slayer Gene Leroy Hunt.

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

Related photos on E-1

day 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 "because I don't think he did it."

ALSO CHARGED BUT NOT AR-
rested was William Lee Smith, 58, a
medicinal man who is in Missouri work-
ing for the Kansas City Southern Rail-
road. 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
Pigeon's home, located southeast of
Tahquah 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
 leaded and can barely speak English,
 loaded innocent to "harboring a in-
 ducive from justice" through his at-
 torney, John Gloshester of Tulsa.
 Associate District Judge Lynn
 Pigeon set preliminary hearing for
 April 28. Pigeon was released on a
 \$5,000 bond posted by his nephew, Mi-

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Hart witness given suspended sentence

1-27-81

BY SUSAN WITT
Of the Tribune Staff

PRYOR — A woman accused of lying in the 1979 murder trial of Gene Leroy Hart pleaded no contest Monday to a reduced charge of compounding prosecution in Mayes County District Court. She had been charged with perjury.

Joyce E. Payne, 40, entered a plea of no contest and was given a six-month suspended sentence by Associate District Judge William Thomas.

A perjury charge against the woman's son, Larry E. Short, 19, was dismissed.

O. Webb recommended the dismissal and the reduced charge for Mrs. Payne.

MRS. PAYNE and her son testified during the Hart trial that a man named Bill Stevens had come to their Okmulgee home the day in June 1977 in which three Tulsa area Girl Scouts were slain. They said Stevens had scratches on his arms and neck and red, blood-like stains on his boots.

Mrs. Payne also identified a flashlight found near the girls' bodies as one she had lent Stevens a month before the murders.

Hart was acquitted of the slayings in March 1979 and died in June 1979 in the state penitentiary, where he was serving time for another crime.

Parents of Slain Girls Plan Appeal

BY BILL BRAUN
Of the World Staff

In March, a jury returned a verdict in favor of the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts and the Hartford Co. trial Judge Bill Beasley On May 6, trial Judge Beasley refused to grant a new trial for the parents, who sought damages totaling \$5 million.

Before the Supreme Court can review the case, court reporter Reba Markham must prepare a complete trial transcript.

The Farmers and Milners filed wrongful death suits alleging Magic Empire was negligent in failing to provide adequate security for campers.

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PERIODICALS DIVISION

Cherokee Medicine Man Denies Giving Aid to Hart

By JERRY FINK
Of the World Staff

VIAN — A 58-year-old full-blood Cherokee medicine man who is accused of helping Gene Leroy Hart avoid capture and arrest has denied knowing or ever having met the murder suspect.

William Lee Smith and Sam Pigeon Jr., 50, were named in separate felony complaints of harboring a fugitive.

Related photo on E-1

Elvive, according to District Attorney John Russell Jr. in Tahlequah, Smith, employed as a machine operator for the Kansas City Southern Railroad for the past 28 years, says he does know Hart's mother, Ella Mae Sulistatuckee Buckskin, and treated her for a diabetic condition a few hours before he was interviewed.

The interview took place at Smith's acreage in a rural area about six miles north of Vian.

ACCORDING TO SMITH, MRS. Buckskin came to him to seek advice shortly after her son was accused of murdering three Girl Scouts near Locust Grove last summer.

"She came and asked me if I would tell her about her son," said Smith, who claims to have visionary powers and the ability to see inside people's minds. "That put me in a spot. I looked and prayed, and I told her not to worry, that he was safe and healthier than she was and everything would be all right."

"I said I don't believe he's the one who done it. I'm positive there are three people who did the killing, one is blond headed and light skinned. Two are Indians."

"That's the way it showed me. It wasn't none of my job... I try to get out and away and get my mind off it."

Smith "provided Hart with money, transportation and other things when he drove him to Pigeon's home," Russell said.

According to Smith there are those who are jealous of his powers and who have accused him of aiding Hart, but he denies this.

AMONG THOSE WHO ARE APPARENTLY TRYING TO TRAME HIM ARE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT (AIM), he believes.

"I've been getting lots of letters from AIM," he said, "and it's in violence everything. I tell my people to forget about it. AIM offered me quite a bit of money to use my powers to do harm)... I said if I ever take the money I believe I am bought."

He feels that if he ever uses his powers for profit or for evil it will destroy him.

Smith, who only has time to treat people on weekends because he is with the railroad through the week, doesn't charge for his services, which he says include using herbs found in the woods in conjunction with his "God-given powers" to cure any kind of sickness.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO GO TO

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY
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him usually give him what they feel snakes, birds and other animals of the forests.

"When somebody got sick dad would send me into the woods on horseback and I would find the herbs described to me," he said. "Anything that is sickness, medicine to cure it grows out in the woods."

He says his father, Redbird Smith, worked with Hart's family many years ago, but he (William) only became acquainted with Mrs. Buckskin about 10 years ago.

Suspect Arrested in Deaths

Continued from A-1

Crime Bureau director said he reached \$20,000 at one point, but the Crime Bureau will be paid. Mayes County District Attorney Sid Wise apparently first received word of the arrest from newsmen, but said he had been "anticipating developments in the case for several days. Wise, who led the early part of the murder investigation, said he was "looking forward to prosecuting Gene Leroy Hart."

There has been some skepticism especially among Indian groups — that Hart was the Girl Scout killer. They charge that Hart "was available" for the murder charges since he was a convicted rapist and at-large at the time of the murders. "We are positive. The evidence supports it," Abernathy said following the arrest.

Bureau agents were sure they had the right man. He declined to disclose what evidence against Hart had been collected by the Crime Bureau.

Hart became the prime suspect when photographs from a 1968 wedding at Mangum were found near Camp Scott. It was learned that Hart, as an inmate at Granite Reformatory near Mangum, had attended the wedding with an amateur photographer and had developed the negatives and made prints in a prison darkroom.

Hart escaped from the Mayes County Jail at Pryor in September 1973 while awaiting transfer to the state prison at McAlester to begin serving his sentence on his second rape conviction. He has also been convicted of kidnapping and burglary.

The 400-acre Camp Scott was closed after the slayings, and the parents of Lori Lee Farmer and Doris Denise Milner filed a \$3 million damage suit against the Girl Scouts of America, charging negligence in the girls' deaths.

The Farmer and Guse families declined comment on Hart's capture. The Milner girl's parents could not be reached.

In addition to Pigeon, an agent said, some friends and possibly some relatives knew Hart was hiding in Adair County. He said the Crime Bureau "will make every attempt to file harboring a fugitive charges" against others in the case.

The Cookson Hills have long been famous as a hideout for noted criminals, including Belle Starr, the Dalton gang and Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd.

Gov. David Boren praised the Crime Bureau for its "perseverance" and said the capture was "made possible by many hours of extra work without compensation by all segments of a dedicated law enforcement community," who have the thanks of all Oklahomans for their efforts.

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Fallas said his interest and participation in the case was "more than justified" because all three of the victims in the Camp Scott murders near Locust Grove were residents of the state of Oklahoma."

Tulsa County. "I am now in the process of reviewing Mr. Wise's case," Falls said, "and believe it to be sound." Meanwhile, the judge who will preside over Hart's preliminary hearing today issued special court-rules for the hearing. Special District Judge Jess Clanton ordered that scuffling be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. The courtroom can accommodate 36 spectators. The courtroom will be locked until 9 a.m. and spectators will be allowed to enter at 9:30 a.m.

DO ENTER AT 9:30 A.M.
THERE WILL BE NO SPECIAL
 passes and no special seating. The
 judges ordered.
 Seats vacated during a court ses-
 sion will remain vacant until a court
 See HART, page 3A

Continued from page 1A

recess and will not be reserved by the persons evicting them. Persons entering the courtroom will be subject to search. No packages or parcels will be allowed in the courtroom and only attorneys and the court reporter will be allowed to bring briefcases into the courtroom. No cameras or recorders will be allowed in the courtroom. The media will be allowed to use the small courtroom for storage of equipment.

NO WEAPONS, other than those worn by security personnel, will be allowed in the courtroom. Aisles in the courtroom and hallways will remain clear and unobstructed.

No one except court personnel and security officers will be allowed in the judge's chambers.

No radio communication transmitters will be allowed on the third floor of the courthouse during the hearing.

Speakers will not be allowed to use telephones on the third floor of the courthouse.

No television or movie cameras will be allowed on the third floor of the courthouse, but on the courthouses. Still cameras will be allowed on the third floor of the courthouses. Still cameras will be allowed on the third floor of the courthouses. Long curbs or tripods may be used. The electronic recording may be made of courtroom procedures, except by the court reporter.

NO ADMITTANCE will be allowed through the double doors of the courtroom and windows in the doors will be closed during the hearing. Attorneys' office or law library and spectators will not be permitted in the law library. No interviewing of witnesses will be allowed. Access to the judge's chambers will be blocked.

During the noon recess the courtroom will be cleared and locked and spectators again will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis at 1 p.m. At the time the court designates.

No drinking, eating or smoking will be allowed in the courtroom. Spectators will not be allowed to get lunch on the third floor or stairs. All persons will be removed from the third floor of the courthouse at night.

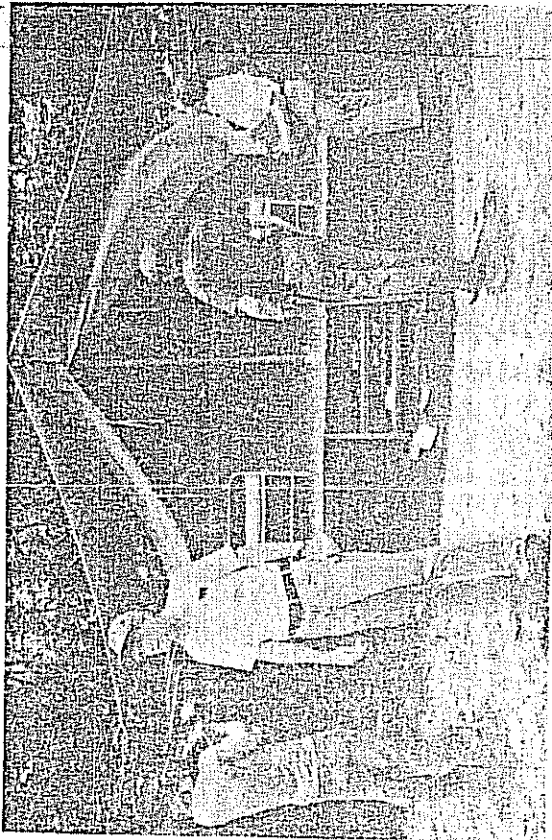
The Mayes County sheriff and his staff will be responsible for security. The court will consider admission of all spectators to the courtroom.

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NOTHING TO REPORT
 NOTHING TO REPORT

Three Tulsa-Area Girl Scouts Slain; Child Molester Sought



Dist. Atty. Sid Wise peers from in front of tent identical to that of victims'. (World Staff Photo)

By DOUG HICKS
Of the World Staff

LOCUST GROVE — The battered bodies of three Tulsa-area Girl Scouts, ages 8, 9 and 10, were found zipped inside their sleeping bags early Monday near their blood-stained tent.

The triple murder, believed enacted between 2 and 4 a.m., occurred at Camp Scout where 140 Girl Scouts had just arrived from a six-county area for a two-week encampment.

Several girls said they reported hearing screams, but did not report it until morning. The bodies were discovered shortly after 9 a.m.

LOUISE FARMER, 8, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Farmer, 7600 S. Quebec Ave.

MICHELLE GUSE, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guse, Broken Arrow.

DORIS DENISE MILNER, 10, daughter of Mrs. Bettye M. Milner, 320 E. Tyler St., and Walter M. Milner, 8023 E. 25th Place, a Tulsa police officer.

Autopsies were being conducted at the state Medical Examiner's office in Tulsa.

All three of the girls were beaten. Lori and Michelle were reportedly struck on the back of the head, probably while they were asleep inside the tent.

No weapon was found. Authorities said "some kind of instrument" may have been used, but did not elaborate.

Doris was strangled and sexually assaulted, according to a source close to the investigation.

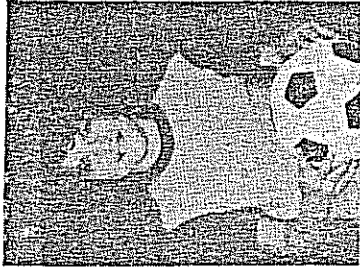
A cord, about the diameter of a sidewalk crack, was found around her neck. Her hands were tied behind her with adhesive tape.

AUTHORITIES BELIEVE the towel was used as a gag to muffle screams reported within the camp. Two of the four cots inside the 12-by-14-foot tent were bloodstained. In the third tent, two of the cots had been unoccupied.

The bodies, encased in the sleeping bags, were found 147 steps southeast of their tent by counselor Carla Emery, 18.

Miss Emery said she was awakened by her alarm clock and had gone up a trail to take a shower in the main campground. She discovered the sleeping bags near the trail.

Mayes County Sheriff Glen "Pete" Weaver said the killer apparently carried the victims from the tent.



MICHELLE GUSE



LOUISE FARMER

jump and that we had to get it back," a Girl Scout said.

Most if not all of the girls still did not know what had occurred when they were bused back to the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scout headquarters in Tulsa Monday afternoon.

The camp was immediately closed. Youngsters at nearby Camp Garland, a Boy Scout camp, also were being bused home.

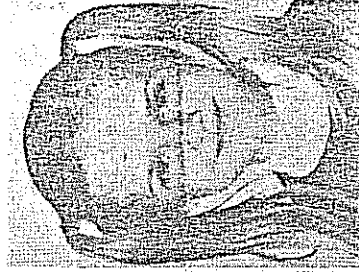
"Until they apprehend the person, I don't believe it is safe for anybody — adult or child — to be here," said Camp Scout director Barbara Day.

SHE AND authorities said no screams had been reported during the night. However, several children on buses unloading at the Girl Scout headquarters in Tulsa said they had heard screams about 3 a.m.

An employee at the camp said girls "often hear things and scream and giggle" during the first night of an encampment.

Weaver said he was working on the theory that one person — a man — committed the slayings.

"I don't believe he was selective of



LORI LEE FARMER

the girls, but I do believe he picked out that tent," Weaver said.

Each camp unit formed a rough

See 3 Girl Scouts on A-4

Three Tulsa-Area Girl Scouts Slain; Child Molester Sought

By DOUG HICKS
of the World Staff

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The victims:
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MICHELLE GUSE, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guse, Broken Arrow.
DOUG DENISE MILNER, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Milner, 320 E. 12th St., Tulsa.

At 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, a Tulsa police officer, Sgt. E. Smith, placed a Tulsa police officer at the state medical examiner's office in Tulsa.

All three of the girls were beaten, lost and Michelle were reportedly struck on the back of the head, probably while they were asleep inside the tent.

No weapon was found. Authorities said "some kind of instrument" may have been used, but did not elaborate.

Doris was strangled and sexually assaulted, according to a source close to the investigation.

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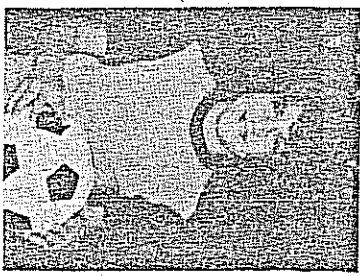
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The bodies, encased in the sleeping bags, were found 147 steps southeast of their tent by counselor Carla Emery, 18.

Miss Emery said she was awakened by her alarm clock and had gone up a trail to take a shower in the main campground. She discovered the sleeping bags near the trail.

Mayes County Sheriff Glen "Pete" Weaver said the killer apparently carried the victims from the tent.

MISS EMERY notified two other counselors, who contacted a camp nurse. Quickly, the camp counselors used a race to get the Girl Scouts to take another path to the camp headquarters so they would not see the bodies.



MICHELLE GUSE



DOUG DENISE MILNER



LOUISE FARMER

camp and that we had to get it back," a Girl Scout said.

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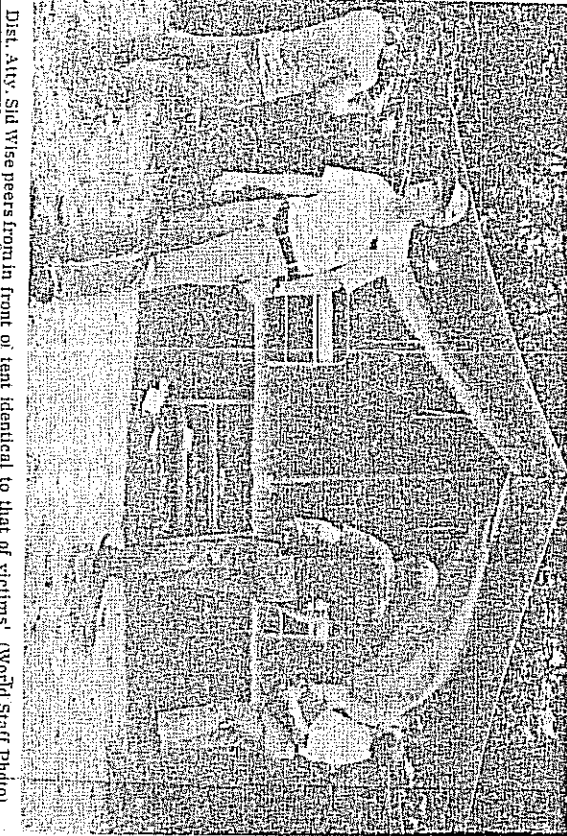
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Diet. Atty. Sid Wise peers from behind tent, identical to that of victims'. (World Staff Photo)

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OK - MURDER - GIRLS COURT - TW 3-6-79

Psychologist Says She Wants 'Fair Shake' for Hart, Jurors

By Rob Martindale

PRYOR — A psychologist hired by Gene Leroy Hart's defense attorneys to help with jury selection Monday said she wants a "fair shake" for the jurors, as well as the accused Girl Scout killer.

The defense hopes to get a lot of mileage out of the unusual role of 28-year-old Cathy Bennett, but she

Related news on A-1

said the presence of a psychologist in the courtroom also can set nervous jurors at ease.

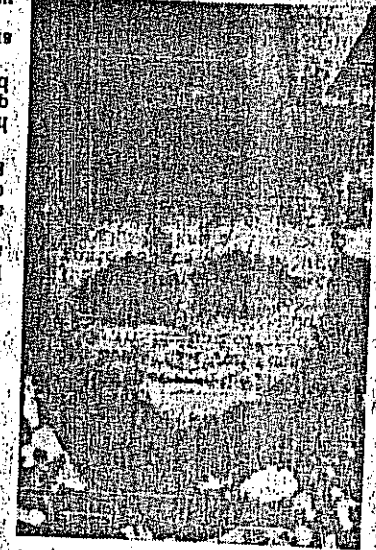
She sat at the defense table Monday, occasionally passing questions for prospective jurors to defense attorneys as the slow-paced jury selection began.

Hart, 35, is accused of murdering three Tulsa area Girl Scouts in the summer of 1977 at Camp Scott near Locust Grove.

Miss Bennett, who is attempting to get an insight into prospective jurors' backgrounds, values and independence, will see more than 100 Mayes County residents questioned in the jury box.

After 12 jurors are selected, she will leave Pryor and will not stay for the interrogation of prospective

CATHY BENNETT



While the main point of her questions will be to help Hart, she said, prospective jurors, she said, as her purpose is two-fold.

As well as Hart are ill at ease in the courtroom. She will suggest questions to help them relax and open up communications between them and defense attorneys.

Miss Bennett, who prefers to be called an "interview consultant," said she has worked in 75 trials in the past five years.

They include, she said, trials involving the Mormon will of Howard Hughes and Wounded Knee cases involving Indians. Hart is a full-blood Cherokee.

An Arkansas native who lives in California, Miss Bennett declined to disclose her fee for the Hart trial.

"There are high budget cases and low budget cases," she said. "This is a low budget case."

She arrived in Pryor late Sunday and met Hart for the first time Monday shortly before court proceedings got under way at 8 a.m.

"He talked about himself... who he was. I just asked him the basic questions. I will get to know him better," she said.

She was as much a stranger to the small town as she was to Hart. In an effort to familiarize herself with the townspeople, Miss Bennett

To Help Hart Defense Psychologists Queries

Continued from B-1

said she spent the early hours Monday walking the downtown business district and talking with as many local residents as possible.

Saying she wants to "ferret out the attitudes of the prospective jurors," Miss Bennett said research shows 60 to 80 percent of the time, jurors favor the prosecution side of trials simply because a person is accused of a crime.

"The odds are so stacked against them," she said.

"I've basically unfair," Miss Bennett said the case has been publicized nationwide and some prospective jurors might have set opinions of Hart's innocence or guilt. "We want him judged in the courtroom and not in the media. We are looking for jurors who can do that."

The questions she suggests during the interrogation of prospective

about the death penalty, should be allowed on the panel, she said. Persons who say they believe in the death penalty, but couldn't apply it in case of conviction are dismissed. "It's basically unfair," Miss Bennett said.

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The questions she suggests during the interrogation of prospective

Court OKs Petition

In Girl Scout Case

By Linda Martin
World Staff Writer

PRYOR — A Mayes County

district judge on Friday certified a grand jury petition that calls for an investigation of the murder of three Girl Scouts in June 1977.

Meanwhile, Ted LaTurner, who filed the grand jury petition, is facing jail time if he doesn't pay the \$775.40 balance he still owes on a \$1,000 fine he received for a 1991 misdemeanor of operating as a private investigator without a license.

Judge W.M. Thomas on Thursday gave LaTurner until Tuesday to pay the fine. He told LaTurner that if he didn't have the money when he returned to court to bring his toothbrush, that he would serve out the fine in jail at \$5 a day.

LaTurner was arrested on an outstanding warrant outside the Mayes County clerk's office on Wednesday. Initially, LaTurner had six misdemeanor charges, two related to carrying a concealed weapon were dismissed, he was found not guilty on one count of serving as an investigator without a license and two other like charges were dismissed.

In the meantime, Presiding District Judge James Goodpaster said Friday that he found the information in LaTurner's second grand jury petition was legally sufficient to certify it for circulation.

The petition alleges that the Mayes County district attorney's office failed to interview all the witnesses during an investigation of the killings and that Gene Haynes, the district attorney for the 12th Judicial District that consists of Mayes, Craig and Rogers counties, refused to meet with LaTurner or return phone calls.

Goodpaster anticipates calling a grand jury by August or September if the petition campaign is successful.

LaTurner has 45 days, or until July 28, to gather the signatures of at least 1 percent of the county's population based on the latest census. That would be about 340 signatures of registered voters in the county.

Goodpaster said that Gene Haynes, even if true, was illegal, because none of the allegations in LaTurner's initial grand jury petition because none of the allegations against me and my office. "He's doing this for his own self-gratification without any consideration to the feelings of the victims' families that have not requested that (the case) be reopened," Haynes said.

On Monday, Goodpaster denied LaTurner's initial grand jury petition because none of the allegations against me and my office. "He's doing this for his own self-gratification without any consideration to the feelings of the victims' families that have not requested that (the case) be reopened," Haynes said.

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REFERENCE DIVISION

3 caves

figure in Scout case

Tribune State Staff

PRYOR — Three caves south of Locust Grove near Camp Scott have figured in the Girl Scout murder case.

Cave 1, about 3 miles from the camp on Spring Creek is about 100 feet from a cellar and foundation that was the boyhood home of Gene Leroy Hart, charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Michele Guse, 9, and Doris Denise Milner, 10.

It is at this cave, discovered by squirrel hunters about four days after the murders, where authorities found evidence linked to the crime scene.

A COUNSELLOR'S sunglasses,

masking tape and green plastic sun-ear to that on a flashlight found near the bodies, and newspaper from the same edition as newspaper inside the battery compartment of the flashlight, were found here.

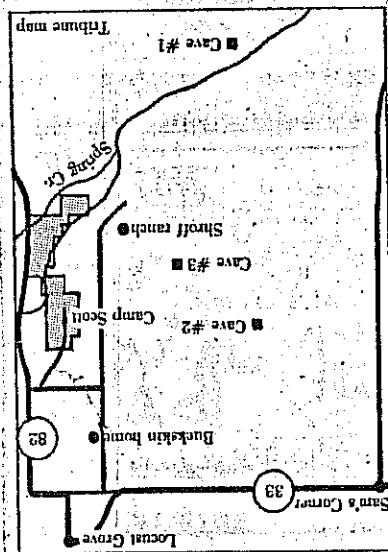
Hart was linked to the cave when a former convict said he and Hart hid in it in 1973 after they escaped from the Mayes County jail.

Authorities also found two wedding photographs which Hart apparently developed in 1968 at Cave 1.

Cave 2, a ledge along Skunk Mountain about 2 miles from the camp, is where farmer Victor Auxier reported he saw a man he thought was Hart, about a week after the murders.

THE CAVE IS on a ridge overlooking the home of Ella Mae Buckskin, Hart's mother.

Authorities discovered a boot print at the cave which matched boot



prints found in the death tent, outside a farmhouse linked to the death scene, and outside a grocery at Sam's Corner that was burglarized shortly after the murders.

A cigarette butt taken from Cave 2 was tested for saliva and chemists determined that it had been smoked by a person with type O blood, the same type blood Hart has.

A hair removed from a bandage found at this cave was found to have the same microscopic characteristics as Hart's.

AUTHORITIES also linked a Vienna sausage can, taken from a pond on Auxier's property near Cave 2, to the burglarized grocery at Sam's Corner.

The price marking on the can reportedly matched price markings on items at the grocery.

Cave 3 is about 1 mile from the camp, located on property owned by Jack Shroff, who reported his farm-house burglarized and black duct tape, like that used to bind one of the girls, stolen.

A young jail inmate led authorities to this cave in late July, saying he had met with Hart at the cave after the murders.

It was here where officers found a taunting message: "The killer was here. Bye Bye Fools. 77-6-17."

Authorities numbered the caves in the sequence they were discovered, but theorize the person who used them went from the Shroff house, to the camp, to Cave 1, then Cave 3, and then Cave 2.

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6-30-78

He Doesn't Believe Fugitive Murdered Girl Scouts

'Quiet Man' Admits Harboring Hart

By JERRY FINK
Of the World Staff

TAHLEQUAH — No one who knows him believes Sam Pigeon Jr., 60, would harbor a fugitive from justice such as Gene LeRoy Hart.

James Dodd, field foreman at Ozark Nurseries in Tahlequah where Pigeon is employed, doesn't.

Neither do fellow employees who have toiled beside Pigeon in the nursery's fields for four years, joking and trading stories with him.

Neither does Waile Pigeon, Sam's nephew, who has ridden to work with his uncle at the nursery for the past month.

They all know Pigeon as an easy-going, quiet man born and reared in the three-room shack where Hart was arrested by eight agents from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Pigeon was described as a hard worker, the kind who gets up in the morning, labors all day without complaining, and then goes home and goes to bed.

But Pigeon readily admitted providing a haven for Hart.

"Yeah, I did it," Pigeon spoke softly, without remorse, rising from a squatting position in the furrowed field where there are rows after row of young cedar trees.

Was he aware of the serious charges against Hart? That Hart was accused of murdering three Girl Scouts last summer?

"Yeah," the full-blood Indian's voice was barely above a whisper.

Pigeon speaks Cherokee better than English. He can neither read nor write. He thinks he finished the first or second grade at a school that used to be in the community of Etta, where his family has lived for more than 100 years. He has spent his life working in the fields.

He was asked if Hart ever threatened him.

"No," he replied, his gums visible where most of his upper teeth used to be.

Then why didn't Pigeon notify the authorities?

"Cause he (Hart) didn't do it," Pigeon said.

According to Pigeon, it was last August when someone "from the other side of Vian" brought Hart to Pigeon's isolated house nestled on the side of a mountain among trees and underbrush thick with foliage in the spring and summer.

Just over the mountain a couple of miles is the Fred Darby Boy Scout Camp, along the Illinois River.

Bill Livingston, Darby camp ranger, said there are at least 10 other summer camps within a 10-

mile radius of where Hart was arrested.

Even though Hart was arrested so close to the camp, Livingston wasn't bothered one way or the other. "I'm not like most men," he said. "I used to work for the Secret Service so I know how to take care of myself."

"I can shoot a goat off a cow's tail at 100 paces."

Livingston said that during the first few days after the murders of the Girl Scouts, his phone "rang off the hook" with calls from concerned parents. So for several months he and an off-duty police chief walked the perimeter of the camp all night until about 5 a.m., unaware the man they were supposedly protecting the Scouts from was a short walk over a couple of hills.

"I never did think he was in this part of the country," Livingston said.

During all of those months there were never any reports of suspicious movements around the camp.

Everyone across the state wondered where Hart was, but apparently only a few knew, including Pigeon's brother, Freeman, who lives in a house about 75 yards down the road from Sam. But according to Sam, Freeman only visited him and Hart a couple of times during the eight months.

And Hart never had a visit from his family, Pigeon said. Hart often talked about hunting and fishing, but he never went. He'd stay home all day and look care of things around the house.

"I'd leave at 6:30 in the morning and come home at 6:30 at night and he'd still be there," Pigeon said.

The dilapidated structure, surrounded by rusty automobile parts and a wide assortment of other litter, has few comforts. In one room there is a bed, in another a sofa and in the third a stove, refrigerator, and table. There is electricity, but no running water. There is no bathroom.

Pigeon said Hart spent most of his time reading magazines and newspapers. They talked a little, but not much, Hart understands, but doesn't speak Cherokee well.

Pigeon's supervisor, Dodd, said he always thought Pigeon was staying somewhere with a relative.

"I just can't believe that he did it," said Dodd.

Pigeon isn't worried about being prosecuted. He wasn't jailed after Hart's arrest.

"They told me not to worry, that everything would be dropped and forgotten," Pigeon said as he squatted and turned his attention to the young cedars.



Sam Pigeon Jr., at work after Hart's arrest. (World Staff Photo.)

TT 3-30-79

Ch. Miller

Gene Hart found innocent

By SUSAN WITT
and JIM GIPSON
Of The Tribune Staff

PRYOR — Gene Leroy Hart today was found innocent of killing three Girl Scouts, a verdict met with thunderous applause from Hart supporters.

The decision was called a "gross miscarriage of justice" by law enforcement officers who have struggled for almost two years to solve the grisly murders.

Shortly after the jury left the courtroom, District Judge William Whistler issued two contempt citations against chief defense attorney Garvin Isaacs for his actions during the trial and ordered the attorney to appear before him this afternoon.

The six-man, six-woman jury deliberated some six hours Thursday before retiring for the evening. They returned to the courtroom a half-hour earlier than expected and resumed deliberations at 8:25 a.m. By 9 a.m. they had reached a verdict.

MAYES COUNTY County Clerk Eloise Gist read the three verdicts signed by jury foreman George C. Kelly.

Hart, flanked by Isaacs and assistant Gary Pitchlynn, placed both hands over his eyes and sobbed.

"Your honor, may I make a statement to the jury?" Hart asked, rising and placing his weight against the defense table.

"You may not," Whistler said.

Hart was returned to the county jail immediately after the verdicts were read, then whisked in shackles to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary where he faces a total of 105 years in prison for burglary, rape and kidnapping convictions.

After the first verdict was read, some two dozen persons — mainly Hart's family and friends — cried out and began hugging each other, some of them sobbing uncontrollably.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Ted Lemke said he was "shocked" by the verdict and called it a "gross miscarriage of justice."

When reporters asked Lemke the next step, he answered, "I don't know."

"I just don't know," he continued. "I'm in shock. I can't believe it. I just can't believe it."

It's not like we're going to go out and look for a killer. We had the killer," Lemke said.

Jury foreman Kelly, speaking for the entire panel some 30 minutes after the verdicts were read, told a throng of news media representatives the jury members "are some of the finest people I ever have worked with."

Kelly said the decision was unanimous but would not say how many ballots were taken before the verdict was reached.

The jury foreman thanked all those involved in the trial and refused to answer further questions concerning the case.

SEVERAL MAYES COUNTY deputies, including Sheriff Pete Weaver, appeared to be shocked by the verdict as they gruffly ordered the celebrants from the third-floor courtroom.

Assistant prosecutor Ron Shafter buried his head in his hands when the verdict was read, and OSBI chief agent Cary Thurman bolted from the courtroom.

Prosecutor S.M. Fallis Jr. was not in the courtroom to hear the verdict. The veteran prosecutor has a policy of

refusing to be present when a jury returns with a verdict.

The parents of the slain girls showed little emotion in the courtroom when the verdicts were read.

Only the mother of 8-year-old Lori Farmer burst into tears. She buried her face in the shoulder of her husband.

All the family members broke down later in the Mayes County district attorney's office, shaken by the verdict.

The parents of the slain girls left the courthouse after regaining their composure but refused to answer reporters' questions.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guse, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Farmer, Mrs. Betty Milner and Walt Milner left the courthouse flanked by lawmen protecting them from reporters' advances.

LATER, GUSE SAID he was "shocked" by the jury returning its verdict this morning, when it was not expected until after further deliberation.

"I wasn't even there for the verdict," he said. "When I walked in the lobby, they were cheering for Mr. Hart."

Guse said he thought "the state presented an excellent case. The prosecution answered the question 'who.'"

"We may never know 'why.'"

"If he (Hart) is not the killer, who's roaming the woods up there? What sort of animal?"

WHEN THE JURY began deliberating Thursday, Guse retired to the office of a Pryor attorney and friend



Gene Leroy Hart

See HART, page 4A

Continued from page 1A

been puzzled because there was no sperm found in the bodies of the young Scouts, and authorities have been careful to say only that the girls "sexually molested."

There was at least one fingerprint found on the body of one of the slain Scouts, and it is known that the print does not match any of Hart's.

The cave where the photographs were found, about two miles from where the girls were murdered, was discovered Tuesday. It also contained empty cans and a glasses case.

Several squirrel hunters found a pair of glasses dangling from the Girl Scout counselors near the cave. Investigators say they also are checking for fingerprints on several cans which they believe might have been stolen from a small grocery store near the area which was burglarized early Tuesday. The burglar took canned meats, beans, cigarettes and several cans of an insect repellent, but left money behind.

Officials still are planning on conducting an "inch-by-inch" search of the area Friday—partly in hopes of flushing out anyone hiding in the densely wooded area.

Mayes County Dist. Atty. Sid Wise also said the searchers will be looking for bloody clothes and a possible murder weapon.

Tracking dogs, called into the area last week, lead officials from the murder scene to a nearby pond and then lost the scent.

An Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer searched the pond and authorities used grappling hooks, but failed to recover any evidence.

OSBI agents collected ashes from a fire ring near the bank of the pond for analysis, but it is not known if the ashes might be from burned clothes.

Fugitive named in

REFUGEE DIVISION

The mouths of two of the girls were taped.

Hart, an Indian who fled Mayes County jail in 1973 and is believed hiding in the Locust Grove area, attended the 1988 wedding of a Mangum-area couple with an amateur photographer Louis Lindsey.

LINDSEY, at the time, was a records clerk and photographer at the Granite State Reformatory where Hart was serving three concurrent 10-year sentences for rape and kidnapping.

Lindsey, now retired in Santa Ana, Calif., said Hart went to the wedding with him and later developed the negatives and prints in the prison darkroom.

Photographs of the wedding reportedly found in a cave near Camp Scott by investigators were distributed statewide Wednesday and recognized by numerous persons in the Mangum area—about 30 miles from the prison.

Lindsey said Hart had attended the

Girl Scout murder

Hart was paroled from the sentences in March 1989, but within three months was again arrested for trying to break into the Tulsa home of a woman detective.

He was charged and convicted of a total of four first-degree burglaries, and sentenced to 305 years in prison.

Hart was sent to the state prison at McAlester, then returned to Mayes County in April 1973 as a witness. He escaped from the jail shortly afterwards.

Mayes County Sheriff Glenn (Pete) Weaver has said from the beginning of the Scout slaying investigation that he views Hart as a suspect because he thinks Hart has been hiding in the Locust Grove area.

Several of Hart's relatives still live in the Locust Grove area, within a few miles of the Scout camp.

It was disclosed during Hart's rape trial that Hart, who is the father of one child and divorced, underwent a sterilization operation.

PROSECUTORS AT the time said the surgery explained why no sperm



GENE LEROY HART
... 1966 PHOTO
was found in the women whom Hart had raped.
It is known that investigators have
See SLAYINGS, page 4A

convict kept copies after printing them for the bride, who was a close friend of Lindsey's family.

Hart was released from prison in 1969—the year after the photos were taken.

He was originally sent to prison in 1966 from Tulsa County, where he had abducted two pregnant Tulsa women outside a nightclub.

THE WOMEN, aged 18 and 19, said he forced them into a car trunk and drove to an isolated area between Locust Grove and Chouteau on Oklahoma 33.

He bound the women with masking tape, blindfolded, gagged and raped them, the women said.

Hart admitted the attack to officers and said he threw the women's underclothing and purses off a nearby Grand River bridge.

The young Scouts were found nude from the waist down June 13, and it is known searchers are looking for bloody clothes in the Scout camp area.

ashes might be from burned clothes.

OSBI agents collected ashes from a fire ring near the bank of the pond for analysis, but it is not known if the ashes might be from burned clothes.

OSBI agents collected ashes from a fire ring near the bank of the pond for analysis, but it is not known if the ashes might be from burned clothes.

On Murder Charges Deferred to Tuesday

SEVERAL RELATIVES were present, including cousin Pauline Hitchcock who wept at the sight of Hart.

His mother, Ella Mae Buckskin, did not attend the arraignment. Her home near Locust Grove, located near Camp Scott where the girl was slain, was found padded.

And Welch, a local bondsman, said "See Hart Put on A-1"

Related news on A-5 and C-1

The judge continued the arraignment by a lawyer. It was announced that the accused was not accompanied by a lawyer and Whelan ordered them each read the complaints to be waived. The judge then ordered the accused to appear in court and the court adjourned.

"Do you see anything wrong with
the Hayes County jail?" Whistler
asked Wise, who moments earlier
had recommended placing Hart in
the Tazewell County Jail.
"No sir, not at all," Wise replied.
"All right, we will place him there,
at least temporarily." Whistler said.
Sheriff Glenn "Pete" Weaver indi-
cated before the arraignment that
he wanted the suspect — who broke
out of the county jail here twice in
1973 — kept at the state penitentiary
in McAlester.

NART was down here in a state government plane Friday from late yesterday, where he was released overnight following his arrest Thursday in a shack in the rugged Jackson Hills of Adair County. Hart was picked after the arrest. He was released, maximum security cell in the county jail here. He was on duty constantly near the spe- cial cell and that other security mea- sures would be taken. "Security works two ways," he said. "It's being placed in maximum security partly for his protection."

The sheriff said his office has received threatening telephone calls against Hart since his capture. An estimated 100 persons gathered at the courthouse lawn to get a glimpse of Hart. Inside the third- floor courtroom, 13 uniformed and armed Highway Patrol officers and sheriff's deputies stood by.

Also in the courtroom were patrol agents, Persons entering the room were visually searched. Art was released from handcuffs leg irons during his courtroom appearance, but they were reapposed to the Chinese Bureau agent Roger Tse before that was led out of building in the jail.

In the main floor, a person tied at the circle of officers and Hunt: "He might could walk away if you didn't have chains on."

Friends of the murder suspect in words of encouragement to

HARRY PLEADED INDEMNITY
day to seven felonies stemming from
1973 after he was brought here from
the state penitentiary to seek post-
conviction relief on a 1966 kidnap-
ing sentence.
Hart is accused of three burglary
counts, two counts of injuring public
property (the jail when he escaped)
and one count each of possession of a
firearm and escape.
The first escaped from the county
jail May 20, 1977, but was captured
11 days later. Authorities claim the
burglaries were committed during
that time period.
He escaped again on Sept. 10, 1973,
and remained at large until his arrest
Thursday.
is a "good possibility," a preliminary
hearing on one of the murder
charges could be held within a
month. A date probably will be set
next week.

WISE SAID IT "would not seem
unreasonable" for trial to be held
sometime next fall.
The prosecutor indicated he would
fight against any attempts to move
the trial outside Meigs County.
"I anticipate that we can certainly get
a fair trial here," Wise said.

Continued from A-1

Heart Put In Tight Security

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82-8-78
1W

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-

cused on whether the 1977 rape-murders 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 criminal" went "lei-

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 coverup," 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

See Jury on A-4

Hart Ordered to Stand Trial in 3 Sex Slayings

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7-7-78

Wise said the hearing should have been concluded in "six or seven days" but was prolonged by "monotonous and repetitious" defense testimony.

The defense called 75 witnesses; See Phone on A-4

Wise is an announced candidate for the post of state attorney general. However, it was learned Thursday that attorney who called in Falls as a special co-prosecutor, waits at least one of the cases to come to trial of time "the Hart case was consuming."

Wise, MAYES COUNTY DISTRICT attorney who called in Falls as a special co-prosecutor, waits at least one of the cases to come to trial of time "the Hart case was consuming."

Wise is an announced candidate for the post of state attorney general. However, it was learned Thursday that attorney who called in Falls as a special co-prosecutor, waits at least one of the cases to come to trial of time "the Hart case was consuming."

By Doug Hicks
Of the World Staff
PRYOR — Sounding the gavel on one of the longest preliminary hearings in Oklahoma history, a judge Thursday ordered Gene Leroy Hart to stand trial for the sex slayings last summer of three Girl Scouts.

CLANTON READ THE RULING three times — once for Lord Warner, again for Doris Denise Miller, 10, 8, again for Michele Guac, 9, and along a trail in Camp Scott near Lost Creek Grove. They and 150 other Girl Scouts had just spent their first night of encampment.

THEME ALSO WAS NO EMO- tion revealed from a front-row bench occupied by Charles and Sherri Farmer, George and Ann Guac and Belle Miller, parents of the victims.

"WE CAN GO HOME AND REST for a few days," said Mrs. Farmer, alluding to a July 18 date Judge Clanton set for Hart's formal arraignment. "We are anxious for the case to move on without a whole lot of delay. Everything they bring it up in court it's like telling last summer all over again."

PROSECUTORS SID WISE AND S.M. Falls Jr. said they will ask that a trial be held within 60 days. However, Isaac said he needs "at least six months" to prepare for trial.

PROSECUTORS SID WISE AND S.M. Falls Jr. said they will ask that a trial be held within 60 days. However, Isaac said he needs "at least six months" to prepare for trial.

Book was way to aid author, Wise claims

11-24-78

By SUSAN WITT

Mayes County District Attorney Sid Wise says he was "only trying to assist a young man who wanted to be an author" when he signed an agreement with a Fryor newsman to co-author a book about the grisly child murders.

ODDLY, FALLIS had offered his assistance the day the young girl's bodies were found, but Wise never acknowledged the offer.

Fallis, who has a staff three times the size of Wise's, reportedly offered prosecutors, investigators, sheriff's deputies, secretaries, errand runners — whatever Wise wanted — to help in investigating the murders.

Wise never returned Fallis' calls. Several law enforcement officers reported inflating between Wise and investigative agencies shortly after the murders.

One seasoned law officer reported that different agencies were meeting in separate rooms at the camp office where headquarters were set up and the investigation was directed.

"I said why don't we all get together around a big table and talk this out and see what we've got, but no one seemed to want the other to know what they were doing," the officer said.

Wise said.

WHEN NEWSMEN REPORTED the apparent friction between the agencies, Wise called it "yellow dog journalism" and immediately called a "news blackout" and for a while, refused to release news on the investigation's progress.

He named Fryor newsman Ron Crimsley "press hound" and the reporter was privy to privileged information and helped decide what would be released.

The information was the same as the information who helped guard

See WISE, page 2C

Continued from page 1C

porter with whom Wise later signed the book contract.

While Wise still had his headquarters at Camp Scott, rumors began circulating that he would run for state attorney general.

Wise "refused to comment" when reporters asked if he was planning the race, but later announced he would seek the state office after only one term as district attorney.

Earlier this year, when a New York Times reporter came to Fryor to write about the murders, Wise's chief assistant reportedly told the newspaper, "this case is his ticket into the AG's office and I'm going with him."

Wise came in last in a field of six candidates.

AN OSBI OFFICIAL said he was "very upset" when he learned that Crimsley had copies of their investigation reports in the case.

Wise admitted Crimsley helped him make copies of the reports in a late-night photocopying session, but claimed he did not realize Crimsley was making copies for himself and placing them in a briefcase.

Crimsley said Wise knew he was reading the reports, but said he didn't know if the prosecutor realized he was making copies for himself.

Wise said he thought he could "show them to anyone he felt appropriate" when the OSBI loaned them to him for one night.

District Judge William Whislett chastised Wise, told him he used "poor judgment in allowing Crimsley to view the reports and said Wise didn't have the right to treat state files "as though they were his personal property."

Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver said he "didn't appreciate" the way the reports were handled by Wise.

WISE DEFENDED his actions in signing the contract claiming he was a "dominant figure" in the investigation at the time he signed it.

"At that time (October 1977) I had nothing further to do in the investigation."

"I had no idea Hart would ever be captured," he said.

"It was something at the time that seemed appropriate."

"Mr. Crimsley approached me. He brought the proposal."

"At the time I questioned him about the unequal percentages because it disturbed me and he indicated to me this was not only equitable but an advantage to him," Wise said.

"He told me 'if anything I'm taking advantage of you, Sid.'"

"He told me a normal split might be 90-10 and I, not being acquainted with anything like this, took his word for it," Wise said.

"As I look back on it now I still don't feel I did anything inappropriate," Wise said.

REFERENCE DIVISION

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ery, one of pos-
ged instrument
ssion of cocaine.
led to appear for
in Creek County.
he was arrested
ere he later was
ery.

MacDonald and
had wandered
about an hour
dials called po-

unt. Some were good, and some
were bad. Congressman Jones has
to look at the overall picture,"
Finegan said.

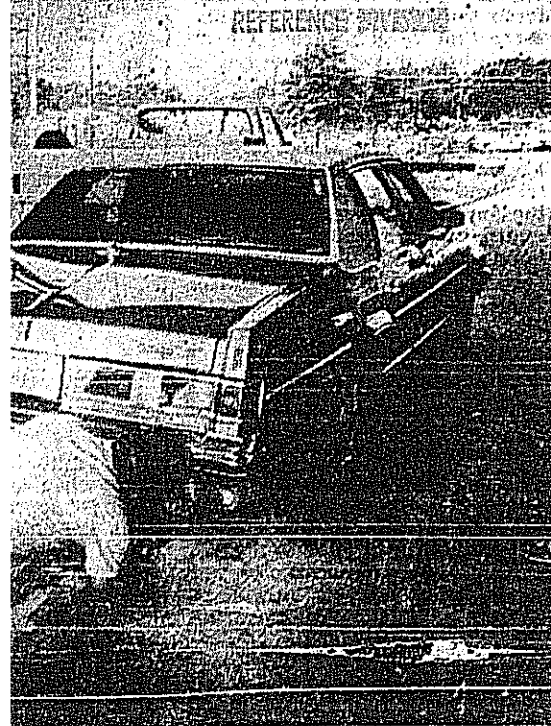
If El Salvador were to fall into
the control of leftists, Keating
said, hundreds of thousands of re-
fugees would swamp the United
States.

Keating added Tulsa is only
1,700 miles from El Salvador, "or
about the same distance from
here to the New England coast.

"Tulsans would have to bear
the burden of untold hundreds of
Salvadoran refugees if the guer-
rillas win out over the Duarte
government," Keating said. "I'm
not willing to accept that reali-
ty."

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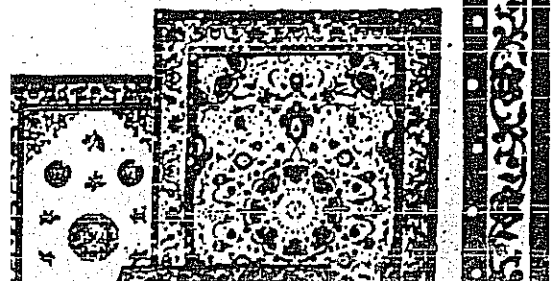


Tribune photo by Dave Kraus

check. The tests show owners whether cars
meet federal emissions standards. Drivers
were waiting in line for examinations this
morning, making the tests "quite a suc-
cess," said Roger Randolph, the depart-
ment's test coordinator.

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Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Wed., & Sat. 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
2 noon-6:00 p.m.



Hendricks, 19, was injured, police said. The spectacular
5:15 p.m. wreck slowed home-bound commuters.

OK MURDERS - GIRL SCOUT Girl Scout deaths re-investigated

PRYOR (AP) — Mayes County
Sheriff Paul Smith says three peo-
ple are being investigated in the
1977 slaying of three Girl
Scouts.

Smith said Friday he is "having
one weapon examined at this
time" and is "still running down
leads, which we've been doing for
almost four years. We're very
close to charges ... people are
starting to volunteer more infor-
mation."

Smith would not identify the
three — whom he termed "prime
suspects" — other than to say one
is in prison. He added one of
the people is a Mayes County resi-
dent and the third resides else-
where in the state.

"Smith said the three were "well
known" to Gene Leroy Hart, who
was charged in the triple murder
that took place at the Camp Scott
Girl Scout Camp. He said one of
the people assisted Hart after his
escape in 1973 from the Mayes
County Jail.

Hart was found innocent of the
June 13, 1977, rape and murder of
Lori Lee Farmer, 8, Doris Denise
Milner, 10, and Michelle Guse, 9.

Shortly after the 1979 trial,
Hart died of a heart attack at
McAlester State Penitentiary
where he had been returned to
finish serving a sentence for
rape.

"I don't believe Gene did it,"
Smith said. "The jury said he
wasn't guilty, so we were com-
pelled to go out and investigate."

He said he began the investi-
gation when he took office three
years ago but could not get the
cooperation of state investigators
and prosecutors in the case.

He said they all felt Hart was
guilty and refused to change their
minds.

Smith claimed he has not con-
tacted the Mayes County district
attorney's office or other agencies
because of their unwillingness to
cooperate with his investigation.

Oklahoma State Bureau of in-
vestigation spokesman Paul Ren-
frow said Smith's announcement
"comes as a surprise."

He said the Girl Scout murder
case remains open but "is listed
as inactive."

"If he (Smith) has information,
we would be happy to hear it,"
Renfrow said.

Smith said autopsy reports in-
dicate to him more than one per-
son was involved in the crime.

"If one man was to tie someone
up, he would have used one kind of
knot," he said, "but two separate
types of knots were used to tie up
the girls."

Smith said wounds on two of the
girls indicated different instru-

ments were used in the murders.

"Those and some other things
bothered me about the case," he
said.

Smith said he and his staff has
been assisted in the investigation
by Tulsa private investigator
Sherry Cumber.

Wage law opponents try again

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Op-
ponents of the legal minimum
wage on public construction
projects plan to hold captive in
prisons appropriations bill and
other money measures, forcing a
vote on the volatile labor issue.

"We've still got another shot at
it," said Sen. Paul Taliaferro, the
Lawton Democrat who has helped
lead efforts to repeal the law,
which requires contractors to pay
the prevailing, or average, wage
in an area when working under
public contract.

Opponents say the law keeps
paychecks for construction work-
ers unreasonably high and forces
the state, counties and school dis-
tricts to needlessly pay millions
of dollars extra on construction
contracts.

Sen. Wayne Winn, D-Weather-
ford, said he will write a letter to
Senate President Pro Tem Mar-
vin York, D-Oklahoma City, ask-
ing him to allow another vote on a
bill that would repeal the prevail-
ing wage law.

Otherwise, pro-repeal senators
will withhold their votes on the
emergency clause to appropri-
ations measures, Taliaferro said.

The emergency clause, requir-
ing a two-thirds vote for passage,
is needed for the money bills to
become effective as soon as they
are signed by the governor.

Seventeen senators voting "no"
would block passage of an emer-
gency clause.

A similar move is under way in
the House, Taliaferro said.

Senators last month voted 24-23
to return Winn's prevailing wage
repeal bill to a joint House-Senate
conference committee. York im-
mediately appointed two addi-
tional committee members to en-
sure the measure does not reach
the floor again without his per-
mission.

If York refuses to allow the bill
out of committee, Winn and his
allies will try to form a voting
block to reject the appropriation
to the financially troubled De-
partment of Corrections.

Taliaferro said another vehicle
for repeal would be an amend-

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Tulsa World - May 12, 1984 - p. 23C

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Hart letter proclaimed innocence

TT 6-15-79

By MARY HARGROVE
Of The Tribune Staff

McALESTER — Gene Leroy Hart went to his death denying he killed three little girls.

In a letter to a Tulsa Tribune reporter received Monday hours before he collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack, Hart steadfastly maintained that he was innocent of the sex slayings of three young Girl Scouts in June 1977.

The record has been set straight as far as I'm concerned — the jury voted right when they voted 'not guilty' and my family and supporters knew the entire process was a sham," he wrote.

Hart, who maintained a stoic demeanor throughout the trial, burst into tears when the innocent verdict was announced, shedding his impenetrable facade only briefly in public.

IN HIS LETTER, in which he rejected a request for an interview, Hart allowed a personal glimpse into the fears and frustrations that dogged the notorious convict for almost two years. He hinted at the agony of being cleared in court, but not acquitted totally in the eyes of the world.

"It may be easy for you or others of the media to forget that the state was trying to execute me for something that I had nothing to do with," he wrote.

"I, and my friends and relatives will never forget or forgive such an injustice."

"Most of the media, and I include all forms, did their best to see that I was convicted unjustly of a crime that I had absolutely nothing to do with," he wrote.

But, according to his lawyer, Gary Pitchlynn, who described Hart as "bright and articulate," the last days of the 35-year-old Cherokee Indian were not consumed in bitterness, but were spent optimistically planning for the future.

Pitchlynn and Jeff McLemore, editor of the Tahlequah-based Cherokee Advocate, a tribal publication, spent three hours interviewing Hart Friday afternoon.

"GENE WAS very positive and yet very realistic about his future," McLemore recalled. "He knew he faced an uphill battle in reducing his time, but he was looking forward to getting out and starting into a para-legal field."

McLemore, who will publish his exclusive interview June 21, said Hart felt he had a message for the Indian youth.

"He had numerous opportunities to speak to the press, but he wanted to speak to his people. He wanted to tell them to stand up for their rights and pursue the course they felt was right despite the odds," McLemore said.

"Gene admitted you don't get into places like McAlester for skipping Sunday school and he advised the young people to stay out of trouble," McLemore said.

Related story, page 1B

Hart died Monday after a day much like he would have faced for many years — routine. He followed the schedule of an average inmate 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 second-story of the west cellblock following his acquittal March 30.

He spent much of his time on the prison's death row since his April 6, 1978, capture.

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 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 press conference during the trial. "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 and again on his way to work.

Four stories above the red and white checkered floor of the 72-year-old rounds, armed guards keep a constant vigil. More guards watch

See HART, page 4A



Gene Leroy Hart

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Hart's Innocence in Murders Still Questioned 5 Years Later

By Joyce Peterson

If it happened again — same circumstances, same victims, same suspect — "I don't know what we would do differently," says Don Sharp, deputy director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

It's been five years since three young girls were raped and beaten to death on their first night of summer camp.

Three years and two months ago a jury found Gene Leroy Hart innocent of the heinous crime. Three years ago this month Hart died of a heart attack while serving time on other charges at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary.

And OSBI officials still believe they had the right man.

"All the evidence we had, everything I recall, indicated we had the correct person charged," said Sharp, who was a field agent with little more than months with the bureau

on June 13, 1977.

Not that there aren't still people who believe Hart was innocent.

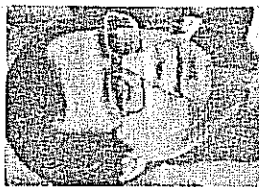
There are still those in Locust Grove, Hart's hometown, who still insist the real killer is free, Sharp said.

"They're people who are saying things like 'I knew him when he was a boy. He couldn't do anything like that,'" Sharp said. "But nobody will ever bring any evidence in. Nobody has come in and talked with us."

"There was so much attention to the case.... Our office, the prosecutors, someone would have seen something if it was there," he said.

"I'm sure the media would have (and) there was a battery of defense lawyers. If there was something — I mean more than just 'I don't believe he did it,' I'm sure someone would have brought it up."

Not that there wasn't a lot of self-question-



Gene Leroy Hart

ing by the investigators when the verdict was in.

"There is always the re-evaluation at the end of the case, 'What went wrong? What could we have done differently?'"

But, for the investigators the conclusion

was — for the most part — nothing.

Hart wasn't convicted, Sharp said, because the jury wasn't convinced by the evidence presented.

"It was the sufficiency of the evidence. People said he was found not guilty, so he didn't do it. But that's not the case."

"We feel we had the right man." But, "we can't manufacture evidence. We had to go to court with what we had," he said.

"That's how the jurisprudence system works."

In the nearly two years that elapsed between the discovery of the girls' bodies and the March 1979 trial of Hart, almost every one of the bureau's some 180 employees became involved in some way with the case that also kept the rest of the state riveted.

Some of the same investigators still work for the bureau although many have since gone on to other jobs.

The file on the case itself is still officially "open" although "inactive." And, Sharp said, considering the circumstances, the official closing of the case probably isn't too far off.

"It's pretty well resolved, nothing else is happening. There is nothing hanging in limbo," Sharp said. "There's a finality about it."

"I mean I don't want the families (of the little girls) thinking we don't care, we're not concerned, because we are. We'd do it all again every bit of it."

In fact, Sharp said, one of the problems the bureau had in the Girl Scout case, as in other similar cases, was some of the investigators may have cared too much.

"It's personality. Some people have a particularly hard time when it's a child that's been abused or killed," he said. "The (Hart) case was one where people were emotionally affected. People were unable to stay detached."

Hart Lawyer Handed Censure, Reprimand

Isaacs Apologizes to Judge

By ROB MARTINDALE

Of the World Staff

PRYOR — A Judge Monday "cen-

sured and reprimanded" Gene

Leroy Hart's chief defense attorney

for yelling "Hart" three times while

the state presented its case during

Hart's first-degree murder trial

here recently.

Isaacs made the charges as Tulsa

County District Attorney S.M. Falls

presented the prosecution's closing

argument to the jury, which acquit-

ted Hart of the 1977 slayings of three

Girl Scouts.

Isaacs was accompanied by two

attorneys Monday when he ap-

peared before District Judge Wil-

liam Whistler, who presided over the

Hart trial and twice held Isaacs in

contempt of court.

Isaacs apologized to Whistler.

While censuring Isaacs for shout-

ing "Hart," Whistler Monday dis-

missed the second contempt of court

charge. It stemmed from state-

ments made by Isaacs while inter-

viewing a prospective juror.

Isaacs asked a prospective juror if

he had "ever felt like two people

ganged up on him," the Mayes

County Court Clerk's office

reported.

Whistler said he originally inter-

preted the remark as an allegation

he and Falls were ganging up on

Isaacs, but Isaacs assured Whistler

he wasn't referring to the court.

Whistler noted that before citing

Isaacs twice for contempt of court

during the trial, he had warned

Isaacs about his "contemptuous"

courtroom behavior.

GARVIN ISAACS



During the trial, Isaacs accused Whistler of "bending over backwards" to show he is "not prejudiced for an Indian on trial for his life." Whistler and Hart are Indians.

Isaacs also accused Mayes County Sheriff Pete Weaver and Under-sheriff Al Boyer of "spying on us," but failed in an attempt to have them removed from the courtroom.

Isaacs, 33, had vowed "to fight like hell" in the defense of Hart.

In addition to being censured by Whistler for his courtroom behavior, Isaacs could have been fined and received jail time.

Hart given time to find attorney

By JIM GIPSON
Of The Tribune Staff

PRYOR — Inside, there was a solemn district court arraignment Friday afternoon for the suspect in the June 13, 1977, murders of three Girl Scouts who went on a camping trip.

Outside, there was the air of a carnival as hundreds lined the streets and milled on the courthouse lawn to shout encouragement or just to see "him."

Gene Leroy Hart, 34, appeared before Mayes County District Judge William J. Whistler at 4 p.m. after being flown here from the Oklahoma State Prison in McAlester, where he had been held since his arrest Thursday afternoon.

The news people who had come to write and talk about Hart started assembling around the courthouse about noon.

THE ORIGINAL arraignment time of 1:30 p.m. had caused nearly 100 townspeople, some of them

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Hart's distant relatives, to begin gathering beneath the shade trees, but transportation problems caused the starting time to be delayed twice. Eventually the arraignment was continued until Tuesday to allow Hart time to obtain the services of an attorney.

Hart arrived at the Pryor Municipal Airport south of here about 3:35 p.m. in a twin-engine state aircraft. Plainclothes officers got off the plane first and then Hart, dressed in a blue, pull-over sport shirt, gray slacks and dress shoes, emerged to face the crowd of reporters and a grim group of law officers who had come to take him back to the jail from which he had escaped twice.

As he stepped from the plane, walking cautiously down the steps because of shuddles on his lower legs, a slight smile creased his face. He was hustled to a three-car caravan of police vehicles and

whisked downtown to walk before the waiting throng into the courthouse.

Because of the late arraignment time, public schools had dismissed and several employees of downtown businesses lined the sidewalk.

AS THE CARAVAN rolled in front of the sheriff's office, the widely scattered crowd left benches and shady spots and closed in around the car.

When officers helped him step from the car and began leading him to the jail, a muffled roar comprised of television cameras, feet scuffling and comments from the crowd went up.

"There he is," a little girl said. "Hi Gene, hang in there baby."

Hart smiled and lifted one of his handcuffed hands in sort of a half-wave.

"So that's the lousy s.o.b.," an older timer allowed, momentarily halting his incessant tobacco chewing.

After a brief time in Sheriff Glen "Pete" Weaver's jail for booking, Hart, flanked by about one dozen state, county and local law officers, walked across Adair Street on his way to the third floor of the county courthouse.

THE CROWD again gathered to look. Alternate comments of encouragement or damnation were uttered. Inside Judge Whistler's courtroom, about 50 members of the news media, some children and a few of Hart's relatives sat on hard pews in

See HART, page 2A



Gene Leroy Hart, 34, left, is escorted to the Mayes County Jail Friday by state law officer Roger Chrisco. (Tribune Photo By Jim Gipson)

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