

Former Boy Scout leader arrested again, faces 6 new charges

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ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

LONOKE — Former assistant Boy Scout leader Charles "Jack" Walls III, 51, of Lonoke has been arrested again and charged with two counts of rape, two counts of solicitation to commit murder and two counts of violation of a minor

in the first degree. It was his second arrest in a month's time.

Walls, who was arrested Wednesday, was being held in the Pulaski County jail Thursday in lieu of a \$1 million cash bond, said Prosecuting Attorney Betty Dickey of Pine Bluff, who is handling the case after Lonoke County's prose-

cutor stepped aside.

Walls had been free on \$100,000 bond since he was first arrested Oct. 6 and charged in the alleged 1992 sexual assaults of two members of Boy Scout Troop 103, for which Walls was assistant scoutmaster. Dickey amended those two charges Wednesday, expanding

the time frame in which the reported sexual assaults occurred.

According to affidavits, there are four alleged sexual assault victims, all under age 14 when they reportedly were sexually assaulted. Dickey has accused Walls of continuing to have sex with two of the victims after they were

older than 14.

"I anticipate you're going to see more charges in the next few weeks," Dickey added. "This is still very much under investigation."

The announcement of the charges has rocked this town of See **CHARGES**, Page 12A

Charges

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4,022. Until this happened, Lonoke was considered a safe place for children, parents of the alleged victims say. The biggest local news in recent years has been tornadoes and politics. Paula Corbin Jones, who has accused President Clinton of sexual harassment when he was Arkansas' governor, is from Lonoke.

"None of us thought our children weren't safe, and we never thought they weren't safe with Jack," one father of an alleged victim said.

Now many residents of the town about 20 miles east of Little Rock say they are shocked.

"Jack had more influence on the kids than anyone. It's unbelievable what one man has done to this town," the father said. He asked to remain anonymous to protect his son.

"We all trusted Jack. We went to him with our problems we were having with our kids. We encouraged our kids to go with Jack. I believed he was able to do things with my son that I wasn't able to do, like learn how to shoot guns and spend time in the outdoors on Jack's farm. I was working and didn't have the time Jack had," the father said in a shaky voice.

"I hate myself for being so stupid," he said. "It was right in front of us and we should have known what was going on, but we didn't. We just didn't know."

The Boy Scouts do not have records on how long Walls was an assistant scout leader, but John Carman, Scout executive for the Quapaw Area Council, said it was "quite a long time."

"We all trusted Jack," the father added. "'Now look at how many lives Jack has ruined.'"

The new charges include two counts of solicitation to commit murder. Dickey accused Walls of trying to get someone to kill Cledis Hogan and his son, Doug, between December 1992 and January 1997.

Doug Hogan, now 21, has accused Walls of asking him to perform a sexual act with Walls during a Dec. 29, 1992, campout on Walls' Lonoke farm.

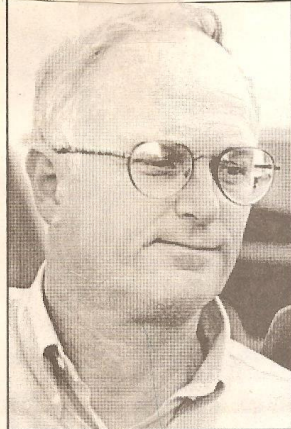
Doug Hogan has said authorities refused at the time to press criminal charges against Walls. Ultimately, misdemeanor charges were filed against Walls in 1993 accusing him of assault in the third degree and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Walls was found innocent of the charges in April 1994 in municipal court at Carlisle, another Lonoke County town.

The Hogans said recently that they have been told by authorities, as well as some of the Boy Scouts in Troop 103, that Walls asked three of his Scouts to kill them after they confronted Walls in 1992 and reported the alleged Dec. 29 proposition to the Boy Scouts. The Quapaw Area Council ejected Walls from the Boy Scouts in January 1993 because of the Hogans' report, Carman confirmed Wednesday.

"They were to use a stun gun on me and then burn me alive in my truck," Cledis Hogan said authorities told him. "They were also told to cut Doug's brake line and get him in a high-speed chase where he'd wreck his car."

The parents of the alleged victims said they lined up in Lonoke in 1992 to support Walls.

And they now regret their deci-



Jack Walls III

sion.

"When the Hogans made their accusations, I didn't believe them. It was that simple," said a father who asked to remain anonymous. "I figured they were after money. You just don't know how much now we wished we had listened to the Hogans."

"But we didn't. What can I say. I recently called Mr. Hogan and apologized. I told him I was so sorry his son had to take on this whole town, but that's exactly what happened. You know, even the judge tried to tell us what to do, and no one listened to him. We just thought Jack was perfect."

During the April 8, 1994, court proceedings in Carlisle, special Municipal Judge Gary Rogers said, "Whether there were sexual advances or not, the court today is not here to decide that, because that was not the charge before the court."

Rogers said, "I personally be-

lieve that there may be other charges that may have been filed, but weren't. ... I'm not making any determination of whether there were sexual advances or not. That, again, was not before the court."

Other new charges filed against Walls on Wednesday include two new rape charges.

The first accused Walls of sexually assaulting a victim under the age of 14, named John Doe 3 in the affidavit. The sexual assaults occurred between 1986 and November 1990, the affidavit states.

Walls is accused of violation of a minor in the first degree, according to the affidavit, which also states that between November 1990 and November 1994, Walls continued to engage in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with John Doe 3.

John Doe 4, according to the affidavit, who was also under age 14, was sexually assaulted from 1991 through 1992.

Dickey also amended the first two rape charges filed Oct. 6 against Walls.

The original charges said the sexual assaults occurred between March and September 1992, when the first victim was 10 or 11 years old and the second victim was 12 or 13 years old, Lonoke County Prosecuting Attorney Larry Cook said at the time the charges were filed.

Since then, Cook asked to be removed from the case because he feared there would be an "appearance of a conflict of interest" because he practiced law in front of

Charles Walls Jr., who was circuit-chancery judge in Lonoke from January 1995 until December 1996. Walls Jr., who was appointed to the position by then-Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, is Jack Walls III's father.

Dickey expanded the time frame during which the alleged sexual assaults occurred for each of the original victims.

"There is a gag order in place on this case, so I cannot specifically say why I did this," she said. "However, most logically, it's been done because there are more incidents than one with the victim that occurred over a certain time frame, but only one count of rape is filed."

She also said juveniles could have a hard time pinning down dates when events occurred.

In the case of the first victim, referred to as John Doe 1 in the affidavit, Dickey accused Walls of assaulting the boy between 1991 and July 1993, when that victim was under age 14. She also accused Walls of violation of a minor with John Doe 1. She said those reported assaults occurred between July 1993 and July 1997, when that victim was between ages 14 and 18.

Dickey accused Walls of sexually assaulting John Doe 2, who was also under age 14, from March 1992 through February 1995, according to the affidavit.

According to another father of an alleged victim, who also asked to remain anonymous to protect his son, some of the sexual assaults occurred when many parents thought their children were

“advancing” in Scouting.

For this father, his son’s encounters with Walls occurred in 1992 when a group of parents watched as a young group of Boy Scouts lined up to see who would be chosen — with a “tap” on the shoulder from behind — and selected to be members of a special Scouting group called the Order of the Arrow.

“The Order of the Arrow is considered an honor society,” Carman said. “Boys and adults who give outstanding service to Scouting are elected by their peers to be in the order.”

On a night in 1992, the father of one alleged victim watched as his son was among those selected to be in the Lonoke Chapter of the Order of the Arrow.

“They walked over a bridge,

which symbolized the significance of crossing another, higher step in Scouting,” the father said.

“It was an honor to be selected and my son was one of those,” he said. “We watched him get tapped and we were so proud. When the ceremony was over, we left my son as well as the other boys who had been chosen in the care of Jack Walls.”

“But that bridge has a new meaning to me now. That bridge turned our lives into a nightmare,” the father added. “When my son crossed that bridge he was 10 years old. That night, at what we thought would be a wholesome Scouting camp out at Jack’s farm to celebrate, we now know that my son was given pure grain alcohol and taught his first lessons in sex by Jack Walls.”