



City considering using boot camp labor

BY STEFANI GAMMAGE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Youthful offenders may soon be clearing drainage ditches for cash-strapped Fort Worth under a proposed program that could, as one council member put it, make crime pay.

Councilman David Chappell said yesterday that next year's proposed city budget includes using a 16-member crew from the "boot camp" in Mansfield to perform hard labor normally paid for by the city.

"In a simple way, crime is paying," he said.

The boot-camp crew could be on the job before the targeted Oct. 1 starting date, possibly as early as next week, city officials said.

Fort Worth officials said they have received a commitment from the county's Community Supervision and Corrections Department to provide the workers from the

called the hand-clearing of overgrown drainage ditches "very hot, difficult work."

The proposed budget, which takes effect Oct. 1, includes the elimination of a 10-member drainage clearing crew that now has eight of its positions filled, Santerre said. Officials are trying to find other jobs for employees who could be displaced, he said.

While the boot-camp crew may begin work soon, the city employees would remain on the payroll through Oct. 1, Santerre said.

Under the department's proposal, service will be reduced because the boot-camp crew is slated to work only one day a week vs. five days for the city crew, Santerre said.

However, if the boot-camp crew is available three days a week, the service would be about the same because that crew is larger than the city's, Santerre said.

Mansfield Community Corrections Facility, which houses first-time, nonviolent offenders.

Already boot-camp crews, whose members range in age from 17 to 25, have done public-service work, including building a park on Hulen Drive for handicapped people, cleaning Mansfield's parks, planting 1,000 trees at Joe Pool Lake and setting up booths for Riverfest in Arlington and for Fort Worth street festivals.

Assistant City Manager Charles Boswell said that using boot-camp workers could save the city an estimated \$280,000 next year by doing chores now performed by city employees or contract labor.

Besides clearing drainage channels of high weeds one day a week, the workers could be used in park maintenance, janitorial services or clerical work, he said.

Gary Santerre, the city's director of transportation and public works,

While the city has used adult probationers in the past for community service work ordered by a judge, Chappell believes the boot-camp offenders may do a better job because "you've got a drill sergeant barking in some young kid's ear."

Chappell also said he likes the idea that hard labor would be put back into a city affected by crime.

"If that hard labor could be put back into the community which has been victimized by the crimes in the first place, then at least you're certainly moving in the right direction," he said.

Mayor Kay Granger said she would favor the program if boot-camp sponsors believe it benefits the offenders. But she believes budget savings should be secondary, "because what we're trying to do in that boot camp is produce people who never have to go back in our prisons again."

Lott answers court shootings suit in letter

Defendant rejects claims by victims' families on assets

By BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — In his first written response to a lawsuit filed against him by the families of the victims of the July 1 shootings at the Tarrant County Courthouse, George Lott denied owing the victims money and asked a judge to release his assets.

The lawsuit against Lott, who is accused of the shootings that killed two attorneys and wounded three other people, was filed by Judge David Farris, the one jurist on the 2nd Court of Appeals jurist who escaped the shooting unharmed.

The family of Assistant District Attorney

Chris Marshall, who was slain in the shootings, later joined the suit, which is designed to strip Lott of his assets.

Lott, a nonpracticing attorney, is defending himself in both the lawsuit and the criminal case. The handwritten letter, dated July 23, was filed with the court Monday.

"Defendant George Douglas Lott generally denies the allegations in the plaintiffs original petition and in intervenors Marshall's plea in intervention," Lott wrote. "Therefore defendant pray that plaintiff and intervenors take nothing by their suit and that defendant recover his costs of court if any."

Farris' attorney, Ken Williford, said Lott



George Lott: Representing himself in lawsuit, criminal case

didn't have to file a response but was "covering his bases."

"He's just saying you have to prove your case," he said.

In the written statement, Lott indicated that answering some of the pleadings in the civil suit "would violate the guarantee against compulsory self-incrimination provided by the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution and/or would violate the guarantee of due process of law provided by the 5th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution."

Although Lott went on television shortly after the shootings to take credit for them

and blame them on his dissatisfaction with the court system, he has since exercised his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself whenever officials ask him about the shootings.

In addition to Marshall's death, Lott is accused of fatally shooting Dallas attorney John Edwards, 33. Injured in the shooting were Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, who was shot in the right hip, and Judge John Hill, 48, who was shot in the shoulder. Assistant District Attorney Steven Conder was also wounded.

Staff writer John Council contributed to this report.

Thursday P.M., July 30

ETTA ©1992 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
HULME



"ICE-T IS NOT INSENSITIVE TO THE HUE AND CRY OVER HIS SONG 'COP KILLER'. HE'S ASSURED US THAT HIS NEXT ALBUM WILL OFFEND A BROADER AUDIENCE."

Inmate accused of running scam to post bail

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Authorities are continuing to investigate a phone scam within the Tarrant County Jail in which several inmates were able to post their bail through the use of stolen credit card numbers.

Four people have been arrested on suspicion of working from outside the county lockup to assist in the plot, said George Wilson, with the criminal intelligence division of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

The investigation, which started in February, is continuing, and more arrests are possible, Wilson said.

Investigators said one inmate coordinated the scheme and was assisted by accomplices on the outside.

Posing as officials with credit card companies, the callers tricked businesses into disclosing credit card numbers within their accounts. People involved in the scam would then call area bail bondsmen and, using the stolen numbers, arrange bail for jail inmates, the investigators said.

The head of the operation charged fellow inmates from \$50 to \$100 to arrange their bail, they said.

Wilson declined to identify the mastermind of the operation or the four people arrested as accomplices.

Between four and six inmates were released through the scam, and Wilson said they all have been recaptured.

Jim Minter, acting chief deputy of the Sheriff's Department, said that some of the inmates involved have already been sent to prison on unrelated convictions.

Testimony in Hill trial to begin today

Personnel who treated couple's starving son to take stand

By BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — The first witness in the trial of Jay and Linda Hill, both accused of starving their son to death in the fall, will take the stand today after attorneys seated a jury late yesterday afternoon.

Prosecutors are expected to call fire department paramedics and other officials who had conversations with the Hills as the paramedics tried to treat the couple's 13-year-old son, Stephen Hill. The child was found in the couple's White Settlement trailer Nov. 3, weighing only 55 pounds, and was in cardiac arrest. Thirteen days later he died.

Jay Hill, 42, and Linda Hill, 38, are both charged with injury to a child.

If the jury finds the Hills guilty they could be sentenced to prison for a anywhere from

five to 99 years. They would be eligible for probation.

A jury of six women and six men was selected after almost five hours of questioning by defense attorneys.

During jury selection, Jay Hill's lawyer, Larry Moore, spent much of the day questioning prospective jurors about the publicity issue. Anyone who acknowledged having read or heard something about the case was brought to the bench to be questioned privately.

After more than four hours of questioning by Moore, Linda Hill's lawyer, Charles Baldwin, spoke to the 62-member panel for only 10 minutes.

In that brief span he told them that his goal in jury selection was to do his "dead-level best to assure that Jay and Linda Hill receive a fair trial."

Linda Hill, dressed in a white blouse and

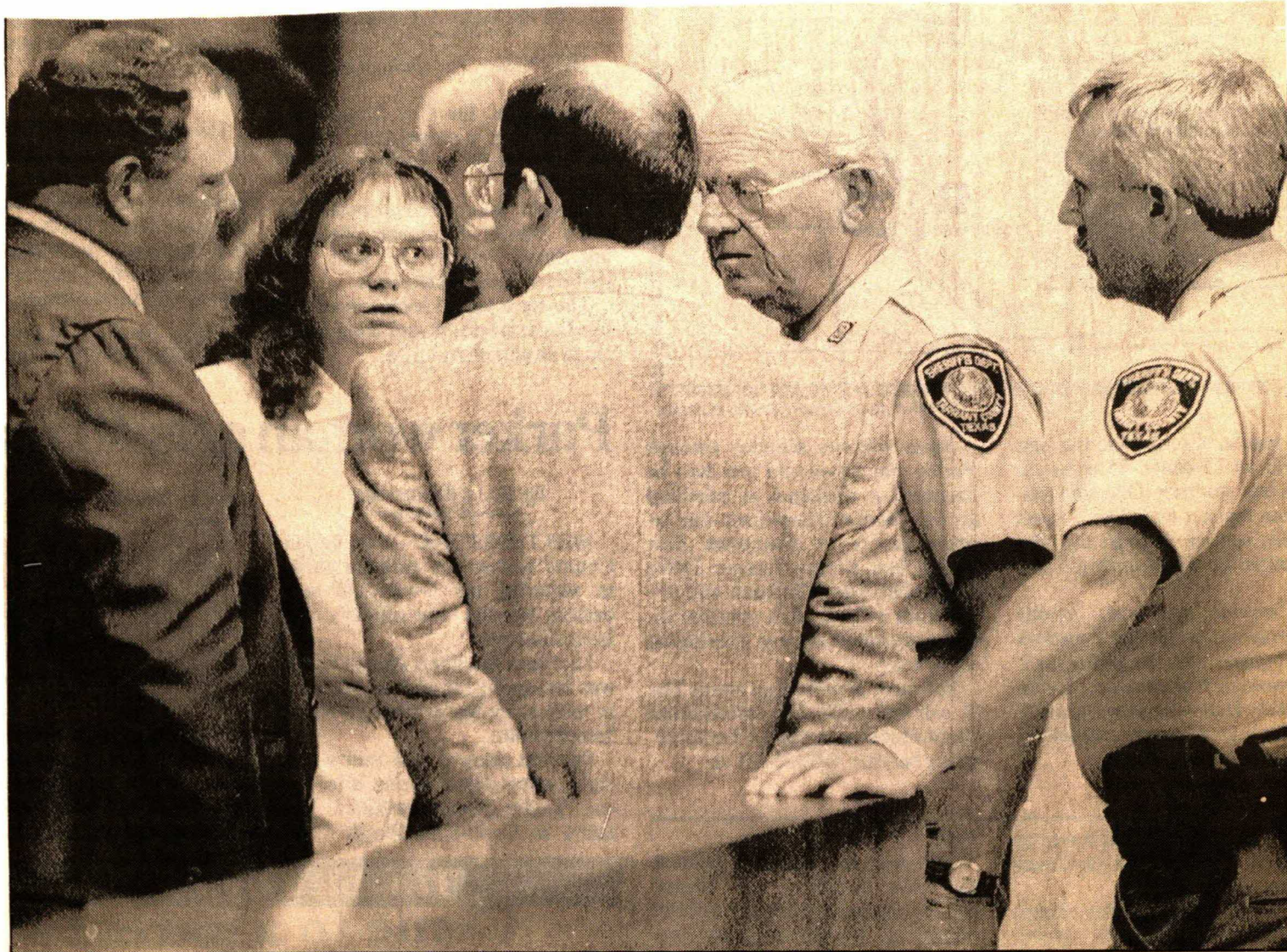
a pink skirt, spent much of the time reaching for tissues and coughing. At one point yesterday morning, her coughing disrupted proceedings to the point that the judge ordered a recess.

Her husband, dressed in the gray blazer and blue tie that he has worn all week, spent most of the day staring at prospective jurors.

Attorneys were to be back in court at 8:30 a.m. today to examine closed-circuit television equipment prosecutors intend to use for the testimony of the Hills' 12-year-old son, Douglas Hill. A psychologist testified last month that Douglas Hill would not be able to speak if he was in the same courtroom with his parents.

Burdock is expected to rule today whether prosecutors will be allowed to use the closed-circuit equipment.

Testimony is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON JENKINS
Linda Hill, second from left, and Jay Hill, with back to camera, talk to their defense attorney in a Galveston courtroom.

Monday A.M., August 3, 1992

Republican candidate opens campaign for sheriff's post

By FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — David Williams, the Republican candidate for Tarrant County sheriff, kicked off his November campaign against Democrat Dub Bransom yesterday by promising to take back the streets from the criminals.

About 100 supporters crowded into the Discount Auto Parts Exchange Store, 3300 North Freeway, where Williams' campaign headquarters will be in the mezzanine. They cheered as Williams announced that campaign chairman Ed Max, who owns the store, has arranged with other businessmen to underwrite the \$20,000 start-up cost of the Sheriff's Department's first canine narcotics patrol unit.

"The money will be used to purchase dogs, equipment, training and certification for the unit," Williams said. "I'm not kidding when I say that with support like this, we can take back the streets."

Bransom said yesterday that Williams' ideas are not original.

"They already have those units in Fort Worth and Arlington. What the sheriff must do is halt duplications like that and stress cooperative use of those units countywide," Bransom said.

Williams, a Haltom City police sergeant in charge of community relations, placed second behind former federal agent Jim Hunter in a crowded seven-man primary race

that saw incumbent Sheriff Don Carpenter lose his chance for a third full term. Williams bested Hunter in the runoff.

At yesterday's balloon-bedecked campaign headquarters opening, Williams said he would be a sheriff of the streets, not a man who sits behind a desk and issues orders by memorandums.

Williams said that if elected, he would use federal and state grants to start a program that would monitor violent repeat offenders after their release from prison.

"We know that 80 percent of the crimes are committed by 20 percent of the people and we know who those people are," he said.

He also pledged to use modern police techniques and procedures to halt crime in Tarrant County.

"We need a modern sheriff," he said. "The old ways of policing are not working; we must change how we are doing things."

Williams announced endorsements from Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis; County Judge Tom Vandergriff; County Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay; and former Fort Worth Mayor Bayard Friedman.

Barton pledged \$1,000 to Williams' campaign, praising the candidate as "a man who will plan for the 21st century while maintaining those important basic family values. He has zero tolerance for drugs and I am proud to endorse him."

GOP candidate begins Tarrant sheriff campaign

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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(More on SHERIFF on Page 11)

Sheriff

From Page 9

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At yesterday's balloon-bedecked campaign headquarters opening, Williams said he would be a sheriff of the streets, not a man who sits behind a desk and issues orders by memorandums.

"I'm sick and tired of criminals hurting our families," he said to loud applause. "As sheriff, I can do

something about that."

Williams said that if elected, he would use federal and state grants to start a program that would monitor violent repeat offenders after their release from prison.

"We know that 80 percent of the crimes are committed by 20 percent of the people and we know who those people are," he said.

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No new jury panel for Hills

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — A judge this morning rejected a request to empanel a new group of prospective jurors for the trial of a White Settlement couple charged with starving to death their teen-age son. And for the second straight day, he chastised television crews for taking pictures

Judge chastises TV journalists

or talking with the potential panelists.

Larry Moore, the attorney for the father charged in the case, asked Judge Bill Burdock to strike the en-

tire panel after a television photographer filmed the group in a hallway during a break in jury selection.

The judge denied the request and then summoned a television reporter and photographer involved in this morning's incident, the second in two days involving television crews and the prospective jurors.

(More on HILL on Page 2)

"I don't know how I can make it anymore clear to you," Burdock told the reporter for KPRC-TV. "I told y'all yesterday not to photograph the jury."

The judge said he wanted to be cooperative with the media and would impose an official order if his instructions were not honored.

Earlier today, the judge questioned another television reporter who yesterday spoke with a prospective juror outside the court. The reporter said he ended the conversation when he realized the man was on the jury panel for the Hill case.

Jury selection in trial, moved to Galveston because of extensive publicity in Tarrant County, was expected to resume this afternoon with individual questioning of the panelists.

Jay Hill, meanwhile, showed up in court today still bearing bruises on his forehead and nose, injuries inflicted by a jail inmate who had seen a TV newscast describing the case against Hill and his wife.

The jailhouse altercation Sunday night prompted the judge to order that Hill, 42, and his wife, Linda, be isolated from the general jail population.

The Hills are charged with injury to a child in the death of their 13-year-old son, Stephen, who was in cardiac arrest when found Nov. 3 in the family's White Settlement trail-

er home. Weighing only 55 pounds, he died 13 days later at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center.

Hill was attacked in his cell Sunday night after inmates watching TV saw a newscast detailing the charges against the parents.

"It is my understanding that the other inmate took exception to what Mr. Hill was charged with," said Chief Deputy Gean Leonard of the Galveston County Sheriff's Department.

Hill screamed for help and after jailers broke up the brief scuffle, he was moved to a solitary cell, the chief deputy said.

Responding to the attack, District Judge Bill Burdock yesterday signed the order mandating solitary confinement for the Hills.

Both were both formally ar-

raigned yesterday morning and both pleaded not guilty to charges of injury to a child. If convicted, the Hills could face prison sentences ranging from five to 99 years. Both are eligible for probation.

As the Hills faced a pool of potential jurors for the first time, they appeared uneasy. Linda Hill, 38, wearing a white smock over a bright striped dress, alternated between staring straight ahead and looking down at the table in front of her.

Her husband, dressed in a gray blazer and royal blue tie, continually made eye contact with the potential jurors as he looked back and forth across the courtroom.

Jury members filled out questionnaires in the morning and then were queried by the judge in the afternoon.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON JENKINS

Linda and Jay Hill sit in a Galveston courtroom during their formal arraignment yesterday.

3,000 expected to attend crime prevention rally tonight honors officers slain while on duty



Sue Harl holds a citation for her late husband, Arlington officer Gary Harl.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / MARK ROGERS

BY DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

National Night Out — a coast-to-coast effort to prevent neighborhood crime and drug abuse — kicks off tonight with a rally at Birdville Stadium.

The rally will honor Tarrant County police officers killed or wounded in the line of duty. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend the rally, which will begin at 7. The stadium is at 6125 E. Belknap St., Haltom City.

Tomorrow, on the ninth annual National Night Out, residents nationwide are asked to lock their doors, turn on porch or outside lights from 8 to 10 p.m. and spend an evening getting acquainted with neighbors. Parades, block parties, cookouts, youth activities and anti-crime rallies are scheduled through-

out Tarrant County. These are some of the activities:

Tonight at Birdville Stadium: Officers to be honored include Deputy Frank Howell and Clark Rosenbalm of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, who were killed in the line of duty. Wounded officers and reserve officers who will be given citations are Jerry Lee Rico of Forest Hill; John Bell, Buddy Evans, Doug Ligon, Trey Roach and Wally Turnbow of Arlington; and Frank Dissinger, J.L. Garrett, J.W. Gottlob, (retired) Sgt. F.D. Harston, T.M. Hughes, M.G. Hukel, M.G. Kane, M.W. Lang, F.J. Majka, D.J. Monneyham and D.L. Stamp. Former Fort Worth Capt. J.L. Blaisdell, now the police chief of Weatherford, and ex-Arlington officer Joe Chavez will also be honored.

Tomorrow in Arlington: carnivals and pizza block parties, 300 block of Mahogany Drive from 7 to 10 p.m.; 1900 block of Daytona Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 1700 block of Burton St., 6 to 9 p.m.; 6000 block of Hollyleaf Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 5400 block of Sapphire Court, 8 to 10 p.m.; 1500 block of Maybrook Court, 7 to 10 p.m.; 5400 block of Timberview Drive, 8 to 10 p.m.; 1800 block of Rockhampton Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 700 block of Scott Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 2300 block of Sharpshire Lane, 7 to 10 p.m.; 2700 block of Edinboro Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 400 block of Parkview Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 1300 block of Rosewood Lane, 7 to 10 p.m.; 5600 block of Autumn Wheat Trail, 7 to 10 p.m.; 5100 block of El Rancho Court 7 to 10 p.m.; 2700 block of Lynnwood Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 3400 block of

Ensign Court, 7 to 10 p.m.; 2100 block of Preakness Court, 7 to 10 p.m.; 3900 block of Churchview Court, 7 to 10 p.m.; 1600 block of Jocyle Street, 7 to 10 p.m.; 1600 block Windermere Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 4300 block of Enchanted Oaks Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 300 block of Lemon Drive, 7:30 to 10 p.m.; 2500 block of Chad Drive, 6:30 to 10 p.m.; 2300 block of Windsprint Way, 7 to 10 p.m.; 3400 block of Littlestone Drive, 7 to 10 p.m.; 1000 block of Whispering Oak Court, 7 to 10 p.m.

Tomorrow in Fort Worth: patrol parade in the Crestwood addition of west Fort Worth, 8:45 p.m.; street dance, Butler housing project; block parties, 110 block of West Pafford St., 6 to 9 p.m.; and 2700 block of Hemphill Street 7 to 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

Hill judge upset at media

TV crew chastised for filming

By **BILL HANNA**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — Fort Worth Judge Bill Burdock chose this island city to avoid exposing prospective jurors to the intense media coverage surrounding the trial of parents charged with starving to death their teen-age son.

But now, with attorneys trying to pick 12 jurors for the trial of Jay and Linda Hill, it's the local media that's generated the most attention and Burdock's wrath.

Twice already Houston TV reporters or cameramen have been called before the judge and chastised, once for talking to a potential juror and once for filming the 62-member panel during a court recess.

Yesterday's filming incident by KRBC-TV led to a scathing rebuke of a reporter and cameraman Burdock summoned to the bench.

"I don't know how to make it any more plain, but I don't want any more photographs of the jury," Burdock told them as they stood before him. The 62 prospective jurors were outside of the courtroom at the time.

Although he did not put his request in the form of a court order, Burdock said he will if necessary.

But the cameraman's actions were enough for defense attorney Larry Moore to ask that Burdock strike the jury panel, calling it "tainted by the cameras."

The judge declined the request. But when the jurors returned to the courtroom, he told them that the cameraman had taped some of them. He also told them he had taken steps to prevent more photographing and that they should not be concerned.

The incident occurred in the preliminary stages of jury selection, when individual prospective members are questioned. Lawyers for both sides will choose the 12 jurors after the questioning is completed, possibly this afternoon.

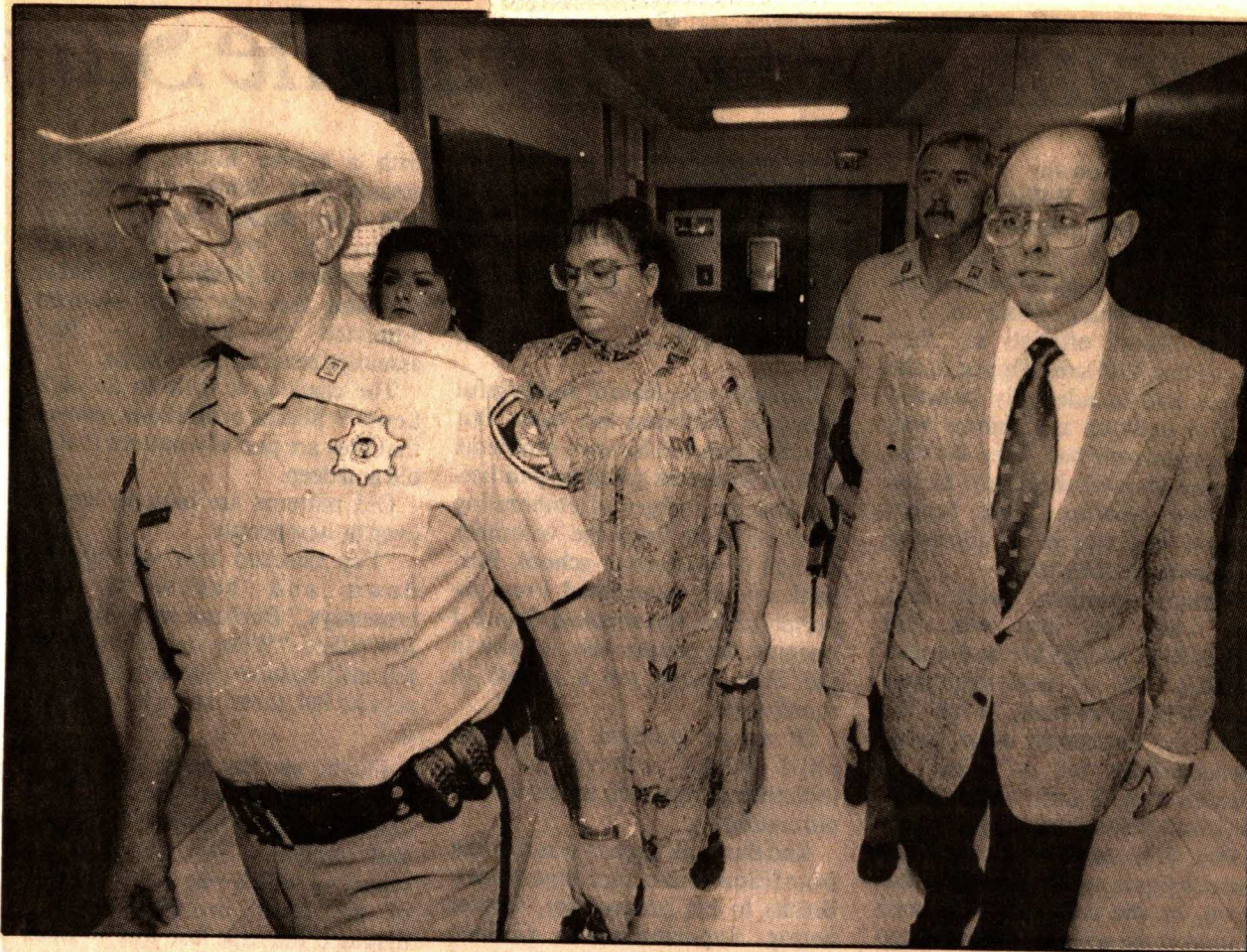
Although he does not yet know it, one juror is already out.

On Monday, a juror approached a reporter and talked about the case.

Yesterday, Carlos Aguillar, a reporter for KTRK-TV, told Burdock that the man asked him what he was covering. Aguillar testified that he told the man, who was later identified as Frank Schoelkopf, a prospective juror, that he was there for a trial of "two Tarrant County parents whose child died of starvation."

After several minutes of conver-

(More on TRIAL on Page 22)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON JENKINS

Linda and Jay Hill are led out of a Galveston courtroom during a recess yesterday.

Trial

From Page 15

sation, Aguillar testified, he became suspicious and asked Schoelkopf if he was on the jury panel and the man said yes.

Aguillar said he told Schoelkopf they shouldn't be talking and left.

"He said: 'That's all right. I'll get struck anyway,'" Aguillar said.

Aguillar later notified the court clerk about the conversation and learned that Schoelkopf is an unemployed police officer, he said.

Although defense attorneys asked that Schoelkopf be removed from the panel, Burdock decided he would be struck but must sit through the entire panel questioning.

The battle over the jurors took place before the watchful eyes of Jay Hill, 42, and his wife, Linda, 38.

Stephen Hill, 13, was found Nov. 3 in the family's White Settlement trailer home weighing only 55 pounds. He died 13 days later at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth.

Both his parents have pleaded not guilty to charges of injury to a child. If convicted, the Hills could face prison sentences ranging from five

to 99 years. Both are eligible for probation.

As the 62 prospective jurors sat in the audience section of the courtroom — some on folding chairs set up in the aisles — the Hills, their lawyers and the prosecutors looked out toward them.

Jay Hill, his brow furrowed, listened closely as prosecutor David Montague questioned each potential juror. Linda Hill, meanwhile, scanned the panel.

At one point, when prosecutors asked the panel members if they had heard of the case, about half raised their hands. But when asked if any had made up their minds about the case, none raised a hand.

Boys teased with food, Hill brother tells court

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — Douglas Hill, the brother of the 13-year-old White Settlement boy who was starved to death last year, testified today his parents often brought home food, let the boys smell and see it but rarely let them eat it.

Asked by prosecutors what he did

when the brothers were hungry, Douglas replied: "Just be hungry."

Douglas, whose parents are standing trial on charges of injury to a child, said his brother had been locked and chained up inside the family's trailer home for about the last year of his life.

The parents, Jay and Linda Hill,
(More on HILLS on Page 2)

Hills

From Page 1

opted to leave the courtroom when 12-year-old Douglas testified. The judge also ordered spectators from the court and left only a few reporters to witness the testimony. The parents, meanwhile, viewed the testimony on closed-circuit television in another room.

Earlier today, the first paramedics to treat Stephen Hill testified that the teen-ager appeared to be 6 or 8 years old, was covered with bruises and looked to be suffering from a terminal disease.

As they tried to revive the unconscious 13-year-old, Michelle Moore and Dan Taylor testified, Stephen's father pushed Moore against a wall and accused the paramedics of not knowing what they were doing.

Stephen's parents then stood by, agitated, watching the rescuers struggle to revive the teen-ager, Moore testified.

"I told you. I told you," Moore said she overheard Linda Hill tell her husband. "We should have called them earlier."

"OK. You're right," Jay Hill, she said, responded. "I made a mistake."

"That's not what's important now," Linda Hill replied, Moore testified.

After attempting to revive Stephen with CPR, Moore testified, Stephen was loaded onto a stretcher, placed in an ambulance and transported to Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center. For 13 days he lingered in a coma and died Nov. 16.

His parents, accused of injury to a child, are on trial here on a change of venue from Fort Worth.

Before the paramedics testified, Assistant District Attorney Alan Levy told jurors they would hear a gruesome account about long-term abuse and starvation that eventually killed Stephen Hill.

"The testimony will show you that four years before his death, Stephen Hill weighed 54 pounds. In four years, he had gained only one pound," Levy said.

"This was not something that happened in one day, or two days, or one week or two weeks. This was a long-term period of starvation. This boy, when he was picked up at his trailer, his skin was rotting and falling off of him.

"You will hear testimony that

they [Jay and Linda Hill] chained him to a drawer so he see the food but couldn't eat it."

If convicted, the Hills could be sentenced to prison for anywhere from five to 99 years. They also would be eligible for probation.

During jury selection yesterday, Jay Hill's lawyer, Larry Moore, spent much of the day questioning prospective jurors about publicity surrounding the case. Anyone who acknowledged having read or heard something about the case was taken to the bench and questioned privately.

After more than four hours of questioning by Moore, Linda Hill's lawyer, Charles Baldwin, spoke to the 62-member panel for only 10 minutes.

He told them his goal in jury selection was to do his "dead-level best to assure that Jay and Linda Hill receive a fair trial."

Linda Hill, dressed in a white blouse and a pink skirt, spent much of the time reaching for tissues and coughing. At one point, her coughing became so disrupting that the judge ordered a recess.

Her husband, dressed in the gray blazer and blue tie that he has worn all week, spent most of the day staring at prospective jurors.

Starved boy grew only

1 inch in 4 years

Doctor describes Hill son's condition

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — His brother yesterday described how Stephen Hill spent the last months of life tortuously chained and starved, and a Fort Worth physician testified today that he envisioned Stephen, in his final days at home, doing nothing more than "being bedridden, able to breathe, urinate and defecate."

"Basically," said Michael Patrick Morris, a specialist in pediatric nutrition at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center, "I just see him lying [down] and dying."

Stephen's 12-year-old brother, Douglas, told jurors yesterday that his parents, Jay and Linda Hill, had kept Stephen chained for most of the last year of his life and had deprived him of food for as long as three years.

And that, Morris testified today, might account for why Stephen grew

only 1 inch and gained 1 pound in the four years before he died at age 13.

"Children don't shrink; they don't stop growing," Morris said. "To obtain this type of growth pattern, something had to happen."

During 75 minutes on the witness stand yesterday, Douglas related a gruesome account of how he watched his

(More on HILLS on Page 2)

brother waste away to the point that he could barely move or speak in the last weeks of his life.

At times, Douglas said, he was left alone to look after Stephen when his mother was gone. But he was left with specific instructions regarding when he could release Stephen from the restraints.

"First my mom would allow me to unlock him to go the bathroom," he said. "But later on, it got to the point where even if he wet his pants, she wouldn't let him get up."

"They didn't want it to taste good," he said.

Douglas said that on an earlier occasion, his parents made both boys drink milk mixed with vinegar to make it curdle.

Neither boy was allowed to request food, he said.

A prosecutor asked what Douglas and his brother did if they were starving.

"Just go hungry," he replied.

Courthouse job candidate dies after fitness test

BY TIM SULLIVAN
AND GRACIE BONDS STAPLES
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A 54-year-old former sheriff candidate trying out for a newly created courthouse-security job died yesterday after collapsing at the end of a physical fitness test.

Robert G. Woolweaver of Bedford had just finished the two-mile run at Trinity Park when he collapsed about 10:30 a.m., officials said.

According to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, he died of natural causes as a result of cardiovascular disease.

Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter of the Sheriff's Department said

Runner

From Page 21

Woolweaver was one of about 60 people who showed up for yesterday's agility test of push-ups, sit-ups and the two-mile run.

Woolweaver, along with the other candidates, was hoping to become one of the 29 security deputies who will be hired for the six county buildings downtown in the wake of the July 1 courthouse shootings that took the lives of two people and wounded three others.

Minter said Woolweaver had already passed an oral screening.

He said applicants did not actually have to run the two-mile course, adding, "the faster you cover it, the more points you get." He said Woolweaver completed it in about 36 minutes.

Minter said there was no medical screening of candidates before the

agility test but that before such tests are administered again, "We'll take a look at our policy."

Minter said there was a physician at the park.

"We're very sorry this happened," Minter said.

Woolweaver was head of security at Harris Methodist-H.E.B. hospital, said Mark Bracke, his supervisor.

A retired U.S. Army colonel, Woolweaver worked in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department from late 1984 until summer 1987, when he quit to run in a three-way primary race against incumbent Sheriff Don Carpenter.

Woolweaver worked as a patrolman for the Springtown Police Department from October 1987 until February 1990. He lost a bid to become Sansom Park police chief earlier this year.

His fiancée, Barbara McClung, who said she was unaware that he had any health problems, was shocked to learn of his death yester-

day afternoon.

"When the phone rang I thought it was Bob to tell me how things went," McClung said late yesterday. "But it was his brother calling to say he was dead."

Woolweaver was excited about the prospect of returning to the Sheriff's Department, she said.

He "just always loved being on the force and wanted to go back."

She said that when he left home yesterday morning, "he was real up, real excited about it. He said he could do it. It was no problem."

McClung said that if Woolweaver passed the department's physical agility tests, he was certain to do well at the shooting range today and go back doing what he wanted most.

The couple was planning to be married the last weekend in September, she said, and had gotten a weeklong honeymoon package to Las Vegas.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1992

Sheriff's '93 budget is up 26%

County jail expenses top \$46 million proposal

By FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County commissioners are bracing for this week's record \$46 million budget request from the Sheriff's Department, with the bulk of the money sought for operations at the county jail.

The proposal represents a 26 percent increase from this year's \$34 million budget, said Hamp Scruggs, the chief deputy for administration.

"Once again, the largest single budget request will come from the confinement division," Scruggs said. "It will constitute 72 to 75 percent of our total budget."

This year, the four jails and jail staff operated on a budget of \$26 million. The 1993 request will be close to \$30 million, Scruggs said.

The sheriff's budget represents 35.8 percent of the total proposed 1993 county budget of \$128.5 million.

The largest single item will be a request to hire 175 jailers at a cost of \$3 million, according to budget records.

Jim Minter, the acting chief deputy, said last week that the new jailers would ensure the proper ratio of jailers to prisoners — 1 to 48 — established by state jail standards.

"We based last year's jailer hires on an expected jail population of 4,100," Minter said. "But we'd reached that number between Oct. 1, when the new budget took effect, and Jan. 1 this year."

Minter said 117 of the new jailers would establish the required ratio for the current jail population of 4,100 inmates. The remaining 58 would absorb next year's expected jail population increase.

"We're forecasting we'll be housing approximately 4,500 prisoners in 1993," Minter said.

The growth in the jail budget left Commissioner Dionne Bagsby unhappy but resigned about the increasing costs of housing prisoners.

"We are spending money on the wrong end here," she said. "We should be spending money on programs and educational priorities to keep folks out of jail. But right now, we have no choice except to pay what the state tells us we must."

"I think the state's prisoner requirements need to be re-examined. They must be kept humanely, but I have a problem with jail prisoners having state-mandated living conditions that are better than many of our citizens now endure."

Son's teacher takes stand in Hills' trial

Opening defense witness says boy was hyperactive

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — Stephen Hill was a hyperactive child who needed medication to remain under control, according to his second-grade teacher, the first witness in his parents' defense against charges of shackling and starving the 13-year-old to death.

"He would speak out in class when he was supposed to be following direc-

tions," said Marilyn Peregrine, who taught the child at Como Elementary School during the 1985-86 school year. "He would disobey the rules."

Prosecution witnesses testified last week that Jay and Linda Hill, who each face up to 99 years in prison if convicted, told them that Stephen had been a manipulative child and disruptive to their marriage.

Peregrine said she had met with the Hills 10 to 12 times during the school year, telling them that Stephen was hyperactive.

She said she encouraged them to take him to a doctor. A physician did prescribe medication for the child, she said, and there was a "100 percent turnaround."

She quoted Stephen as saying to her

once: "I like myself now. I'm different. I don't bother people now."

However, in time, Linda Hill told her that the medication had altered her son's personality and that she discontinued the medication, Peregrine said.

Peregrine said she once saw Stephen searching through trash cans in search of candy. She said the Hills told her that

(More on TRIAL on Page 8)

Trial

From Page 1

the child was on a sugar-free diet to try to curb his hyperactivity.

Peregrine, a teacher of 14 years who now works at Bruce Shulkey Elementary School, testified that after that incident, she would sometimes check Stephen's lunch and found them to be well-balanced.

Some years after she instructed the child, Peregrine said, she saw him at a grocery store where he told her that he was being educated at home.

The Hills have said they took their children, Stephen and his

younger brother, Douglas, out of school because other children were picking on them.

Douglas, 12, testified last week that his parents soon stopped educating the children.

Defense attorneys Larry Moore and Charles Baldwin said they expect to conclude their defense against the injury to child charges by this afternoon.

They did not indicate whether the parents will testify.

Douglas, in testifying for the prosecution last week, relating a gruesome account of how he watched his older brother waste away to the point where he could barely move or speak.

The youth said his older brother had been deprived of food for as

long as three years as punishment. For most of his last year of life, Stephen was chained with a metal pole placed against his back to prevent him from moving, Douglas testified.

Fort Worth physician Michael Patrick Morris said the lack of food forced the boy's body to slowly eat away at itself, eventually resulting in the cardiac arrest that prompted the Hills to summon an ambulance Nov. 3.

Stephen was taken to Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center, where he died 13 days later.

On admittance, Stephen was only 1 inch taller and 1 pound heavier than he had been at age 9, doctors said. He should have been 35 pounds heavier and at least 6 to 8 inches taller, they added.

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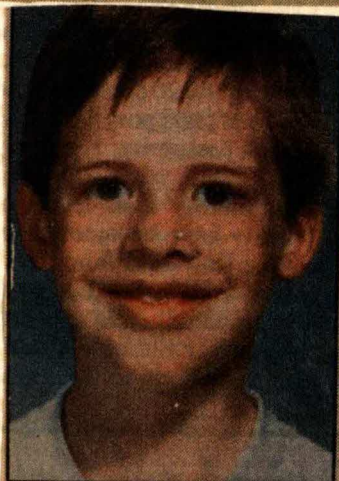
Hills convicted of starving son

Jurors come back with guilty verdict in 40 minutes

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — Jurors took 40 minutes this morning to convict Jay and Linda Hill of injury to a child in the November starvation death of their 13-year-old son, Stephen.

The penalty phase of the trial, during which the jurors will decide the White Settlement couple's fate, was scheduled to



Stephen Hill: Died after going into cardiac arrest

Linda Hills' attorney, Charles Baldwin, tried to convince the jury that circumstances were as much to blame as anything else.

"I know that you're going to laugh, Mr. Levy's going to laugh, but I think that the trailer did it," he said, explaining that the 31-by-8-foot trailer in which the Hills lived with two young sons put the family under unrealized pressures.

He also said that, while acknowledging that Linda Hill, 38, was guilty of reckless injury to a child — a lesser charge that means the injury was unintentional — she did not intentionally kill Stephen.

"They did not know he was dying; they did not know what they were doing," he told the jury.

Jay Hill's lawyer, Larry Moore, meanwhile, tried to distance his client from the actual abuse of Stephen — the denying of food and keeping him in chains — that witnesses said led to his death.

"They [the prosecution] have got a real problem trying two defendants together. Not all defendants do the same thing," he said. "What witnesses told you he [Jay] did anything? What did Doug [the Hills 12-year-old son Douglas] tell you? Jay Hill fixed them sandwiches. What did other witnesses tell you? Jay Hill was at work."

As his lawyer spoke, Jay Hill, a former General Dynamics employee, dabbed his eyes with tissues and sobbed quietly.

Levy challenged that notion, saying, "There is enough sin to go around for a battalion of defendants."

Yesterday, jurors heard Stephen Hill's second-grade teacher testify that his behavior changed remark-

Marilyn Peregrine testified for the defense in the trial in which the Hills are accused of denying him food and of keeping him chained.

Peregrine told the jury of six men and six women that Stephen was hyperactive when he was in her class at Fort Worth's Como Elementary in the 1985-86 school year.

"He would get out of his seat when he shouldn't," she said, "he would disobey the rules."

When she continued having problems with Stephen, she asked his parents to take him to a doctor, who prescribed Ritalin to help control his hyperactivity.

To Peregrine, the change was remarkable.

"It was like a 100 percent turnaround," she said.

Stephen also noticed the difference, according to the teacher.

"He said, 'I like myself now. I'm different. I don't bother people,'" Peregrine said. But not long after he began taking the medication, Linda Hill ordered him to stop taking Ritalin, telling the teacher that it altered his personality.

As the school year progressed, Stephen's problems in the classroom continued, and Peregrine's relationship with the Hills became "stormy." By the end of the school year, Peregrine said, she had a meeting with the Hills to clear the air.

The teacher also recalled that Stephen Hill was caught grabbing sweets from the cafeteria trash after his mother had placed him on a sugar-free diet to control his hyperactivity. Peregrine said she checked his lunch at least three times but found that he had a well-balanced meal on every occasion.

begin at 3 p.m. today.

The Hills face 5 years to 99 years in prison or probation.

Jay and Linda Hill remained seated as the judge read the verdict. Their only sign of reaction was to pat each other on the arms and hold hands.

The jury returned the guilty verdict after attorneys for the Hills and prosecutors made their final attempts to sway the jury in

their trial.

"Rarely in a trial are the issues so clear for a jury. But in the case of Stephen Hill, the evidence was overwhelming," Assistant District Attorney Alan Levy said. "We're not here for anybody but Stephen Hill. We are here for the Stephen Hills of the world. This is right on the mark. This is what our court system is here for."

(More on TRIAL on Page 2)

Lawsuit asks Lott to admit he fired shots

BY JOHN COUNCIL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Lott has again been asked in a civil suit to formally admit he fired the fatal shots that left two people dead and three wounded in the July 1 courtroom rampage, according to a motion filed this week.

Lott has repeatedly refused to answer questions about the shooting, citing his Fifth Amendment right preventing self-incrimination.

He is maintaining this stance with police interrogators and court officials although he made a public confession in a taped interview with WFAA/Channel 8 hours after the shooting.

The court documents ask Lott to respond to 16 questions — all related to the July 1st shooting — to speed up the civil case, said Fort Worth attorney Ken Williford, who is suing Lott on behalf of Judge David Farris, the only 2nd Court of Appeals judge to escape the courtroom unscathed.

Farris is seeking unspecified damages from Lott for the mental anguish he suffered in the shooting.

Also enjoining the suit is Betty Marshall, widow of Chris Marshall, 41, chief prosecutor in the appellate section of the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office who was killed in the shooting.

Last month, in a handwritten reply, Lott "generally" denied that he caused harm to those suing him. He had been required to

Lott

From Page 23

file the response, according to Williford.

"Items that we think he could admit to include reckless disregard for others lives," Williford said. Some of the questions put to Lott include:

■ "Admit or deny that you had in your possession a Glock 9mm pistol on July 1, 1992."

■ "Admit or deny that you fired a pistol in the 2nd Court of Appeals Courtroom in Fort Worth, Texas on July 1, 1992."

■ "Admit or deny that is reasonable for a child or children to suffer a great deal of emotional distress by the absence of their father."

Killed in the shooting spree were

Marshall, and Dallas attorney John Edwards, 33, who was at the court to argue a case.

Wounded in the barrage were Judge John Hill, 48, who was shot in the shoulder, and Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, who suffered a gunshot wound to the hip. Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder, 28, was grazed by a bullet.

In court last month, Lott, who is acting as his own attorney, refused to answer Williford's questions about the shooting after 348th District Court Judge Michael Schattman advised him that his answers could be used against him in a pending capital murder case.

During the hearing in which successfully Lott's financial assets were frozen, Lott told the court he had nearly \$300,000 in cash and in stocks and bonds.

Lott continues to be held in the Tarrant County Jail without bond.

Court security tightens Monday

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The era of wide-open access to Tarrant County court buildings ends Monday with the start of security procedures designed to prevent a repeat of the July 1 shootings in the historic 1894 courthouse.

County workers began setting up walk-through metal detectors yesterday at entrances to downtown county buildings.

Officials are bracing for confusion and frayed tempers as judges, lawyers, jurors, county employees and the public will find many doors locked and must file through metal detectors under the watchful eyes of 29 new security deputies.

The tightened security is the result of the shooting rampage in which a gunman opened fire in and outside the 2nd Court of Appeals, killing two people and wounding three others.

Gary Kirby, county facilities director, said he doubts the new, more secure era will go smoothly.

"It could be a very interesting Monday morning around here, particularly since there will be 1,000 jurors trying to get into the Justice Center, and they

(More on DETECTORS on Page 24)

could get a little irate when they hit the locked doors and the metal detectors," he said.

Kirby said 12 metal detectors will be in place and operating by 8 a.m. Monday. They will be at the main entrance to the county administration building; inside the south entrance to the old courthouse; in the lobby between the civil courts building and the old courthouse; the west lobby of the civil courts building; the main entrance to the criminal justice building; the main entrance to the criminal courts and jail building and on the upper and lower plaza levels of the new Justice Center.

Kirby said all other entrances have been converted to emergency exits and will not open from the outside. The converted doors in the old courthouse will be sealed shut with duct tape until "panic bars" can be installed in the next week or two, Kirby said.

Panic bars allow locked doors to be opened from the inside in an emergency.

Six X-ray machines will be added in some buildings next month, Kirby said. On Tuesday, the county approved spending \$208,500 for the devices.

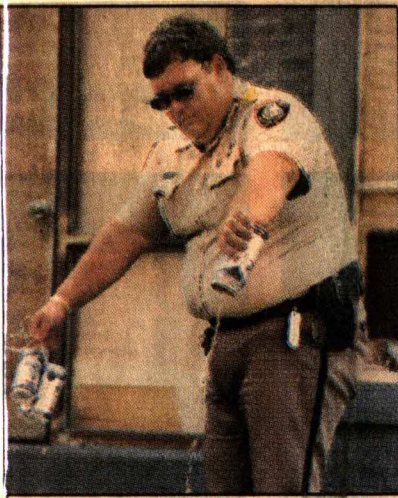
The X-ray machines will be used to search purses, briefcases, sports bags and other containers for con-

traband items and weapons.

The ground-level handicapped entrances to the old courthouse have now been converted to emergency exits, Kirby said, and people in wheelchairs will use the ground-level north entrance between the civil courts building and the old courthouse.

Kirby said the increased security poses a problem for people making deliveries at the administration building and justice center.

"Firms making deliveries will have to have their delivery people escorted by the deputies at these two buildings," Kirby said. "We're limiting access into the buildings from the loading docks."



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JIM WINN

D.R. West dumps the contents of a six-pack found near three men sitting on a downtown sidewalk.

Sheriff's raids target drunks and vagrants

By FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — He was middle-aged and angry, sitting on a bench beside a marker designating the Chisholm Trail, just across Belknap Street from the old Tarrant County Courthouse.

At his feet were a box of fried chicken and a quart of beer in a wrinkled paper sack. Around him was a circle of sheriff's deputies making one of their periodic sweeps of downtown, rounding up inebriates or vagrants sleeping in buildings.

"We run a check on them to see if they

(More on SWEEP on Page 8)

The sweeps began in May, but Minter said they are nabbing fewer and fewer folks.

"I guess the word is out. We probably will have to switch to the daytime hours next," he said.

Minter said the sweeps also give "us senior guys a chance to do a little police work as well."

Assistant Chief Deputy John Pempsell can attest to that. On his recent tour as task force commander, the group caught one man carrying a knife, another wanted on parole violation, a third carrying marijuana and another who had jumped bail and was wanted in Wisconsin.

"It was a pretty busy, full and rewarding evening," he said, laughing.

Most of the sweeps are routine. A cavalcade consisting of a transport van or up to three patrol cars heads

to the Water Gardens, Paddock Street Viaduct-Heritage Park, the near north side, and up and down the downtown streets. The deputies run warrant checks on a few vagrants.

On one recent evening, as Investigations Capt. Bill Hardin, a 40-year police veteran, awaited the results of a Water Gardens sweep, 12-year-old John Stewart of Lafayette, La., walked up to him.

"Who are y'all looking for?" the boy asked.

"Crooks," Hardin replied with a grin.

The boy nodded his head and rejoined his aunt, uncle and brother who were watching the deputies and INS agents walking through the gardens.

Sheriff's Capt. Ben Tahmahkera talked about his connection to famous Comanche chief Quanah Parker.

"He was my great-great granddaddy," the burly deputy explained. "He and his tribe used to hunt buffalo where this park is now before Fort Worth was even a village."

Tahmahkera and Hardin are buddies. "If I was sacking wildcats," Hardin said with a grin, "I'd want Ben to hold the sack."

The Water Gardens had drawn a fairly large crowd that night, but most of the downtown streets were almost empty by 8 p.m.

The convoy moved through Sundance Square, which was bustling with visitors, but no one appeared to be drunk and it made no stops.

are wanted. If they are not, we take them to the Presbyterian Night Shelter unless they are unruly; then we'll take them to jail for their own safety," explained Jim Minter, acting chief deputy.

One or two Immigration and Naturalization Service agents usually ride with the deputies, looking for undocumented aliens.

The middle-aged man, a day laborer, was all set to enjoy a meal washed down with cold beer when the team led by Lt. Ray Thornton and Maj. Savala Swanson surrounded him on a humid evening in mid-July.

"I know you're not supposed to drink in public, but I can't believe it takes spending all this tax money to arrest a man trying to eat a little chicken and drink a little beer," the man complained. "Besides, you guys got me before I could take a bite or a drink."

Deputies took the man to jail on public intoxication charges after attendants at the night shelter wouldn't admit him because of his angry attitude. As usual, he was released four hours later, still without a bite of chicken or a swig of beer.

But Minter doesn't see it as a waste of tax dollars at all. Instead, he sees the force as a cost-effective way to use his department's assets to rid downtown Fort Worth of public drunks, vagrants and undocumented immigrants.

"We share concurrent jurisdiction with Fort Worth P.D.," Minter said in a recent interview. "This seems like a good way to build cooperation with them as well as doing something to make the downtown safer."

Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham said he welcomes the sweeps. "They're doing a great job and we have great cooperation with them," he said last week.

Downtown, from north of the courthouse to the Water Gardens, is the main focus of the sweeps. But sometimes the commanders extend them to the near north side or to the hospital district if the downtown tours come up empty. On two recent sweeps, the officers patrolled as far north as the Stockyards.

Officials of Downtown Fort Worth hail the action as a boon to

tourism and downtown after-dark visitors.

"It's great," said Ken Devero, president of the organization, which boosts tourism and downtown events. "They're really making things a lot safer and that can't help but attract visitors downtown."

Minter said he got the idea for the Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening sweeps when he realized his transportation division was usually idle on those days.

"They weren't hauling prisoners to Huntsville those days so I decided to use them as the basis for the downtown patrol," Minter said. "There's no overtime involved; we adjust the deputies' shifts on sweep days and the sweep commanders are senior officials such as myself and others who are on straight salary with no overtime. It's very cost-effective."

It moved on to a railroad underpass beneath West Belknap Street on the eastern edge of downtown, where three men were sitting, sacked quarts of beer at their feet.

One of the three was Charles

Hughes, wearing a gimme cap that read, "I wish I had a job to shove." He was favoring his leg and washing down prescription pills with a bottle of water. The deputies knew him, having taken him to the night shelter on other sweeps.

"I'm not drinking today," he told Hardin. "I just got out of the hospital with my leg." There were no warrants on Hughes or the other two men, so the team drove away.

Most days the patrols are routine, but that can change suddenly.

During one sweep in July, the team stopped four youths in the Overton Bank drive-in facility at West Belknap and Jones streets after a man told officers that one of them was carrying a gun.

As INS agent Mark Ogradnik began searching the 14-year-old suspected of carrying a gun, the youth broke and ran. He was quickly subdued, and officers confiscated a nickle-plated .22-caliber automatic with an imitation pearl handle and six copper-nosed bullets in its magazine. None of the officers drew their guns.

Ogradnik ordered the other three youths to lie on the ground, handcuffed them, and after one of them said he was a member of a youth gang, took their pictures with his instant camera.

"This is what I am after," Ogradnik said, waving the pictures, "intelligence on possible gang members."

The three youths said they were going to the Tandy Center to just "hang out." They were released. The armed youth was taken to the Tarrant County Juvenile Detention Center and released to his mother the next day.

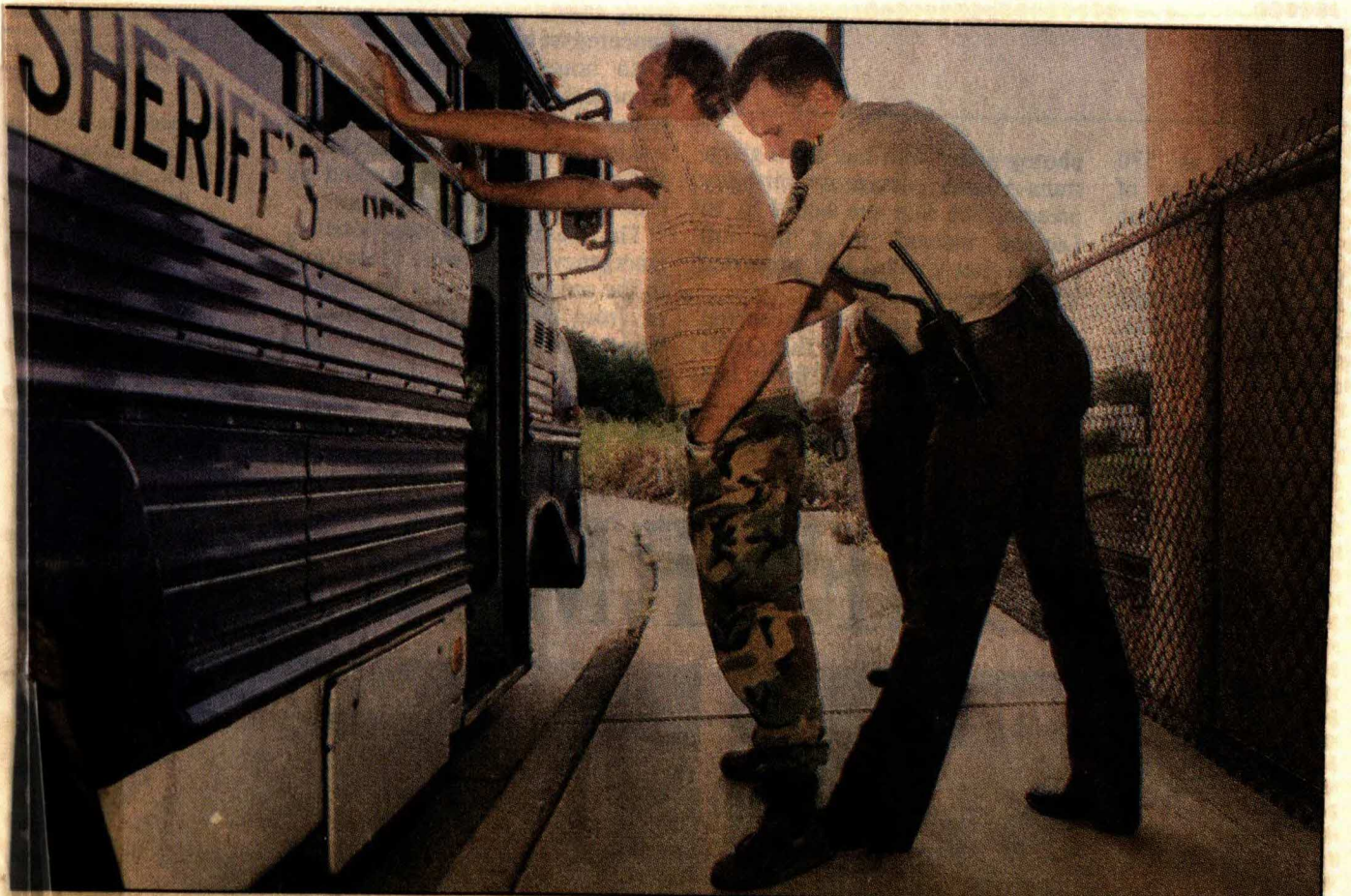
He told officers that he was carrying a gun because he had been riding in a car with some friends a few days earlier when another car pulled up alongside and fired at them.

"He had broken glass all over him, but he wasn't hurt," his mother told Swanson.

"You'd better get this boy out of that neighborhood," Swanson told the tearful woman. "It's either move him or lose him; he's going to wind up dead."

Swanson called off the day's sweep after the gun-toting youth was sent to the detention center.

"That's one thing about this job," Swanson said. "One second you can be riding and the next second, you're running."



Deputy Eric Love searches a man in downtown Fort Worth before putting him on a bus headed for a night shelter.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / REX CURRY



Deputies Mark Dunnahoo, Jason Willingham and Charles Whitlock,

from left, arrest a man on a drug charge during a downtown sweep.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JIM WIN

Hills sentenced to 99 years



Associated Press

Jay and Linda Hill spend a few minutes together as they wait for jurors to decide their punishment.

Jurors say pair used weapon

By **BILL HANNA**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GALVESTON — Jay and Linda Hill, who last year starved their 13-year-old son, Stephen, to death, were sentenced today to 99 years in a Texas prison.

A Galveston County jury decided that the White Settlement couple used a deadly weapon — a chain and metal bars — to shackle the boy and keep him from food. Because a deadly weapon was used, the couple must remain in prison for at least 15 years before they are eligible for parole.

The Hills stood quietly as the sentence was read by Judge Bill Burdock. Standing in the nearby spectators' seating area, Jay Hill's mother, Barbara Hill of Utah, remained quiet as well.

Jay Hill, 42, and Linda Hill, 38, had faced a sentence of 5 years to 99

years in prison or probation.

Prosecutor David Montague said he was happy the jury gave the Hills the maximum sentence.

"I'm very satisfied with the verdict. This is what we wanted," he said.

Jury forewoman Nancy Stanley of La Marque said that she would have voted for the death penalty if it had been an option.

Defense attorney Larry Moore, who during the trial tried to convince jurors that Jay Hill should not be as harshly punished as his wife, said: "I don't think Jay Hill was equipped to deal with it [what was done to Stephen]. It got to the point where it got over his head."

Another juror, Jack Mitchell Jr. of Santa Fe, said he was appalled by the boy's treatment.

"They fed the cat but they let this boy die," he said. "You cannot comprehend all the atrocities they did to their child."

The same jurors took just 40 minutes Tuesday to convict Jay and Linda Hill of a charge of injury to a child.

Yesterday, jurors apparently were deadlocked on whether a deadly weapon was used against 13-year-old Stephen Hill, who died in November. Testimony showed that two metal pipes and chains were used to shackle the boy, preventing him from getting food.

On Nov. 3, Stephen Hill's parents called an ambulance to the family home, a travel trailer in the Fort Worth suburb of White Settlement. Paramedics found Stephen in cardiac arrest.

Thirteen days later, he died at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center.

He weighed only 55 pounds, which doctors testified was about 35 pounds light for a child his age. They also testified that he had gained only 1 pound and grown only 1 inch since age 9.

The charge given to the jurors required them to decide whether a deadly weapon was used. That decision would affect how much time the couple would spend in prison before being eligible for parole.

Linda Hill's attorney, Charles Baldwin, tried to challenge prosecutors' request for a deadly weapon finding, which would require the Hills to serve a fourth of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

Any sentence of 60 years or more is considered life. The years beyond 60 are not computed in early release. The jury is not told this.

Had the jury decided that a deadly weapon was not used, the Hills could be eligible for parole much sooner.

The trial was moved to Galveston because District Judge Bill Burdock thought that the couple could not receive a fair trial in Tarrant County because of extensive publicity.

About 3½ hours into deliberations, jurors sent a note asking whether the vote on a deadly weapon issue had to be unanimous.

The jurors also asked, "What is the maximum 'good time' earned in a month?"

Burdock told the jurors that they did have to reach a unanimous decision on the deadly weapon issue. He said the law did not permit him to answer the good-time question.

About three hours later, Burdock summoned jurors into the courtroom and told them that they would be sequestered overnight if they could not reach a verdict. Jurors showed displeasure.

In closing arguments, assistant district attorney David Montague told jurors that the Hills deserve the maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

"Leave no doubt as to what you mean," Montague said.

He also asked jurors to think about what the Hills did to their other son, Douglas, now 12.

"Think also about how they turned him into his brother's little jailer," he said. Testimony showed that the Hills instructed Douglas not to unchain Stephen, even if he needed to use the bathroom.

Baldwin said that there was no proof that the bars and chains displayed by prosecutors were those used to restrain Stephen Hill.

He also said that prosecutors were stretching the definition of a deadly weapon.

"What we're doing in this case is making household devices a deadly weapon," Baldwin said.

But Montague argued that the Hills were the ones twisting the deadly weapon issue.

"We didn't stretch it. They did," said Montague, pointing at the Hills.

"They came up with this devilish creation to restrain and slowly kill this child.

"Why couldn't they have just shot him in the head; it would have been a lot less painful to that boy," Montague said.

Jay Hill's lawyer, Larry Moore, said jurors shouldn't punish his cli-

ent just for the sake of punishment.

He asked jurors what Stephen would say if he were in the courtroom.

"Would Stephen Hill want you to sentence his father to life in prison for what he has done?" Moore asked.

But Montague reminded jurors of Stephen's starvation.

"If Stephen Hill were here, he would ask you to feed him," he said.

At the end of Montague's closing arguments, Linda Hill was in tears. She had taken her glasses off and buried her head in her husband's shoulder. Jay Hill patted her back and led her across the courtroom to two chairs in the hallway as the jury began deliberating.

Baldwin also challenged the testimony of Douglas, who said that Stephen was chained almost daily.

"There are no bruises on his wrists," Baldwin said. "The physical evidence disputes that he was

chained as Douglas said he was."

Baldwin also argued that the Hills were convicted for failing to act in their son's behalf.

"Absence of an act can't be used as a deadly weapon," he said. "Was their car a deadly weapon because they didn't drive Stephen to the hospital?"

In opening for the prosecution, Assistant District Attorney Alan Levy had said Jay Hill's academic and professional background should not count in his favor, pointing out the father's engineering position at General Dynamics.

"Does it say anywhere that if you were on the right side of the track you should get less punishment?" Levy said.

Holding up two metal pipes with locks and chains on each end, Levy said Jay Hill had masterminded the torture device.

"This is Jay Hill's contribution to this little atrocity," Levy said.

Street sweeps

Monday P.M., August 17, 1992

Sheriff's officers making downtown safer

The use of officers from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department to keep vagrants and drunks off the streets of downtown Fort Worth is a commendable example of the type of city-county cooperation needed here.

Having said that, however, we feel it is necessary to:

- Remind the officials involved that, while such roundups might keep the city streets relatively clear of the *symptoms* of a growing social sickness, they do nothing to address the causes of that affliction, and . . .

- Urge those same officials to exercise the degree of caution necessary to ensure that the sweeps are not used to discriminate against any particular racial or ethnic groups.

Homelessness and alcoholism are problems of a complex nature that don't receive enough attention from government at any level and don't lend themselves to quick fixes.

Merely moving vagrants and drunks off the streets and into either a shelter or a jail cell will not make those problems disappear.

Nevertheless, we applaud the sheriff's officers for undertaking their efforts.

What they are doing is a cost-effective way — no overtime is involved, so the officers would be hauling down the same salaries anyway — to take some pressure off the overworked Fort Worth police and assist in the continuing effort to make downtown Fort Worth a safer place to live, work and visit.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Vagrant sweep appreciated

Congratulations, Jim Minter and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. How refreshing to finally have a law-enforcement group interested in crime prevention.

As downtown property owners, we read with great interest the Aug. 9 *Star-Telegram* story about helping cut down the vagrants' loitering, beer bottles and other trash scattered on park grounds and sidewalks. I hope that less business plate glass will be smashed and there will be fewer vagrants soliciting around businesses.

We liked reading that our county tax dollars are being used productively to make downtown more appealing to the citizens and, most of all, to out-of-towners here on conventions — not having to be confronted by garbage sack carriers asking for hand-outs.

As to the complainers, be thankful you're being hassled by law-enforcement individual. One of my customers was hassled all right. After he handed over his wallet, he sustained six knife wounds and a two-month stay in intensive care at the hospital.

We have been queried by law enforcement on more than one occasion, and we make a point to thank the person for checking and we trust the next inquiry nets a criminal.

Keep up the good work, Jim Minter. We honest residents need all the help we can get.

—H.M. and R.E. Wallace
Fort Worth

Sunday, August 23, 1992

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ETTA
HULME



New security slows pursuit of justice

The Tarrant County Justice Center sees the longest delay as everyone with business at the center must wait outside to walk through the new metal detectors.

BY THOMASKOROSEC
AND BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Beefed-up security procedures made for long lines yesterday outside the Tarrant County Justice Center as jurors, lawyers, spectators and litigants waited for up to an hour to get into the building.

A dozen walk-through metal detectors staffed by 29 newly trained security deputies were put into use for the first time at five

Tarrant County courts and administration buildings.

The heightened security is the result of a July 1 rampage in the 2nd Court of Appeals in which a gunman killed two attorneys and wounded two judges and a third attorney.

While people breezed through most of the new checkpoints yesterday, the near-simultaneous arrival of 1,000 potential jurors along with scores of lawyers, clients and spectators for 9 a.m. appointments overwhelmed the system at the Justice Cen-



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / DALE BLACKWELL

A line of people entering the Criminal Justice Center stretched for about a block because of new metal detectors at the doors.

ter, 401 W. Belknap St.

"We have taken steps to make sure things go smoother," said acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

Some of the metal detectors were re-set,

Minter said, because they were on too sensitive a setting. He also said the lines will move more quickly as the bailiffs hone their skills.

The lines had dwindled by yesterday afternoon.
(More on SECURITY on Page 9)

Security

From Page 1

ternoon, and Sheriff's Department officials promised improvements by Monday.

"I think we'll get better with each day," said sheriff's Capt. Tony Wise, who supervises the bailiffs. "By next week, I think we can cut the wait in half."

No weapons were found yesterday, Wise said.

Many lawyers said the improvements in speed will not be enough. At 9:35 a.m., near the front of the Justice Center line, attorney Terry Carnes said he had been in line for 45 minutes.

"I'm 35 minutes late already; I know this is needed, but there's got to be a better way," he said.

He said federal courts in Dallas and Fort Worth move large numbers of people through their entrances, and Tarrant County should be able to do the same.

"The wheels of justice move slow enough without this," quipped Jim Maley, who was attending a civil trial.

Said attorney James Cribbs: "I hope they'll get it down; it can't be like this every morning."

Many county officials expressed relief that new security measures were in place.

"Is it an inconvenience? Yes," said Criminal District Judge Sharen

Wilson. "Is it justified? Yes."

Criminal District Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot, who ordered county officials to improve security in her courtroom after the July 1 shooting, said yesterday that she is satisfied with the building's new security.

"I think it's going really well for the first morning," she said.

Dauphinot, who has a metal detector at her courtroom entrance, said she will remove the device once she feels comfortable with the new system.

She said the long waits to enter the building on Monday mornings may require courthouse visitors to leave home earlier, but it would be worth making the building safer.

"I think it may be like catching a plane," she said. "You're just going to allow some extra time."

County Judge Tom Vandergriff said that although there were many long waits yesterday, he expects them to diminish when X-ray machines are installed in about two weeks.

"I think that will make a big difference," he said.

Vandergriff said he had received a few complaints from county employees about the delays, but those were outweighed by calls thanking county officials for making county buildings safer.

Although the Justice Center was overwhelmed yesterday, no such problems were in evidence at other buildings, where the flow of people was far lighter.

"I'm all for this; it's no problem at all," said attorney David Pritchard in the lobby of the Civil Courts building.

A minute earlier, his keys set off the metal detector at the entrance, but they were quickly identified as the problem and he was allowed to pass on his second trip through the machine.

At the old Criminal Courts building adjacent to the Fort Worth Police Department, some employees voiced anger — not at the installation of the metal detector at the east door, but at the locking of three other entrances to the building.

"They locked the doors by the vending machines that go over to the Police Department and we can't even get to conduct business at the Police Department without going outside," said one Sheriff's Department employee.

"If they have to bring prisoners over, they'll have to take them outside."

Another employee said she thought the security system still has holes in it because nothing has been done to secure the county parking garage.

"I had to kick a bunch of men out of there the other day. The parking garage is wide open where someone could hide and take aim if they really wanted to," she said. "They have all the security over here and none over there."

Officials said the detectors went up at the main entrance to the County Administration Building; inside the south entrance to the old courthouse; in the lobby between the Civil Courts building and the old courthouse; the west lobby of the Civil Courts building; the main entrance to the Criminal Justice building; the main entrance to the Criminal Courts and Jail building; and the upper and lower plaza levels of the new Justice Center.

Other entrances at those facilities were closed.

Staff writer Kathy Sanders contributed to this report.

August 18, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / DALE BLACKWELL

Charles Matthews, Tarrant County sheriff's deputy, uses a hand-held detector after a woman set off a Civil Courts Building metal detector.

ATTENTION
All CLEAT Members in Tarrant County....

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
FOLLOWING FRIENDS OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

VOTE FOR THEM NOVEMBER 3, 1992

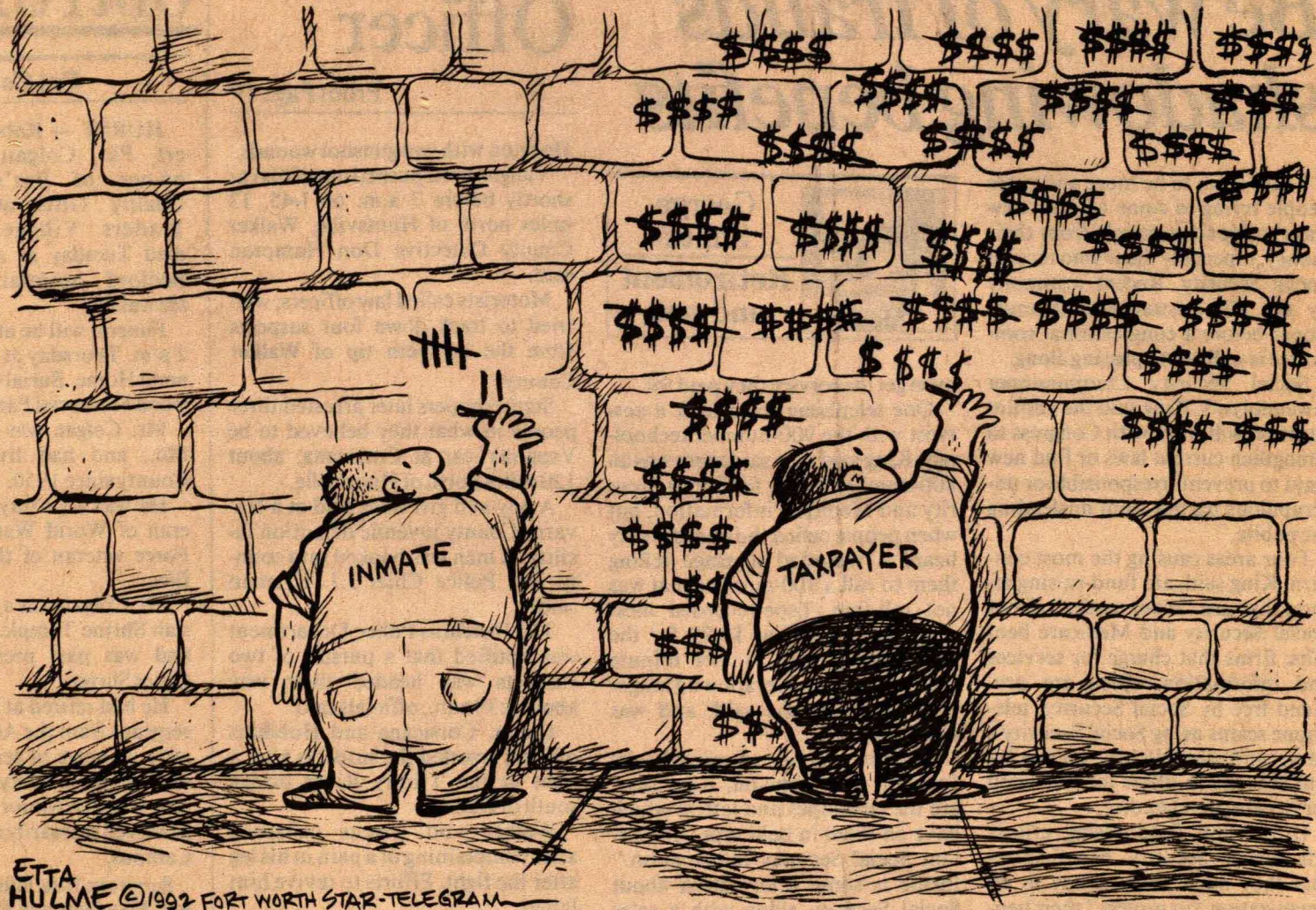
D.W. "Dub" Bransom
Tarrant County Sheriff

Bob Gill
213th Criminal District Court

John Street
48th District Court

Bob Glasgow
State Senate, 22nd District

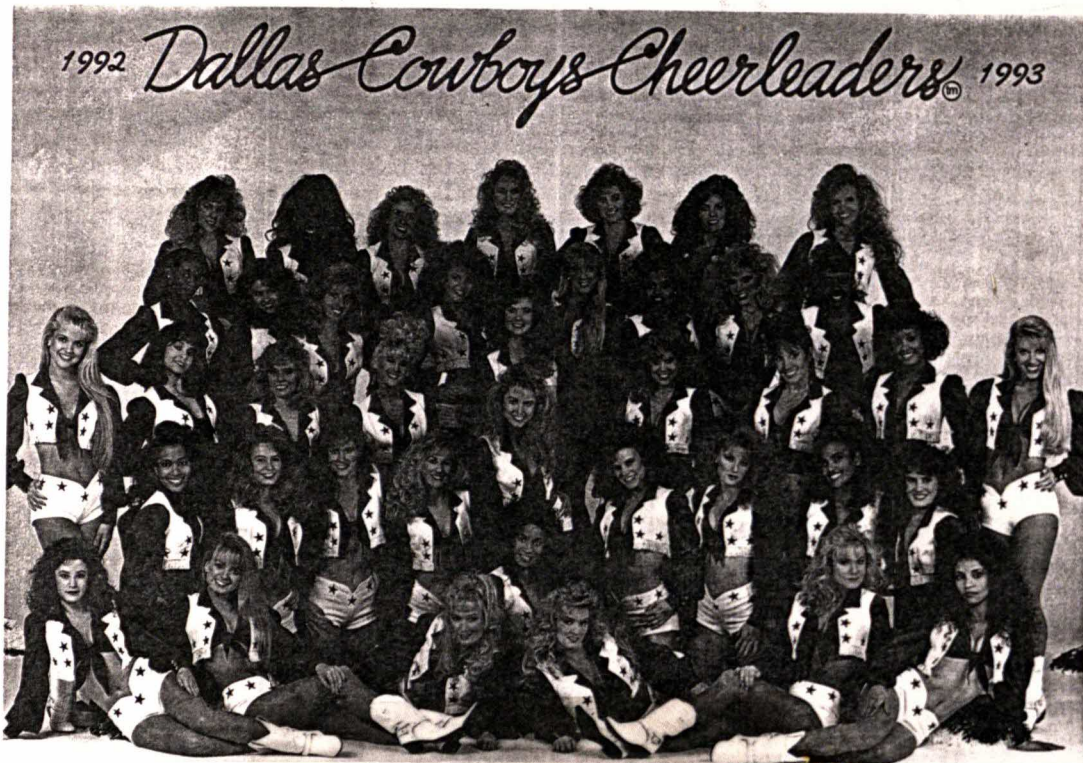
Wednesday P.M., August 26, 1992



ETTA HULME ©1992 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM



SHANNON FRAZIER, TOP ROW, EXTREME RIGHT, VETERAN
MEMBER OF THE 1992-1993 DALLAS COWBOY CHEERLEADERS,
AND DAUGHTER OFFICER RICK FRAZIER WITH THE TARRANT
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



1992/93 DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS

Lott is indicted on 4 counts in court shootings

By **BILL HANNA**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Lott, the admitted gunman in a courthouse shooting that killed two attorneys and wounded two judges and a third attorney, was indicted today on four charges stemming from the July 1 bloodbath.

A grand jury returned a capital murder indictment in the slayings of Tarrant County Assistant Dis-

Lott / From Page 15

trict Attorney Chris Marshall and Dallas attorney John Edwards. If convicted of the charge, Lott would be sentenced to death or life in prison.

He is being held without bail in the Tarrant County Jail.

Two indictments charge Lott with deadly assault on a court participant in the shootings of 2nd Court of Appeals Judge John Hill and visiting Judge Clyde Ashworth, who were wounded in the attack. Hill has returned to work while Ashworth recuperates at home.

Also wounded was Tarrant County Assistant Steven Conder, who

was treated for a gunshot wound in the right shoulder and released the same day. No indictment was returned in that shooting.

A fourth indictment charged Lott with possessing a prohibited weapon in a courtroom.

No trial date has been set.

Lott also is defendant in a civil suit filed by 2nd Court of Appeals Judge David Farris, who was in the courtroom but unharmed in the shooting. The family of Chris Marshall later joined the suit.

The aim of the civil lawsuit is to freeze Lott's assets of at least \$300,000.

\$44 million budget OK'd

Allotment funds jail, more staff

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A record \$44 million budget approved for the Sheriff's Department yesterday includes \$4 million for a new jail and 127 more officers to handle the county's skyrocketing inmate population.

After setting the sheriff's budget, county commissioners said they would meet Monday to establish the outside tax rate on this year's proposed \$128.5 million general fund budget, which is \$21 million more than the anticipated \$107.5 million in revenues and which almost certainly will require a tax increase.

The outside tax rate is the rate commissioners cannot exceed when they approve the budget for the fiscal year beginning in October.

The new jail would be a 600-bed, tilt-wall unit built on the campus of the county's 480-bed Green Bay facility, a north Fort Worth jail that
(More on COUNTY on Page 30)

County

From Page 27

houses convicted felons awaiting transfer to the state penitentiary.

The jail would raise the number of prison beds in Tarrant County to approximately 4,300, acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter said. That still will leave hundreds of inmates sleeping on jail floors, he said.

"The state has slowed its parole releases," Minter told commissioners. "That means we have about 300 prisoners backed up in our jail awaiting room at state facilities. Our jail population now is at 4,200, with 461 sleeping on the floors, and it could be as high as 5,000 or more by the end of December."

Minter said Tarrant County has been sending an average of 57 prisoners a week to state prisons. Next month, that quota is to rise to 58 a week.

But the cutback in parole releases since Aug. 1 has slowed that process to a trickle.

"We sent 16 one week, nine another, 26 a third and so on," Minter said. "I have been told by prison officials in Austin that the clamp-down on parole releases won't be revisited until after November."

The new jail, along with a proposed \$12.6 million in county capital expenditures, will be paid for by certificates of obligation, not from general fund tax dollars, said Debbie Schneider, the county's budget officer.

Commissioner J.D. Johnson balked at the building's estimated \$4 million price.

"We paid half that much for Green Bay," he said. "That's a ridiculous figure."

Schneider and Gary Kirby, the county's facilities director, said the estimate may be too high, but they needed a workable price for planning purposes.

"I'd feel better if you estimated it at \$2 million and brought it in at \$2 million," Johnson said.

Kirby said construction will take eight to 10 months once the contract is awarded. The county will have to hire 52 additional jail officers to maintain the state-mandated one guard-per-48 prisoners ratio.

The commissioners spent two hours yesterday attempting to carve expenditures from the 2-inch-thick budget document, but without much success.

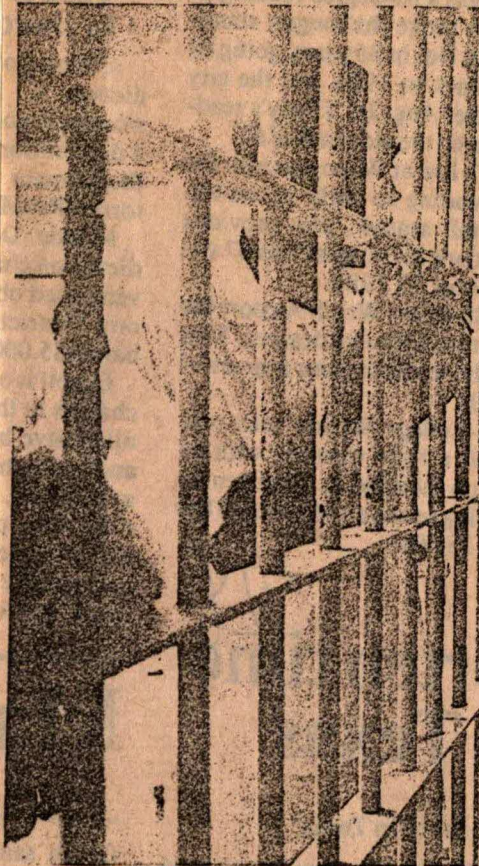
"We really have no choice but to approve most of these line items because they deal with the jail and most things that deal with the jail are mandated by the state," said Commissioner Marti VanRaven-swaay.

It wasn't all cut and slash. The commissioners ordered Schneider to return two patrol cars and \$116,000 in car-mounted computers to the sheriff's \$4.8 million capital budget.

Minter said living within the 1993 budget, which is approximately \$10 million more than this year's budget, will be a challenge.

"This is a very lean budget, but we'll live with it," he said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Clean out the system

Regarding Pat Truly's Aug. 18 column, "Why waste mercy on the terminally bad?" thanks for saying it for the rest of us. Our justice system needs a big dose of castor oil!

Glen Ingram
Euless

Take the key and lock 'em up

Another murder by a just-released criminal. The only apparent answer is yet another amendment to the Texas Constitution along the following lines:

- No plea bargaining.
- No probation for repeat offenders.
- First offenders, except for murder and specified other violent crimes, would be placed in prisons separated from repeat offenders and a maximum effort made to reform them.
- Repeat offenders would serve their full terms. No time off for good behavior or any parole.
- Any required reduction or control of the prison population would be by other means than early release.

When the above is submitted to the voters, it would pass 10-to-1.

W.S. Minter
Fort Worth

Hill boy will move to Idaho

Kin given temporary custody of Douglas

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — District Judge Scott Moore signed an order yesterday giving temporary custody of 12-year-old Douglas Hill to an aunt and uncle in Idaho.

James and Yvonne Langford are expected to visit Texas within a few days to take Douglas back to Idaho. He has been living in a foster home since he was taken from his parents, Jay and Linda Hill, in November.

The Langfords have told officials with the Department of Human Services that they want to have Douglas in Idaho in time for the start of school Sept. 8. Yvonne Langford is Jay Hill's sister.

The Hills, who were sentenced Aug. 13 to 99 years in prison for starving their oldest son, 13-year-old Stephen, agreed Wednesday with the department's recommendation.

Jay and Linda Hill have not terminated their parental rights to the child. For the Langfords to adopt Douglas, which they have indicated they want to do, the Hills must sign away all parental rights.

Douglas' brother, Stephen, was found in the family's White Settlement trailer emaciated and in cardiac arrest. He died 13 days later.

In the trial, Douglas testified about the long-term starvation of his brother and said his parents kept Stephen chained for much of the last year of his life.

Sheriff candidates make their pitch to prospective employees

BY BOB MAHLBURG
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH - Both candidates for Tarrant County sheriff in the Nov. 3 election support better training, stronger job security and collective bargaining for sheriff's employees. But they choose very different words to describe themselves and their visions of the department.

Democratic candidate Dub Bransom said he has been called "a labor radical." He said that he would cut

operating costs and improve efficiency by treating sheriff's employees fairly and equitably.

Republican David Williams, despite similar stands on most issues, prefers to portray himself as an administrator and a law officer who wants to get tough on drugs.

Last night, the candidates made speeches seeking the endorsement of the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association, a 720-member group of jail officers and other sheriff's employees. Both candidates

ridiculed employee treatment by Republican Sheriff Don Carpenter, who took a leave of absence after being charged with selling department weapons and falsifying records.

"It's criminal to treat people this way," said Bransom, the River Oaks police chief. Bransom spent 17 years as a Fort Worth police officer, investigator and narcotics and patrol supervisor. He also headed the police officers' employee association.

"This is a labor organization," Bransom said of the Sheriff's Department. "My background is in labor negotiation. I've been called a labor radical. Maybe I'm speaking like a labor radical, but people are what make up the Sheriff's Department. You take care of people and people will respond."

That approach would cut costs rather than raising them, Bransom said in a later interview. Treating employees fairly improves morale and leads to high efficiency, he said.

Carpenter spent thousands hiring and training new employees because of high turnover, Bransom added in his machine-gun speaking style. He said he acquired that style growing up in a big family where he had to talk fast to be heard.

Williams, a Haltom City police detective, agreed with Bransom on many points. However, he focused his comments on the need for "a modern-day sheriff" and better management.

Williams said that the de-

partment is understaffed and needs greater professionalism and training.

"It seems kind of inconceivable that a department as large as the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department operates without a standard operating procedure, but apparently it does," Williams said.

Most of the sheriff's budget and employees are devoted to the jail, not to patrolling unincorporated areas. Both candidates favor ex-

(More on SHERIFF on Page 24)

Section A, Page 24 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Saturday, August 29, 1992

Sheriff

From Page 21

panding patrol functions, particularly to aid small-town police departments.

"They're doing the best they can, but they're being overtaken by events, by numbers," Williams said.

The candidates responded to

written questions scribbled on everything from paper to napkins and matchbooks. The group will endorse one candidate in about a week after members mail in their votes, said association President Mack West, a jail lieutenant.

Leonard Schilling, a former Fort Worth police officer who once had Bransom as his supervisor, said that there was never any question that Bransom was the boss. Bransom simply treated people fairly, he said.

Granger kin arrested

The youngest son of Fort Worth's mayor is jailed after a Persian rug is stolen from an antique store.

BY RICHARD DOTSON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The youngest son of Fort Worth Mayor Kay Granger was arrested early yesterday on suspicion of breaking into a West Berry Street antique shop and stealing a Persian rug, police said.

Brandon Keith Granger, 20, was held several hours in the Tarrant County Jail before posting \$2,000 bond on suspicion of burglary and \$750 bond on suspicion of resisting

arrest, according to jail records.

The mayor could not be reached for comment last night. An aide, Becky Haskin, said that Granger was informed of the arrest, but that she left later in the day for Mexico City on city business and could not be reached.

Haskin said that the man's father, Granger's ex-husband, Dean Granger, bailed him out of jail.

Police reports say Brandon Granger, one of the mayor's three children, was arrested about 7 a.m. after police were called to the Forest Park Antiques shop in the 2800 block of West Berry Street to investigate a possible break-in.

About 30 minutes earlier, a *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* newspaper carrier had reported seeing a

(More on GRANGER on Page 8)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Kay Granger, second from right, with her children Judy, left, Chelsea, and Brandon, right, after being elected Fort Worth mayor.

Granger / From Page 7

barefoot man with long, wavy hair and wearing bluejean shorts and no shirt break out the shop's 6-foot square, front plate-glass window, a police report says.

The carrier told police that the man wandered around the back of the shop and then came back, reached in through the broken window and retrieved a pillow used to muffle the sound of the shattered glass. The carrier told police that the man then left the scene.

When police officer Tod Karfs arrived a few minutes later and met with store owner Kathy Flories, a young man matching the description of the suspect walked out of an alley near the shop, appeared surprised when he spotted the officer and started to walk from the scene.

"The reason he was caught so soon was because he returned to the store," Flories said by telephone last night. "He came back while I was talking to the police. The officer had a description and told me, 'I am going to talk to that kid.'"

Karfs jumped into his police cruiser and drove across Berry Street to the young man. When the man, whose hand was bleeding, was asked for identification, he at first hesitated, and then said, "This is harassment."

A moment later, the report says, the young man acquiesced and told Karfs:

"You might as well know now, I'm Mayor Granger's son."

He then handed over his driver's license, which confirmed his identity, Karfs said.

Noting that the suspect acted belligerently and gave various accounts explaining how his hand was cut, the officer read Brandon Granger his rights and placed him under arrest.

When police searched the area later, they found a pickup registered to Brandon Granger's address in

Aledo and a rolled-up Persian rug stuffed behind the driver's seat.

Flories later identified the 17-foot, \$895 hallway rug as the one missing from her store. She said the break-in had been the third in the past 3½ years.

"I am very sympathetic to Mrs. Granger, and I am sorry for her son," Flories said. "I think he was trying to take what he could reach. He broke three different windows."

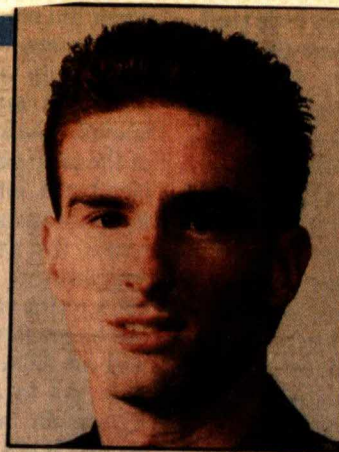
Brandon Granger was a student at University of North Texas in the spring. In recent years, he had been living with his father in Aledo, Haskin said. She did not know whether he was still attending the school in Denton.

"He's not close to her [Mayor Granger]," the aide said. "He's real close to his daddy."

Brandon's twin sister, Chelsea, is a sophomore at Blinn College in Brenham, and his older brother, John Dean "Jady" Granger, is a senior at Texas A&M University, where Haskin said he is studying international business and Japanese.

Staff writer Jeri Clausing contributed to this report.

A LIFE CUT SHORT



Brent Wisdom

Friends and fellow officers mourn a promising young policeman killed helping a motorist with a flat.

BY RICHARD DOTSON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Not too long ago, Brent Wisdom was a fun-loving teen-ager fresh out of Mansfield High School and trying to figure out what to do with his life.

The typical assortment of jobs was available to the lanky baseball player, but he wanted something above average.

That's why he became a police officer.

At 22, Wisdom was one of the youngest and most promising of the new officers filling the Fort Worth Police Department ranks.

But his dreams, and the department's hopes, ended in a flash Tuesday night when he was struck by a motorist suspected of drunken driving. Wisdom had been helping two men who were changing a flat tire on the Interstate 35W access road near Seminary Drive.

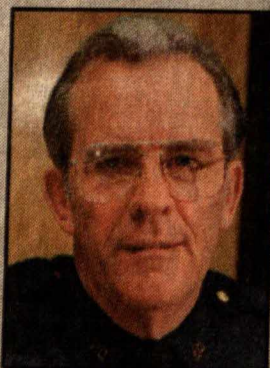
The motorist who hit Wisdom also crashed into the car with the flat tire, seriously injuring himself in the process. The two men who were changing the flat tire were uninjured.

(More on OFFICER on Page 21)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / DALE BLACKWELL

Flags at Fort Worth buildings were flying at half-staff yesterday in memory of officer Brent Wisdom.



Thomas Windham

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We will not forget

The elderly gentleman entered the room in almost statuesque fashion. He was a picture of strength and dignity and was almost stately. The only telling sign was a slight frown of concern that creased his forehead below his full head of gray hair.

His eyes searched the room and

found those of the younger woman, his daughter, who throughout the night and into these early morning hours had been an example of that same strength and dignity for us all.

As their eyes met, she blurted out but in a very gentle tone, "He's gone, Daddy."

She was referring to Brent Wisdom.
(More on LETTER on Page 21)

Officer

From Page 1

Kenneth Linwood Walker, 32, of Fort Worth, remained in John Peter Smith Hospital last night with serious head and facial injuries.

Walker, who had a DWI conviction in 1981, was initially being held on suspicion of drunken driving. He is now under police guard on suspicion of involuntary manslaughter. Charges are expected this week, police said.

Police said that Walker's criminal record includes arrests in Tarrant County in two aggravated robberies in 1979. Those arrests led to a 10-year probation for the two offenses. Walker was sentenced to three years in the Texas Department of Corrections after his probation was revoked because of an arrest on criminal-mischief charges in 1982.

Police records show that Walker was also convicted of driving while intoxicated in 1981 in Bell County. No information was available last night on that incident or on his sentence.

Tests after Tuesday's wreck showed Walker's blood-alcohol level to be 0.25, 2½ times the intoxication level as defined by state law.

Walker's mother declined to comment yesterday.

Wisdom suffered massive head injuries and his legs were severed in the 9:40 p.m. accident. He died about four hours later after going into cardiac arrest during surgery at Harris Methodist Fort Worth early yesterday.

Wisdom was the first Fort Worth police officer to die in the line of duty since Walter S. Taylor, 33. Taylor died Oct. 5, 1988, when his patrol car slammed into a concrete barricade where the Montgomery Street bridge over Interstate 30 was closed for construction.

Wisdom's friends and colleagues, plus a number of high-ranking officers including Chief Thomas Windham and Deputy Chief Sam Hill, held out hope until the end that Wisdom would pull through.

"He put up a good fight," Hill said. "If there's anything good about it, this man died knowing that he was helping somebody."

Randy Mitchell, a friend, said yesterday that Wisdom "loved to have fun" but "always wanted a job above average."

Wisdom entered the police academy in October and was commissioned in March. According to departmental procedures, Wisdom only had six weeks left before being taken off probationary officer status.

In 22 days he was to have closed on a house in south Fort Worth.

His supervisor on the south division evening shift, Lt. Bryan Sudan, said that Wisdom was one of the best rookie officers he had seen.

"He was going to have a great career," Sudan said.

Not long after Wisdom was placed on solo status — allowed to patrol alone without a training officer — he was instrumental in the arrest of four men suspected of several violent acts and robberies in the Hallmark neighborhood of south Fort Worth.

Wisdom and another rookie officer, Brad Thompson, made the arrests after tracking down a car involved in a robbery-shootout at El Tesoro Apartments about three months ago, Sudan said.

"The kid was out there ... providing the best service to Fort Worth," Sudan said, "and to get taken out like that is not fair."

Thompson, the academy class president, was one of Wisdom's best friends since meeting him several

years ago at Tarrant County Junior College.

In 1989, Wisdom graduated from Mansfield High School, where he played varsity baseball. He lived with his parents in Mansfield and was a criminal-justice student at the Tarrant County Junior College South Campus.

Wisdom's funeral will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow at First Baptist Church in Mansfield. Burial will be in Laurel Land Memorial Park in Fort Worth. Laurel Land Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Staff writers Kathy Sanders and Tim Sullivan contributed to this report.

Letter

From Page 1

dom, her son and an officer of the Fort Worth Police Department. It was just about 1:30 in the morning and just moments earlier the doctors at Harris Methodist Fort Worth had informed us that Officer Wisdom was dead from injuries he had received in a traffic accident the previous night.

The old gentleman broke out in quiet sobbing over the loss of his grandson. So did several others in the room. Wisdom was 22 years old

and been a Fort Worth police officer for less than one year.

Wisdom was killed as he was assisting a stranded motorist changing a flat tire on a service road alongside the South Freeway. It appeared he had done everything right. His car was positioned properly to provide a barrier of protection and the emergency lights had been activated to alert oncoming motorists to the hazard.

Unfortunately, one oncoming motorist was apparently too drunk to be alerted to much of anything. This driver plowed into the stranded vehicle, pinning Wisdom between both vehicles, causing his fatal injuries.

Perhaps some will feel the actions of Wisdom that precipitated his death were not of heroic proportions. They were to us. He was doing what police officers do best and do better than anyone else I know. He was helping someone out of a jam.

Wisdom's death should serve as a stark reminder to us all of how precious, vital and vulnerable are all the young men and women who serve us as Fort Worth police officers. They are underpaid and understaffed and, in many instances, underappreciated. They are never underworked. None of them wants to die, but I know not of a single one who would shirk his or her duty in

fear or in the face of death. They all know the hazards of their chosen profession and face those hazards valiantly and heroically.

Wisdom is indeed gone, but he will never be forgotten by the men and women of the great Fort Worth Police Department, many of whom were gathered in vigil at the hospital this fateful morning.

Wisdom was a member of the greatest brotherhood and sisterhood in this country — that of a police officer. He was indeed a hero, but aren't they all?

Thomas R. Windham
Chief of Police
Fort Worth

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

• SEPTEMBER 5 • 1992

Final salute for a police officer



An honor guard lines the road at the funeral of a 22-year-old policeman

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RODGER MALLISON
fatally injured by a driver suspected of drunken driving.



Officer Brad Thompson helps Wisdom's parents at the service.

SATURDAY, September 5, 1992 / Fort Worth

Fort Worth patrolman's life was a model, mourners told

BY KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The sun broke through the dismal gray skies yesterday as the funeral for Fort Worth police officer Brent Wisdom reached its conclusion, and it seemed a fitting final tribute for the young rookie.

Its light came as the strains of taps drifted up and away, as the honor guard began folding the American flag draped over his coffin, after the 21-gun salute and after two helicopters swooped over Laurel Land Memorial Park and then peeled away from each other and roared off, leaving about 1,000 mourners in heart-wrenching silence.

Wisdom was fatally injured Tuesday night when a driver who police believe was drunk struck him as the officer

(More on WISDOM on Page 8)

Wisdom

From Page 1

watched over two stranded motorists changing a flat tire.

The 22-year-old Wisdom had been on the streets as a patrolman for only six months, yet supervisors, fellow officers and administrators saw a colleague who promised to be one of the best, a model officer.

"Let me summarize what I found," said police Chaplain Sgt. Terry Constant, who reviewed Wisdom's personnel file. "He was everything we look for in a top-notch officer.

"Police work is an honorable profession that Brent brought honor to," he said during the service at First Baptist Church in Mansfield, where Wisdom lived with his parents and younger brother.

The driver of the car that hit Wisdom, Kenneth Linwood Walker, 33, has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in Wisdom's death and remains in serious condition at John Peter Smith Hospital with in-

juries he suffered in the wreck.

Investigators said Wisdom had stopped behind two men changing a tire off Interstate 35W near Seminary Drive and was standing behind their car when a car driven by Walker slammed into Wisdom and the other car, pinning Wisdom between the two vehicles.

Officials said Walker's blood-alcohol level was 0.25 percent, more than twice the level considered illegal for drivers in Texas. Witnesses also said that Walker's car, littered with beer bottles and cans, was speeding on the service road when the collision occurred.

"A bad thing happened to a good person and it doesn't make sense," said the Rev. James Moore, surrounded by so many floral arrangements that a van and two Suburbans were required to take them to the Fort Worth cemetery.

"I can't explain why this tragedy occurred," Moore said. "Brent was a good son. He was a good police officer. He was a good brother. He was a good grandson. . . . It's so tragic that a young man's life was taken at 22 years when he was so focused, when he had so much going for him."

In a closing prayer, Moore made the only reference to others involved in the accident: "Father, we pray for those involved in this accident. Only you know what needs are there."

Before and after the service in Mansfield, hundreds of officers from throughout the state stood at attention in the parking lot across the street, while classmates from the police academy stood outside the doors, some struggling to keep their composure.

Wisdom posthumously received the Police Cross, the department's second-highest decoration, given to the family of an officer killed "as a result of honorable duty-related police service," the general orders state.

Wisdom's parents, Gaylen and Joyce Wisdom, issued a brief statement after the funeral yesterday in which they said they wanted to thank the untold number of people who have offered help and kindness.

"Our son Brent was a fine young man and truly a gift from God," it says. "We are a close, loving family and this is a great loss for us."

Dallas police officer collapses, dies after chasing teen suspect on foot

BY RICHARD DOTSON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

A Dallas police officer died yesterday afternoon, apparently of a heart attack, after a foot chase after a teen-ager he believed was carrying a gun.

John Paul Jones Jr., 25, and other officers had caught the youth and were trying to handcuff him outside a south Dallas apartment complex about 4:30 p.m. when Jones collapsed.

The officer was taken to Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, where he was pronounced dead at 5 p.m., said Ed Spencer, Dallas Police Department spokesman.

He said the teen-ager, a 16-year-old boy, was arrested on a weapons charge and jailed at the county juvenile detention facility.

Spencer said Jones, who had been on the force three years, and several other officers had been assigned to patrol an apartment complex in the 3500 block of Meadow after receiving several complaints of illegal drug activity in the area.

"They received information from a citizen that a particular juvenile was armed with a gun," Spencer said.

"This officer and another got into a very brief foot chase with this 16-year-old and they chased him across the street. The officer and the others were in the process of handcuffing him, and Jones suffered apparently what was a cardiac arrest."

Spencer said Jones and the department had no indication he might have had a heart problem. "He was a very physically fit officer," Spencer said.

Physicians have made a preliminary ruling that Jones' death was the result of cardiac arrest, Spencer said. A final determination should be made after an autopsy scheduled for today.

Jones was married and had no children, Spencer said.

The young officer had 10 commendations on file and was rated as having an outstanding job performance on his last job evaluation.

He worked as a patrol officer on the evening shift in the Dallas police Southeast Operations Bureau.

Spencer said a memorial service is being planned.

Jones is the third Dallas officer to die this year while on duty, Spencer said.

On Jan. 22, officer Harold Lee Hammons, 28, was killed when he was accidentally shot by another Dallas police officer during a drug raid at a northeast Dallas apartment.

Officer Billy W. Daugherty, 41, died Aug. 14 from injuries he suffered in a motorcycle wreck Aug. 10 on LBJ Freeway. The 21-year veteran was attempting to chase a speeding motorist in north Dallas when his motorcycle flipped and he suffered severe head injuries.

Tuesday, September 8, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Otwell is jailed in Little Rock

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — A Texas minister who has protested repeatedly outside Sunday services at Gov. Bill Clinton's church in Little Rock was jailed today after refusing to enter a plea and pay a fine in municipal court.

"Sometimes you have to stand like Martin Luther King stood, stand on what you think is right," the Rev. W.N. Otwell said today in refusing to enter a plea on criminal trespass charges.

Otwell, who now lives Nacogdoches after recently moving from Fort Worth, opposes Clinton's views on rights for homosexuals and abortion. Otwell and two others were charged with two counts each

of criminal trespass in connection with their arrests outside Immanuel Baptist Church the last two Sunday mornings.

Twenty-four other people who were arrested with Otwell on Sunday have a hearing scheduled for next Monday on their trespassing charges.

After Otwell refused to enter a plea today, Municipal Judge Marion Humphrey found him guilty and fined him \$100 plus court costs of \$78.25. Humphrey then asked Otwell how long he needed to pay the fine.

"I am not going to pay it, your honor. Not out of disrespect for you . . . but I did what God told me to do," Otwell said.

Lott says not guilty to crimes

Trial set for Jan. 11 in courtroom killings

By JOHN COUNCIL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Lott, who hours after the July 1 shooting in a Tarrant County courtroom went on television and took responsibility for the slayings, today pleaded not guilty to the crimes.

During a 25-minute hearing before Judge Sharen Wilson, Lott made his first official statement on his innocence or guilt, pleading not guilty to each of the four charges against him.

Lott is charged with one count of capital murder in connection with the deaths of Chris Marshall, 41, the chief prosecutor for the district attorney's appellate section, and John Edwards, 33, a Dallas attorney. The two were in the fourth-floor courtroom of the Second Court of Appeals the day a gunman walked in and opened fire.

Lott also faces two counts of deadly assault on a court participant. In the shooting, Judge John Hill, 48, was shot in the shoulder, and Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, was shot in the hip.

(More on LOTT on Page 8)

A fourth charge of possession of a prohibited weapon in a courtroom was also filed. Prosecutors believe that Lott used a semi-automatic 9mm Glock handgun in the shooting spree.

His trial is set for Jan. 11.

Before today, Lott had refused to comment on his guilt or innocence, instead invoking his Fifth Amendment right to not having to make statements that would incriminate him.

His only statement on the crime had come during a television interview about six hours after the shooting. Lott arrived at the Dallas studio of WFAA/Channel 8 and asked to talk to anchor Tracy Rowlett. During a taped interview, Lott said he committed the shootings because the legal system had been unfair to him in a bitter custody battle with his ex-wife over their daughter.

But today, as the charges were read against him, Lott denied responsibility for the shootings. In the public seating area, Chris Marshall's widow, Betty, looked on.

Before the charges were read, Lott, who has a law degree but al-

lowed his membership in the Texas State Bar to lapse, was told he could waive the reading of the charges.

"I don't want to waive anything at this point," said Lott, who is acting as his own attorney.

Wilson also asked Lott if he had money or access to enough money to hire a lawyer.

"I don't know if I can use them because they've locked them up," Lott said, referring to a civil case brought against him seeking damages. Lott represents himself in that case as well.

But when Wilson asked him if he would hire an attorney if he could afford one, Lott said no.

In marked contrast to his appearance in civil court July 21, when a shackled and handcuffed Lott sat as five bailiffs looked on, there was no obvious evidence of stepped up security in the courtroom today. Two bailiffs were present and Lott was neither shackled nor handcuffed.

"I have adequate security," Wilson said after the hearing.

Asked about Lott's not being handcuffed, she said: "If he's going to represent himself and be his own lawyer, he's going to have to act like a lawyer."

Lott is being held without bail in the Tarrant County Jail. His civil case is set for Feb. 8.

Official says politics cost him his job

Commissioners say that reorganizing the pretrial release department will help reduce crowding at the Tarrant County Jail.

By FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A veteran county official contended yesterday that he was the victim of politics after county commissioners abolished his \$47,952-a-year job effective Oct. 1.

The commissioners say the move will increase efficiency in dealing with jail overcrowding.

Virgel Guess, director of the county's pretrial release department, sat stone-faced as four commissioners agreed to do away with his job in order to hire two more pretrial interviewers and make the service available at the county jail 24 hours a day.

With Guess' salary gone, the two new positions will cost the county only \$4,120 for the first year, said Debbie Schneider, the county's budget officer.

The department will be moved under the control of the Community Supervisions and Corrections Department.

Commissioner Dionne Bagsby did not join the discussion or vote because Guess filed as a write-in candidate for her seat last week.

"Some of these moves are purely political and I will not have anything to do with politics," she said. "I have to do what is ethically right, not politically expedient."

With that, she left the court and played with her infant granddaughter until the discussion ended.

But Guess still said that Bagsby took his job because he is running against her.

"She said it in there," Guess said after the meeting. "It was politics."

Guess said he is an 18-year veteran of the county, 15 years as an adult probation officer and three years running the pretrial release program.

"Now that the county has shown me the door, I'll have to find another job," he said. "But I will be out politicking for Ms. Bagsby's seat after office hours, on weekends and holidays."

Pretrial release is one of the key tools for reducing jail overcrowding, because it allows eligible inmates to be freed on personal bonds until their trials. The service is generally offered to those who are not suspected of a violent crime.

Pretrial release has not been offered to those arrested in minor misdemeanor offenses, but they will be included once the change is made, said Commissioner J.D. Johnson, who proposed the move.

**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**

Overdue courtroom security

The Tarrant County court buildings finally have the long overdue security systems in place. Though these systems are not foolproof, they will help prevent a repeat of the tragic events of a few months ago.

The fact that they are not foolproof is the reason for this letter. I thought it ludicrous for Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot to say she had been concerned with security at the courthouse before the tragic shootings. The fact is that before the shootings Dauphinot ordered uniformed officers in her courtroom to surrender their weapons, while allowing the general public to walk in and out at will.

If George Lott had walked into Dauphinot's courtroom and started firing, uniformed officers probably would have been his first targets and victims. In Judge Dauphinot's court, the police would have been helpless to protect themselves or the public.

Any argument raised by Dauphinot that police officers and their weapons are intimidating or influential in a courtroom is lost when you consider two points: First, this is an individual action taken by her and not a countywide police; and second, only the officers' weapons are taken, not their uniforms, the most apparent symbol of their position.

Dauphinot does have bailiffs in her courtroom, but their training and ability have been questioned. In the past I had personally observed situations in Dauphinot's court where the bailiffs were going in and out of the room performing one function or another. While performing these functions they cannot be attentive to the public gallery. On two of these occasions I also observed her bailiffs with empty holsters.

Yes, Judge Dauphinot, the courts and the public deserve better protection. However, if you are truly concerned with safety you will allow the added degree of security available to you in the form of fully trained and armed state-certified peace officers.

My concern is not only as a sergeant in the Fort Worth Police Department but also as a resident of Fort Worth. Numerous residents and other police officers are present in Dauphinot's court every day. I am not.

**R.P. Strittmatter
Fort Worth**

**Tarrant to hone
budget ax once more**

*Commissioners will scrape
for places to cut before tax bite*

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — County commissioners will meet once more Monday to consider possible cuts in the proposed budget before setting a tax rate for the coming fiscal year that will probably mean eliminating more jobs and raising taxes.

They will meet at 3 p.m. Monday to try to further close the gap between revenues and needs. Then they will set the new tax rate at 2 p.m. Tuesday during their regular court session.

The new rate will not exceed 27.71 cents per \$100 valuation, the limit set this month. That's more than 4 cents higher than the current rate.

"Certainly, we can do better than that," Commissioner Bob Hampton said recently.

If they cannot, then county taxpayers with a \$75,000 home and no exemptions will wind up paying \$30 more in county taxes than they paid this year.

When the budget hearings began last month, commissioners faced a \$21 million shortfall between the conservatively estimated revenues of \$107.5 million and a proposed general fund budget of \$128.5 million.

Since then, they've found additional revenues, including \$8.5 million in payments expected from the state next year for housing felons. The commissioners also abolished a half-dozen positions, eliminated any pay raises for county employees and managed to close the gap to \$1.8 million.

They're now looking at a budget of \$126.7 million and revenues of

\$124.9 million, said Debbie Schneider, the county's budget officer.

Commissioners have slashed several high-ranking positions, including the director of the pretrial release program, a chief deputy sheriff, a jail doctor and licensed vocational nurse, a jail human-relations counselor, an assistant precinct garage supervisor and a deputy constable.

The cuts mean the end of Dr. James Holbrook's eight-year career as the county jail physician.

Holbrook, a retired military physician, was hired by then-Sheriff Lon Evans in 1984 to head a 20-nurse jail medical staff. He is paid \$59,112 a year.

"We no longer need those positions, with the hospital district handling the jail medical needs," said Jim Minter, the acting chief deputy.

Lott refuses to answer questions on shooting

BY JOHN COUNCIL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Lott again this week refused to answer direct questions about the July 1st shooting that left two people dead in the Tarrant County Courthouse, according to hand written court documents he filed this week in civil court.

At an arraignment in criminal court Tuesday, Lott pleaded not guilty to a charge of capital murder and three other charges related to the crime. That was his first formal reply about the incident since he admitted to the crime during a televised interview the day of the shooting.

(More on LOTT on Page 8)

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Lott / From Page 1

Lott is being sued by Judge David Farris, the only judge on the three-member Second Court of Appeals to escape harm from the shooting in his courtroom. Also part of the suit is Betty Marshall, the widow of Chris Marshall, 41, chief prosecutor in the appellate section of the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, who was killed in the shooting.

Lott is being sued for the pain and suffering caused to the survivors and family members of the shooting.

Attorneys asked Lott to respond to 16 questions concerning the incident to help build their case. But they got little from Lott's replies, which were filed in the 348th District Court yesterday afternoon.

To questions such as "admit or deny that you had in your possession a Glock 9mm pistol on July 1, 1992," Lott cited his Fifth Amendment rights that protect the accused from self-incrimination.

Lott did answer some of the questions. One question, asking about the effect on the surviving children of the shooting victims, asked: "Admit or deny that it is reasonable for a child or children to suffer a great deal of emotional distress by the absence of their father."

Lott replied, "Denied, practically any father will be absent from his

children for some period of time every day."

Ken Williford, who is representing Farris and posed the questions to Lott, said he expected such responses.

"I was not surprised by his doing some editorial comments," Williford said. "He's demonstrated that in the other two encounters we've had with him at the court house."

Williford said Lott's refusal to answer the questions will probably not hurt his case against the admitted gunman since, in the civil court, Williford must prove that Lott harmed his clients, but doesn't necessarily have to prove that Lott committed the shootings.

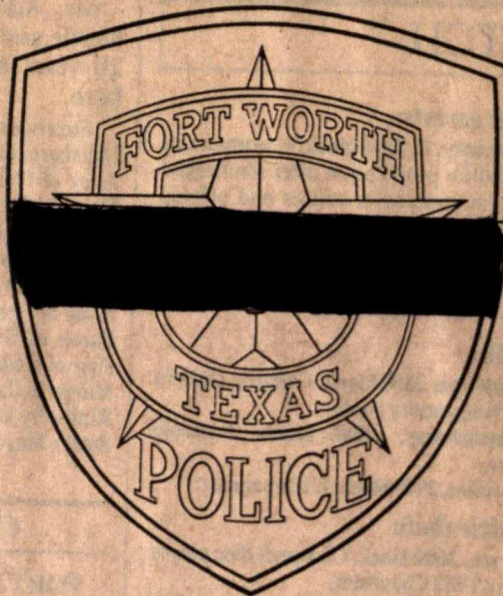
"The jury and the judge can make an inference," Williford said. "In a criminal case they are not allowed to make such an inference."

The civil suit is expected to go to trial next year. Lott will act as his own attorney in the suit.

Dallas attorney John Edwards, 33, was also killed in the shooting. Wounded were Judge John Hill, 48, who was shot in the shoulder, and Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, who was shot in the hip. Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder, 28, was grazed by a bullet.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friday, September 11, 1992



Thanks for backing the blue

As a Fort Worth police officer and a friend of police Officer Brent Wisdom, I would like to say thanks to those people who paid tribute to Wisdom the day he was laid to rest.

From the small boy on the corner in Mansfield who saluted as we passed, touching the heart of every officer, to those people on freeways who pulled over to let us pass and to the people at Miller Brewery who flew the flag at half mast, each and every one was noted and appreciated.

In our line of work, it is easy to become jaded and cynical as each day our lives are threatened. To see such an outpouring of support was both encouraging and uplifting.

It reminds us that it isn't us against the world and that the silent majority stands behind us.

I would like to say thank you. It was an honor Brent Wisdom truly deserved.

**Charla Smith
Aledo**

Sheriff hopeful criticizes immigration agency

BY GRACIE BOND STAPLES
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Dub Bransom, Democratic candidate for Tarrant County sheriff, criticized recent sweeps yesterday by Immigration and Naturalization Service agents who stopped and questioned people who they believed looked like undocumented aliens.

Bransom, appearing before the Chicano Luncheon, said that he supports keeping downtown Fort Worth clean and free of panhandlers. But he said that stopping people just because they have dark hair and eyes is wrong.

"Discrimination is a bad thing, and I'm totally against it," he said.

The INS has defended its practice in recent months of making the

downtown sweeps in conjunction with patrols by sheriff's deputies.

Bransom, the River Oaks police chief, said that everyone has a stake in curbing the crime rate because it affects everyone equally. To do that, he said, the penal system must be revamped to keep criminals off the street, preventive measures must be put in place and department employment practices must be improved.

Those, he said, are the three main issues facing the Sheriff's Department and are the ones he will address in the last weeks of the campaign.

Later in the day, Bransom and David Williams, the Republican candidate, traded views before a group of 10 spectators in a debate

sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Fort Worth.

The candidates agreed that the chief duty of the sheriff is administration of the county jail, which takes up more than 70 percent of the department's \$44 million budget.

They differed, however, on several law enforcement initiatives and how to pay for them.

Williams, a Haltom City police detective in charge of community relations, said that he proposes using government grants to fund such things as a special unit to track repeat and violent offenders.

Bransom said that he would prefer that the county enter into cooperative agreements with Fort Worth and other cities that already have

such special units. He said grants such as those Williams is proposing are usually temporary and require increasing amounts of matching funds from local taxpayers.

One audience member asked Williams why a single campaign contributor, Ed Max, owner of Discount Auto Parts Exchange, has donated about \$50,000 to his campaign.

"Ed Max is a taxpayer and a voter, and he among many other businesspeople — prominent businesspeople — are interested in good government," Williams replied. "That is their prime interest in this race."

Staff writer Thomas Korosec contributed to this report.

Hills' request for new trial denied; convictions for son's starvation stand

By **BILL HANNA**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The last obstacle to sending Jay and Linda Hill to Texas prisons for starving their son to death last year was removed yesterday when their bid for a new trial was denied.

Yesterday's brief court appearance, characterized as a formality by attorneys, may be the last time the husband and wife see each other in the foreseeable future unless their case is overturned by an appeals court. The 99-year sentence requires the couple to spend 15 years in jail before becoming eligible for parole.

After hearing short statements from lawyers, Judge Bill Burdock denied a motion for a new trial, saying that the defense arguments are insufficient and that there is no new evidence.

The Hills were convicted last month in Galveston of injury to a child for starving their 13-year-old son, Stephen Hill. The boy was found in November in the couple's White Settlement travel-trailer in cardiac arrest. He died 13 days later.

Throughout their short time in court, the Hills showed little emotion. They talked to each other before the hearing began and thanked the judge before being escorted

from the courtroom.

The Hills' lawyers based their plea for a new trial, in part, on the original court decision that a metal bar, chains and locks used to restrain Stephen Hill could be considered deadly weapons because they kept him from getting to food. That decision meant the two will spend more time in jail before being eligible for parole.

But the same arguments were made during the trial, and Burdock ruled that they are not enough for a new trial.

Attorneys for the Hills said the case will be filed with a state appeals court.

Sheriff hopefuls vow to mend department's image

BY BILL TEETER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County sheriff candidates Dub Bransom and David Williams stepped in front of a firing line at the West Meadowbrook Neighborhood Association to answer questions about how they would run the Sheriff's Department and repair its tarnished image.

One questioner in the audience referred to the years of bad publicity that dogged the reign of Sheriff Don Carpenter, who is on unpaid leave facing felony indictments, and quizzed the candidates on how they would repair the department's reputation.

Bransom said he found out at a law enforcement convention in Minneapolis just how bad the Tar-

rarrant County sheriff's reputation is.

"At a convention in Minneapolis other officers who heard I was from Tarrant County started making jokes about the sheriff who does coin flips and the sheriff who misquotes himself," Bransom said.

"Leadership is the name of the game."

He said that in his years as a police officer, he has led several units, including special weapons and tactics, and narcotics. He said he has proved his leadership under tough circumstances.

"There were times when I was terrified, but leadership got me through, and I believe I can do it," Bransom said.

Williams said he also has the leadership needed to fix the department's reputation.

"Leadership is a strength I learned as a new recruit in the 1st Cavalry Division's military police," Williams said. "The Sheriff's Department is devoid of any standard operating procedure. As sheriff I will work to develop a standard operating procedure with an aim for accreditation."

Asked about handling personnel matters, Bransom said the Sheriff's Department must stick closely to civil service guidelines, rather than a "spoils system" that he said Carpenter operated under. He also said he likes the idea of using collective bargaining concepts to give officers a say in policy and equipment matters, but he said he would not actively push for such a system.

Williams said he would develop a "career path" for officers to move

up in rank. That way, he said, jailers and deputies would know what was required of them in training, education and experience.

WBAP/820 AM newscaster Joe Holstead moderated the forum, which opened with Republican Williams and Democrat Bransom outlining their qualifications for the county's top law enforcement job.

Williams highlighted his commitment to developing a crime-fighting plan, his experience as a police officer and endorsements by state and local political leaders including Sen. Phil Gramm.

Bransom stressed his current work as River Oaks police chief, and his desire to ensure that criminals do time behind bars rather than getting out through cracks in the legal system.

Officials push county staff to fix kitchen

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — County commissioners fumed yesterday that the Tarrant County Corrections Center's kitchen is a disaster area and chided county staff for not doing enough to fix it since the center opened eight months ago.

Commissioners' tempers flared during a routine report by Sharan Gunn, the county purchasing agent, who announced that a study was being planned to determine how best to repair slippery spots in the kitchen flooring that have led to injury claims.

The officials also expressed outrage that the dishwasher and garbage compactor in the kitchen continue to be unable to handle their load and that \$22,000 in pots and pans were never purchased.

"We've known these things since April," Commissioner Dionne Bagsby said. "I want to know why the staff has not declared these

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Center

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items an emergency and brought them to us so that we could get a floor that works, a dishwasher that works and a garbage disposal that is adequate to handle the load.

"We're asking for real problems if we don't address these problems quickly," she said.

Jack Madera, owner of Mid-States Services Inc., which operates the kitchen under a contract with the county, told commissioners he was having a hard time cooking without the additional pots and pot carriers.

"We're having to put the pots on

the floor when we're not using them," he said. "I've also had seven people make workman's compensation claims because of falls on the slick floor."

County records show that no county employees or jail inmates have been injured in falls attributed to the slick flooring.

Numerous studies involving possible replacement surfaces for the floor have been done since jail meals were first prepared in the kitchen this spring.

During yesterday's debate, Commissioner J.D. Johnson chided the six county departments involved in getting the repairs done — purchasing, the auditor, the sheriff's office, the budget office, the facilities department and the county administrator.

"There were six departments dealing with this problem, yet it never got to this court as an emergency," Johnson said. "Who do we have to go through to get one problem solved around here?"

County Facilities Director Gary Kirby said the floor of the 11,200-square-foot kitchen was installed without a moisture barrier.

"It does not appear such a barrier was called for in the specifications, therefore water circulates up under the concrete slab beneath the floor and into the epoxy finish, turning it ice-slick," he told commissioners yesterday.

"Give me a break!" Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay said, while Bagsby rolled her eyes and threw up her hands.

There was no talk among commissioners yesterday of any legal action regarding the floor problems. Architects Croston and Associates designed the jail.

Gunn said it would cost approximately \$50,000 to fix the floor and \$90,000 to replace the dishwasher and garbage disposal.

"Then let's get on with it," VanRavenswaay said. "We've had enough studies; the floor is too darn slippery and we need to replace it and anything else down there that doesn't work on an emergency basis so that we can get beyond the jail kitchen and go on."

G.K. Maenius, the county administrator, promised that the items will be on next week's budget as emergency repairs.

Groups put weight behind Bransom

BY GRACIE BOND STAPLES
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Democratic sheriff's candidate Dub Bransom won endorsements yesterday from more than half-dozen law enforcement organizations, including their parent group, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas.

"Nobody is slamming David Williams, but it's a question of type of experience and qualifications," said Dwight Tiller, a CLEAT staff representative.

Williams is Bransom's Republican opponent.

Tiller said that CLEAT, which

represents 12,000 law officers statewide, threw its support to Bransom because he is one of them.

"He has 23 years' experience as a law enforcement officer. He was a supervisor in the Fort Worth Police Department before becoming [police] chief at River Oaks, and he has that big-department experience that'll be vital to running the Sheriff's Department."

Bransom said he is gratified by the endorsement. But he said: "I'm not conceding anything. We're full speed ahead."

Other groups endorsing Bransom are the Tarrant County Deputy

Sheriffs' Association, Fort Worth Police Department Association, Arlington Police Association Political Action Committee, Tarrant County Deputy Constables Association, Fort Worth Marshals Association, the Euless Peace Officers Association, Forest Hill Police Association and the Keller Police Association. Tiller said the Hurst Police Association voted to support the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association.

More than 2,000 CLEAT members live in Tarrant County, Tiller said.

Lott makes court appearance in own behalf

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Lott, the capital murder defendant who is acting as his own attorney in the fatal shootings in the Tarrant County Courthouse in July, appeared in court yesterday for a 10-minute hearing to file routine motions for his defense.

Wearing green jail coveralls, the 45-year-old Lott scanned the courtroom as he entered. As he filed his legal documents, he told a court clerk that they were not stapled because he didn't have access to a sta-

pler.

"There's no telling what an inmate might do with a stapler," he said.

A few feet away on the bench, Judge Sharen Wilson said, "Mr. Lott, just file your motions."

Lott's handwritten motions are standard requests by the defense for information about possible witnesses the prosecution may call to testify in the trial.

In one motion Lott also asks for any records that show "any mental illness or irrational conduct" by him that prosecutors may possess.

Lott has been indicted on a capital murder charge and three other charges related to the July 1 shootings in the old county courthouse that killed Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall, 41, and Dallas lawyer John Edwards, 33. Two judges and another lawyer were injured.

Several hours after the shootings, Lott admitted in a television interview that he was the gunman, but he has pleaded not guilty to all the charges in court.

His criminal trial is scheduled Jan. 11.

Commissioners to oppose plan for penal change

By FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County commissioners mapped out a legislative strategy yesterday that is aimed at curbing the increasing cost of criminal justice at the county level.

At a briefing on the upcoming session of the 73rd Legislature, which convenes in January, commissioners unanimously agreed:

■ To oppose legislation that would change the state's penal code to create a felony level to lower the state's prison population. The proposal, expected to be introduced next year, would change some third-degree felonies to fourth-degree felonies. Those convicted, under the lesser crime would serve their time in county jails rather than state prisons.

Commissioners said the proposal would exacerbate current overcrowding at county jails statewide and cost counties millions of dollars more in inmate housing costs.

The state reimburses counties \$20 per inmate per day to house felons awaiting transfer to prison, but no reimbursement would be paid for fourth-degree felons. It costs Tarrant County \$40.11 to

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County

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feed and house each inmate per day, officials said.

"There simply cannot be any penal code reform to save the state the cost of housing criminals," Commissioner Bob Hampton said. "They're saving money by loading them on us."

■ To oppose creation of any county or district courts in Tarrant County.

"We simply cannot afford any new courts right now," Commissioner J.D. Johnson said. "We really couldn't afford the new ones that began hearing cases last year."

In 1990, the Legislature authorized two new criminal district courts and three new county criminal courts that were activated Sept. 1, 1991. County records show that staffing and support for the five new courts costs approximately \$10 million a year.

Steve Chaney, senior staff attorney for the Tarrant County dis-

trict attorney's office, said yesterday that more courts are needed but that the county should probably wait a year before requesting them.

"We have no room for them now," Chaney said. "Commissioners filled the new court center with civil courts so we have no room for any new courts until a new family law center is built to clear us out some room."

Chaney said new courts would reduce the time defendants are held in jail awaiting trial.

"We need five more criminal district courts," Chaney said. "With the eight we now have, the five new courts would mean we could deliver a defendant to trial within 120 days of his arrest. Now, its more like 9 [to] 10 months."

The commissioners instructed Chris Gavras, their legislative coordinator, to work closely with other metropolitan counties to oppose the creation of a fourth-degree felony level.

Graves was also called upon to ensure that the Legislature stands by its promise to reimburse counties for costs of holding felons when

the state prison system is overcrowded.

Eight counties, including Tarrant, sued the state last year for the cost of feeding and housing sentenced inmates who were ready for transfer to state facilities. The backlog was costing Tarrant County about \$60 million a year and was creating jail overcrowding.

To settle the suit, the Legislature passed House Bill 93, under which the state agreed to reimburse the counties on a sliding scale.

But the payment system is costing the state much more money than it was expecting. Tarrant County's share will be \$8.4 million next year, Gavras said.

"We must remain vigilant to protect HB 93. While the Legislature said it is committed to funding this bill for '93-'94, we need to watch it very closely because they will be looking at ways to cut these costs," he said

The \$8.4 million anticipated for Tarrant County will cover only a portion of the county's costs for housing sentenced inmates, Hampton said.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1992

Candidates for sheriff exchange views politely

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The two men running for sheriff yesterday exchanged powder puffs instead of brickbats at a well-mannered debate before the Tarrant County Law Enforcement Executives Association.

Republican David Williams, a Haltom City police detective, mildly criticized his opponent, Democrat Dub Bransom, as being a "labor radical" who supports collective bargaining to win endorsements from 12 police associations in Tarrant County.

Bransom, the River Oaks police chief, countered, saying Williams "is a fine young man but his programs for the sheriff's office are shortsighted."

Those were the only personal barbs during the hourlong appearance before the senior police executives from the county's 37 municipalities. Fort Worth Police Chief

Thomas Windham chaired the forum, which was held at the Fort Worth Police and Fire Training Center.

"It is imperative you have a sheriff who is not a labor radical or believes in collective bargaining, and my opponent has said time and again he is a labor radical and supports collective bargaining," Williams said.

Bransom said that he made the statements in an appearance before the Tarrant County Labor Council during his campaign for the March Democratic primary and that he stands behind them.

"I meant what I said," he said. "I support the concept of collective bargaining because it is a form of dispute resolution, but that doesn't mean I support any form of labor action on the part of police officers, whether it is a ticket blitz, a 'blue flu' sickout or strike."

The group gave 12 questions to

both candidates, who submitted written answers. They were asked the three most pressing problems facing the Sheriff's Department and what they saw as the primary role of the sheriff in a modern urban county.

Responding to other questions from the police officers, both candidates said that they would pick up prisoners from suburban jails and that they would arrest anti-abortion demonstrators staging a mass protest.

Bransom hammered on the role of the sheriff as the county's chief jailer and as a force for cooperation between the other municipal police agencies. He urged alternatives to jailing offenders, such as county work farms and boot camps, to handle overcrowding. And he stressed the need for establishing fair employment and promotion standards.

Williams said the sheriff's role is both an administrator and a law officer. He continued his push for establishing a violent offender monitoring program, a helicopter unit and a K-9 drug-dog unit at the county level. He told the group that many of his programs could be paid for through donations from private corporations or from various state and federal grants.

He also advocated housing jail inmates in tents to relieve jail overcrowding.

Windham said he believed that the session was important, but that he would not recommend that the group endorse either candidate.

"I'm certainly not going to suggest that the group endorse either man," he said. "I do not intend to endorse one or the other because I believe the decision about who should be the sheriff of Tarrant County should be left in the hands of the Tarrant County voters."

Sheriff's staff backs plan for civil service

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County sheriff's employees — from secretaries to chief deputies — voted overwhelmingly yesterday to go under their own civil service program, ending what one officer described as "arbitrary promotions, hirings and firings."

According to Robert Parten, the county's elections administrator, the unofficial vote totals were 874 for and 21 against establishing the new system.

There are 1,100 employees in the department eligible to vote on the issue. The turnout of 894 employees pleased Lt. Mack West, president of the 18-month-old Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association, which supported the move.

"I am very, very pleased at the turnout, and the result," he said.

Still to be decided is when the new system will be put in place. There is

(More on VOTE on Page 18)

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Friday, October 2, 1992

Vote

From Page 17

no statutory time frame for its institution after it is authorized.

"We expect it will be in place pretty soon," West said.

The vote also solved a legal problem on whether commissioned deputies are covered under the existing county civil service system, established by the voters in 1988.

Although the Sheriff's Department has been under the system, Ann Diamond, the department's legal adviser, said the wording of the law left in question whether the system covered the department's certified law enforcement officers.

Yesterday's election took advantage of a section of the state law that authorizes a civil service system solely for sheriff's departments in counties with a population of 500,000 or more, she said.

The vote will ensure that civilian and commissioned sheriff's employees are now under a civil service umbrella, she said.

The new system establishes a three-member commission that will draw up and oversee rules and procedures governing hiring, firing, promotions, competitive examinations and grievances within the Sheriff's Department.

It also has a political perk built into it for the sheriff — an exemption clause that gives the sheriff the right to appoint a chief deputy, four major deputies and five others of lesser rank, according to Gerald Wright, the county's personnel director.

"He can fire them at his will because they are exempt from the new civil service protection," Wright said. "Under the county system, he had no such appointments and he had to hire and fire within the bounds of that system."

But even with the exemptions, the new system will be a change for the better, the deputies' association said.

"This will mean that you can't be fired because the sheriff doesn't like the way you wear your mustache or promoted by flipping a coin," West said as the votes were being tallied last night.

Earlier this year, Sheriff Don Carpenter used the coin-flip method to decide between two officers up for the same job. In an interview, he said the method was "the only fair way" to choose between two men who he said "had exactly the same qualifications."

West said yesterday's vote ensures an end to such actions.

"Tonight's victory institutes an era in the Tarrant County sheriff's office when personnel rules are to be followed all the time, not just when it is politically convenient," he said.

Carpenter has been on paid voluntary leave since February after a grand jury indicted him on felony charges of giving as gifts guns taken from his property room. In June, another grand jury indicted him for perjury, saying that he lied to the original grand jury.

Carpenter lost his bid for a third term in the May primary. The winner of the November battle between Republican David Williams and Democrat Dub Bransom will become the county's new sheriff in January.

Williams said he is comfortable with the new civil service system because it allows the sheriff to appoint one of the three civil service commissioners that would oversee the system and to name the commission chairman.

Bransom was out of town on vacation and could not be reached for comment, but he has previously said that he supported the deputies' decision to call for the election.



Cheers & Jeers



Jeers: To the anonymous caller to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department who told a dispatcher that he had noted that the department did not have any cars in the funeral procession of Fort Worth Officer Brent Wisdom. He should get his facts straight before insulting us. The sheriff's department honor guard — eight uniformed officers driving two marked cars — went directly to the cemetery where they performed a 21-gun salute at the graveside rites. Two other marked cars — assigned to traffic control, and numerous other sheriff's deputies attended in uniform in their private cars.

**Lt. Dan Cauble, Patrol Division
Tarrant County Sheriff's Department**

Otwell and 24 others arrested in protest at Little Rock church

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Rev. W.N. Otwell was again arrested, along with 24 others, while demanding Gov. Bill Clinton's ouster from a Little Rock congregation yesterday, police said in Little Rock, Ark.

Most, like the former Tarrant County preacher, were detained on criminal trespass charges. One person was held on a charge of disorderly conduct, and another was

charged with failure to submit to arrest. At least two were charged with failure to appear in court on charges stemming from the last protest in September.

Otwell, who moved his ministry from Tarrant County to Mount Enterprise, in the Piney Woods near Nacogdoches last year, spent nine days in jail last month after being arrested outside Immanuel Baptist Church in the Arkansas capital.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1992

Sheriff's trial on charge of theft delayed

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Sheriff Don Carpenter's trial on charges of theft by a public servant has been rescheduled for Nov. 2 so defense attorneys have time to review new information provided by prosecutors yesterday.

The trial, which had been scheduled to begin next week, involves charges that Carpenter gave County Commissioner J.D. Johnson a gun that apparently had been confiscated by sheriff's deputies and placed in the property room.

Judge Bill Burdock granted the two-week delay during a brief hearing yesterday.

During the hearing, special prosecutor Galen Sumrow said Carpenter, 61, will be tried on a theft by a public servant charge, a third-degree felony that, on conviction, carries a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

He was indicted May 14 on that and a perjury charge stemmed from his testimony to a grand jury in October 1991. In January, he was indicted on six other charges.

However, Sumrow said that he will prosecute only the theft charge now. The other charges remain pending.

Carpenter declined to comment on the outcome of the hearing.

Before the short hearing, lawyers met behind closed doors for an hour, and Carpenter waited in the courtroom. Sitting alone on the front row, he was occasionally approached by lawyers and friends who shook his hand and wished him well.

The lawyers would not talk about what was discussed in the judge's chambers, but Carpenter's attorneys did say that a plea bargain

Section A, Page 22 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Wednesday, October 14, 1992

Trial

From Page 19

had been discussed before the meeting.

"In every case, you explore it," said Carpenter's attorney, Joe Brent Johnson. "But the bottom line is Sheriff Carpenter refuses to plead to anything because he believes he has done nothing wrong."

Carpenter's attorneys said they asked for the delay because they saw some documents for the first time yesterday.

"The bottom line is he [Sumrow] hasn't been forthcoming on the last two indictments," said defense lawyer Joe Brent Johnson. "Basically we received some information today, which triggers our need to do our own investigation."

Defense lawyers plan to examine the documents as well as the weapon Carpenter is alleged to have given to the county commissioner.

Sumrow said the trial will not be complex.

"A jury will have to decide whether he gave away this gun or not: It's that simple," Sumrow said.

When he agreed to put the trial on hold for two weeks, Burdock told

lawyers that he will not allow any other legal maneuvers that would prolong the case.

"This trial date is set in cement," he said.

In an interview for a Dec. 5 *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* article, Carpenter said he believed he had given J.D. Johnson a gun early in his first term. J.D. Johnson told the newspaper that he had already given the .38-caliber gun to Texas Rangers investigators. The county commissioner later testified before the grand jury.

Sumrow said he expects J.D. Johnson to testify in the upcoming trial. J.D. Johnson has declined to discuss the incident since appearing before the grand jury.

Carpenter's trial was scheduled for June, but Sumrow was injured in a car wreck. Sumrow said his health has improved enough to allow him to go forward with the trial.

In the March Republican primary, Carpenter, who is in his second term, finished fifth in a seven-man race. Carpenter has been on paid leave since being indicted in January.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Nov. 2, but Burdock said he will not conduct court on Nov. 3, Election Day, because it would be inappropriate.

Tarrant agencies to link up with fingerprint ID system

By FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Ask David Elliott Gribble about the efficiency of the automated fingerprint identification system called AFIS.

It cost him his freedom for two lifetimes plus 36 years.

Gribble, the "poolside rapist," was found guilty of raping 28 women in Dallas and Tarrant counties between 1988 and 1991 after Irving police found a fingerprint at a poolside rape scene.

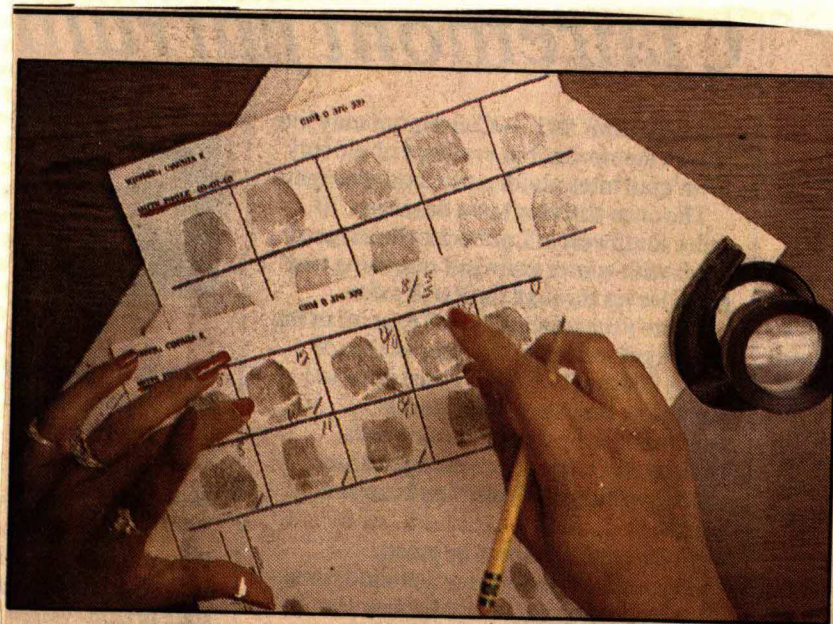
They took it to Dallas, where a computer compared it with the 375,000 other fingerprints in its

data bank and, in a matter of minutes, fingered Gribble, according to Lt. John Denk, the Dallas AFIS expert.

Last year, a Dallas jury sentenced Gribble to two life terms. A Tarrant County panel added 36 more years to his sentence.

The same Dallas AFIS system that helped put Gribble behind bars is the basis for the regional fingerprint system now in the works that supporters say will help Tarrant County turn the corner on its soaring crime rate.

Tarrant County commissioners
(More on PROGRAM on Page 22)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

An automated fingerprint identification system can eliminate time-consuming labor for law enforcement workers.

are within weeks of signing a \$1.7 million interlocal governmental contract with the city of Dallas to link the Sheriff's Department with the Dallas AFIS.

In addition, Fort Worth, Arlington, North Richland Hills, Hurst and Euless each will execute similar agreements with Dallas, creating, in effect, a regional AFIS network that will mean bad news for criminals, according to Denk.

"We have just identified our 4,000th crime-scene fingerprint since we installed AFIS in 1989," Denk said late last week. "Before AFIS, we averaged 35 such identifications a month. With AFIS, we're identifying an average of 120 a month, and that's a 270 percent increase. We can hardly wait to have the Tarrant County folks come aboard."

Bob Hampton, Pct. 3 commissioner, has spent two years working with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Dallas officials

and Tarrant County agencies, assembling the regional system built around the Dallas AFIS.

The regional system should be up and running by next October, he said.

"This is one of the best regional cooperative ventures we have to point to," Hampton said. "It will be a hallmark for future regional endeavors."

Under the plan, Tarrant County would issue \$1.71 million in certificates of obligation to buy computer terminals for the Sheriff's Department as well as a larger central processing unit, software and digital optical storage equipment to upgrade and enlarge the existing Dallas system.

In return, the county and Fort Worth could dump 175,000 fingerprint cards, each with 10 prints, into the Dallas AFIS data bank and could then use the system to search for and compare print cards and latent prints. And through the Dallas AFIS, the Tarrant County cities would have access to the 2-million-plus fingerprints in the state's AFIS as well.

Fort Worth's first-year cost to join AFIS will be about \$123,000,

according to Sgt. Lee Robertson, who has been working with Dallas on the program. The city's costs will drop to about \$100,000 a year after the first year.

"We will use seized drug money to pay those costs," Robertson said.

The Tarrant County Crime Commission has raised the \$218,750 necessary to convert the county's 175,000 fingerprint cards to digital impulses in the AFIS system.

AFIS is the marriage of digital computers with the 130-year-old system of using fingerprints to identify people.

"Using the old manual method of comparing [fingerprint] cards, we could confirm the identity of a prisoner in our custody in 10 to 15 minutes," Denk said. "AFIS can do it in less than five minutes."

Even more important, he said, is comparing a single print, called a "latent" print, at a crime scene with the 375,000 prints on file in the AFIS system.

"You simply could not do that by hand," Denk said. "Unless you had a suspect the latent might fit, you simply could not take the years it would take to compare it with each of the cards in the files."

"With AFIS, you can scan the 30 years of fingerprints we have on file in it in 15 minutes and get a print-out of possible suspects the print might belong to at the end of that time."

Veteran identification experts such as Fort Worth's Lloyd Courtney can hardly wait for AFIS to begin humming.

"It is without doubt the greatest working tool for police departments since the beginning of time," Courtney said last week.

Courtney, a civilian in Fort Worth's police identification department, understands firsthand the thrill of using a crime-scene print to nab a suspect or identify a missing person.

He manually linked a latent print off a pistol to Henry Martinez Porter, helping convict him in the December 1975 shooting death of Fort Worth police officer Henry Paul Mailloux.

Porter was convicted of capital murder and was executed in July 1984.

"When you make a rap [identification] on a fingerprint, you feel like you've really done your job," Courtney said.

Thousands of colleagues and friends attend the funeral of Arlington rookie Terry Lewis, who died in a traffic accident.

By ELLEN O'BRIEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON — The rookie officer held her arm in a stiff salute and kept a determined stare, though her jaw quivered. Nearby, Police Chief David Kunkle kept his eyes on the silver-gray coffin that glistened in the midday sun.

And behind the chief, rows of men and women dressed in blue stood close, as if drawing strength from one another, and bade farewell to officer Terry Lewis outside First United Methodist Church yesterday.

Lewis, a 35-year-old rookie police officer, and Jerry Crocker, a volunteer reserve officer, were killed Friday night when a flatbed truck struck their squad car. The driver of the truck remained in jail last night on drunken driving-related charges of involuntary manslaughter.

Friends said Lewis died and was buried in a uniform he loved.

"If there was ever a human being who passed the test before it had ever started, it was Terry,"

police chaplain Harold Elliott told thousands at the church. "For he was already known, his character had been established. We knew Terry, and we knew him well."

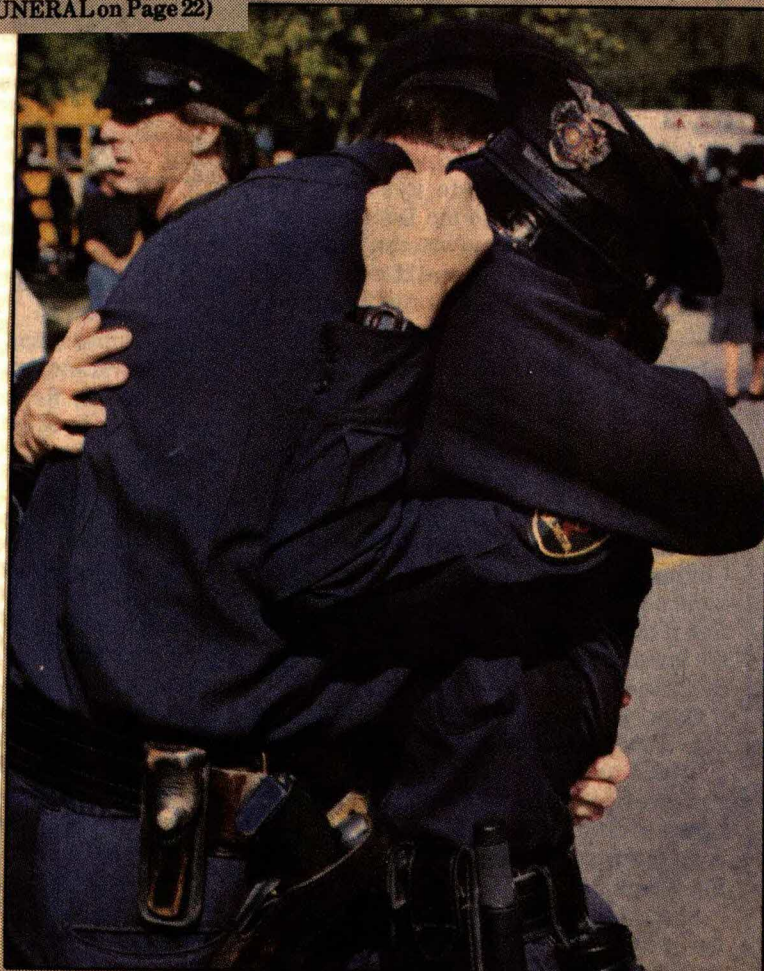
Before joining the Police Department in June 1991, Lewis repaired and maintained typewriters and computers for the city of Arlington, getting to know many officers.

Those who knew Lewis said they felt his presence inside the church because of a laugh shared during the hourlong tribute.

"Who could ever forget the great wit of Terry Lewis?" Elliott asked during the eulogy. "I don't think I ever spoke to the Optimists Club, where he held membership . . . without him interrupting me."

The remark prompted smiles and a few chuckles from people with tears in their eyes.

But the entire congregation, filled with police officers from 30 departments across Texas, city officials, relatives, neighbors and
(More on FUNERAL on Page 22)



Don Pilcher and P.J. Brock, who graduated from police academy with Terry Lewis, comfort each other.

An officer's farewell



Arlington police officers carry the casket of officer Terry Lewis. Officers from 30 departments attended the funeral.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / BRUCE MAXWELL

Funeral

From Page 19

friends, seemed to cry together when the chaplain spoke about an anonymous poem.

The rhyme was posted by the elevator inside police headquarters, Elliott said. "Two of my brothers left me last night. I didn't get to say goodbye. I can only stand and cry. . . ."

More than 3,000 people attended the memorial service and the burial at Moore Memorial Gardens.

Lewis had a unique capacity to make strangers feel like friends, rookie officer Donnie Glenn said.

"He touched me in a special way," Glenn said. "I'm the type of person who doesn't show emotion too well. And he'd come around, trying to find out what was wrong. He knew my nickname — Duck.

"I can hear him: 'What's wrong, Duck, come on, what's the matter?'" said Glenn, laughing at

the memory. "Even right now, even after what we saw, I don't believe that he's deceased."

Lewis, father of three daughters, was remembered for the pride he displayed in his American Indian heritage and the devotion he showed as a member of St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Arlington.

A funeral procession, led by squad cars and police motorcycles, held up noontime traffic for at least 45 minutes as it stretched more than two miles between the church and

Moore Memorial Gardens on Randolph Mill Road.

Following traditional military burials, a 21-gun salute was fired, and a trumpet version of taps was played.

An honor guard handed an American flag, folded in ceremony, to Lewis' widow, Kris, whose daughter Becky, 14, sat on her lap. Mother and daughter clung to one another, the flag pressed between them. Two younger daughters — Anne, 12, and Nina, 9 — hugged stuffed bears and quietly cried.

THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

20 October 1992

Arlington, Tarrant officials are urged to 'Adopt-a-Cop'

BY CHRISTOPHER AVE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON — A City Council member and a candidate for Tarrant County sheriff agree that local politicians need a better taste of how the war on crime is fought.

Councilman Dixon R. Holman and Republican sheriff's candidate David Williams called yesterday for council members and county commissioners to accompany Arlington police and sheriff's deputies for one shift at least four times a year.

Doing so should allow officials "to become more familiar with the problems and daily activities" of their law enforcement officers, Holman said.

Holman had previously asked the council to endorse the program,

which he calls "Adopt-a-Cop," but council members said they feared that it might interfere with the Police Department.

Mayor Richard Greene said yesterday that he is still concerned about interfering with officers.

"I think we all are interested in what the police chief believes is appropriate in this area," he said.

Holman and Councilman Joe Ewen announced their endorsement of Williams, a Republican.

Williams' Democratic opponent, D.W. "Dub" Bransom, said that having elected officials ride with officers is an old idea.

"He's calling that a revelation?" Bransom asked. "We've had that kind of system going for many years."

VOTE

SHERIFF

DUB BRANSOM

DEM

- Use 20 yrs. experience as a police officer and administrator to professionalize the Sheriff's department and establish fair employment practices.
- Cooperate with all the county's law enforcement agencies to strengthen and stretch our tax dollars.
- Stop revolving door justice and get the hard-core criminals off the streets.

DAVID WILLIAMS

REP

- Create a violent repeat-offenders' unit to monitor the activities of serious felons on parole.
- Create a gang intelligence unit to combat 222 active gangs in Tarrant county.
- Aggressively pursue public and private grants for law enforcement programs.

Editorials/Opinions

Amon Carter, Founder-Publisher, 1906-1955 Amon Carter Jr., Publisher, 1955-1982

Saturday, October 10, 1992

Sheriff

The office requires experience

One of the fastest-growing departments in county government is the sheriff's office. There is an obvious reason for this. Crime is rampant. That means more criminals are being apprehended, so the county jail population keeps going up. That means jail costs are skyrocketing. The sheriff is in charge of jail operations, and the sheriff has other responsibilities. So the sheriff's budget keeps increasing.

Much of the time that this has been happening, the sheriff's office has been in disarray because of the ineffectual leadership of the incumbent sheriff, who has stepped aside pending outcome of indictments against him. In recent months, the office has run smoothly under an acting administrator.

Because of the importance of the office to the overall criminal justice effort required here and because of the need to return the office to stable, more permanent guidance, it is essential that one of proven ability be elected sheriff. The clear choice is Democrat Dub Bransom.

He has been a big-city patrolman. He has been suburban police chief. He has



been an administrator. He has experience with budgets — both in the public sector as a police chief and in the private sector as a small business owner.

Bransom also has the ability to effectively work with others, to listen and to learn from that, to persuade and to guide. This will be especially useful in communicating with Commissioners Court, as the sheriff must do, and in providing leadership and guidance in encouraging various law-enforcement agencies to cooperatively strengthen the area crime fight.

From many standpoints, Bransom is prepared for this assignment and, obviously, the office is in need of his talents, abilities and experience. It's a demanding job, Bransom measures up to it and voters should hire him to do it.



A down-home outlook and labor questions

BY THOMAS KOROSEK
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

RIVER OAKS — Dusty's Coffee Shop, a down-home corner cafe that buzzes at breakfast, seems a good fit for River Oaks Police Chief D.W. "Dub" Bransom.

The 55-year-old chief prefers Dusty's eggs-and-bacon ambiance to the more formal station house for meeting with the citizenry and taking on the testy little rows that come up in a town of 6,900: code-violation battles, traffic tangles at the school drop-off zone and the like.

"I've been around this awhile now," said Bransom, chief of the
(More on BRANSOM on Page 9)



Dub Bransom

northwest Tarrant County suburb for nearly three years. "You learn you have to get people where they're comfortable."

Bransom's main concern at the moment is getting voters comfortable with the idea of electing a Democrat — him — as Tarrant County sheriff.

It became a race without an incumbent in March when Sheriff Don Carpenter, an embattled two-term, lost the Republican primary. The colorful Carpenter — a tobacco-chewing lawman who occasionally flipped a coin to award promotions — has been on leave since February. A grand jury indicted him that month on felony charges, accusing him of giving away guns from his property room as gifts.

Although voters have favored Republicans for countywide offices in the past eight years, strategists in both parties say the long GOP coat-tails evident in 1984 and 1988 probably won't be a factor come Nov. 3.

"Besides a closer race at the top of the ticket, I feel I have a better shot with Ross Perot in there. People will be picking and choosing down the line instead of voting a straight ticket," Bransom said during a peripatetic interview that began at Dusty's, took to the road with a tour of the town, continued at the police station and ended back at the cafe.

In the Democratic primary and through the thus-far-tame fall debate, Bransom has been running as the man with the most experience in local law enforcement: 17 years with the Fort Worth Police Department, past president of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association.

A similar pitch four years ago was not enough to lift Bransom past Jim Hunter, a federal agent and private investigator who won that year's Democratic primary. Hunter went on to lose the general election, later switching parties, losing the GOP sheriff's nomination this year and endorsing Bransom.

As he looks toward Election Day,

Bransom has \$34,000 in campaign contributions on his latest campaign finance report, raised from a wide range of sources. He also has the endorsement of the recently formed Tarrant County Deputy Sheriff's Association and eight other police groups around the county. His opponent, David Williams, a Haltom City police detective, calls them "the police unions."

If anything has put Bransom on the defensive during the fall campaign, it has been questions from Williams' camp and others about whether a true-blue laborite like himself can bring tough-minded management principles to the Sheriff's Department.

Raising an issue that seems of more concern inside law enforcement circles than with the general public, some also question whether Bransom's wide array of friends in local law enforcement will be tapped in a display of good-ol'-boyism.

Said one critic high in local law enforcement: "Bransom's been around a long time; he has a lot of friends from the old days. People sort of expect he'll bring in his own organization."

Responds Bransom: "The taxpayers shouldn't be concerned about having me identified so closely with labor, rank-and-file officers. I was supervisor for 14 years and I fired six officers. I justified them [the firings] to the civil service board."

He continued: "I've been chief going on three years and I've taken care of my people. If they are wrong, you discipline them. I've had to fire three officers since I've been here. Morale, though, that's the cornerstone of efficiency, and you get it by treating people fairly and impartially."

A police association activist, Bransom fought hard for a losing 1977 referendum that would have brought collective bargaining to Fort Worth police and firefighters. He said he still believes strongly in the concept of collective bargaining.

"Everybody has to work for somebody," he said. "You may put a Bush sign in front of your house and have people think you're rich, but chances are you work for somebody. I don't advocate strikes or

labor actions of any sort, but everybody wants to be treated fairly. Labor gave us two weeks' vacation and the 40-hour workweek."

Regarding the allegation that he will bring in his own cadres if he wins the \$74,000-a-year post, Bransom said he advocates installing a merit system that will bring order to hiring, firing and promotions.

Whether exploring such issues at the wheel of his Dodge Ram truck or pitching his candidacy at an evening forum of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Fort Worth, Bransom talks confidently and quickly, at times reaching exceptional speeds.

"People have been kidding about me having machine-gun breath," Bransom said, chuckling at the mention of it.

"I do have a machine-gun style of delivery. I guess I feel I better say it and say it quick. If I don't I'll blow my whole deal."

Growing up in a family of nine might have had something to do with it, he said.

A Fort Worth native, Bransom was born in 1937 and grew up in "a little shotgun house with outhouse out back" in Polytechnic Heights. The family income was provided by a floor-refinishing business his father began the year Bransom was born. That business has remained a Bransom family mainstay to this day.

In 1955, Bransom graduated from Polytechnic High School and went to work for Lone Star Gas Co. on an installation and repair crew. "I learned problem-solving on the back of a gas company truck," he said. He spoke about his life during an interview in his River Oaks office, a place crowded with Indian statues, old photos and a collection of toy police cars.

A medium-sized man who wears a five o'clock shadow at 11 a.m., Bransom readily shows off the gangland-era Thompson submachine gun he keeps in his office closet.

Framed by his mementos, he recalled how his gas company job required him to report to the scene of explosions, fires and other mishaps, places where he'd run into high school buddies who had become firemen or policemen.

Their war stories — and wages —

intrigued him. He was making \$235 a month and police officers were making at least \$425, he remembers.

Bransom took the civil service test in 1960 and passed, but a more immediate barrier lay between him and a law-enforcement career.

"In those days they wouldn't hire you if your wife was against it, and my wife was totally against it," said Bransom of his wife, Shirley, whom he married in 1957.

After "a lot of lobbying," his wife finally assented, and Bransom joined the Fort Worth force in 1966.

He recalled starting on patrol in north Fort Worth when "cowboys came to Exchange Avenue mainly to drink and fight."

By 1968, Bransom was working vice. A year later, making sergeant, he became one of the city's first undercover narcotics officers — replete with beads, an earring and shoulder-length hair.

"It was tough, just the sheer amount of time and effort that went into an undercover deal," he said. There also were threats to his family, the "complete trashing" of his house and ribbings at school for his three children: two sons and a daughter, all born in the '60s.

In 1972 he earned a two-year associate's degree at Tarrant County Junior College. In 1974 he returned to patrol, moved up to a special enforcement burglary squad and got into what he termed "my first problem with administration."

As he recalled: "A couple of guys got in trouble; it was a fight, an off-duty thing, and a deputy chief thought they should be fired. I disagreed."

Bransom said that as punishment, his name was taken off a list of sergeants vying for promotion to lieutenant, and he was put back on patrol.

A few years later, he was bucking the administration again.

In 1977, he said, his activities with the increasingly formidable Fort Worth police association led to a transfer to an unenviable post: a rehabilitation center for alcoholic street people near Lake Worth. It was commonly called the Goat Farm, in honor of the herd of goats kept around to trim the grass.

"It probably would have broken a

lot of people, but Dub, he was kind of free-spirited. He's certainly his own person," said Fort Worth police Sgt. Larry Barksdale, who in the late '70s was the police association's secretary.

During a yearlong tour at the center, Bransom said, he tried to "turn things upside down" and make the assignment a matter of pride. He refurbished the facilities and printed up Goat Farm T-shirts.

During that time, he was elected the officers association president. He fought vigorously, but not always successfully, for higher pay, work rules changes and better equipment in a period when the rank and file considered itself to be "at war" with then-Fort Worth Police Chief A.J. Brown.

In 1983, after stints on a downtown foot patrol unit, the east Fort Worth patrol division and the city retirement board, Bransom left the department and went to work full

Bransom

time in the family business.

Six years later — and a year after his 1988 bid for the sheriff's badge — River Oaks officials appointed him chief of their 16-officer Police Department.

In that job, Bransom said, he has installed a personnel and management system closer to that of a big-city department.

"The department's costing us more money now but we're very satisfied with him; if we weren't, he wouldn't have the job," said River Oaks Mayor J.T. Cockerham, who said his partisan sympathies lie with the GOP.

Cockerham and the River Oaks council set the budget. But Bransom's proposals, such as higher pay for officers with advanced training, have helped raise the police outlays 25 percent in the past two years — to \$640,000 in the current budget year.

A squeaky-clean image and puppet allegations



David Williams

BY THOMAS KOROSEC
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — For a guy practicing door-to-door “retail politics,” it was something akin to a half-price sale.

Prospective jurors — registered voters all — were queuing in long, lumbering lines outside Tarrant County Justice Center, waiting to pass through tight security

screening.

“Hi, I’m David Williams, Republican for sheriff,” the tall, fresh-faced candidate said, handing his brochure to member after member of the captive early-morning audience.

(More on WILLIAMS on Page 8)

From time to time, Williams explained the delay to would-be jurors — as courteous and helpful as the former Boy Scout he is.

With that kind of well-aimed, full-time campaigning and an election organization so effective that it has been the subject of questions, Williams has come a long way for a politically unknown Haltom City detective in charge of community relations and anti-drug education.

The 38-year-old first-time candidate emerged from a field of seven in the Republican primary last spring. That contest ended incumbent Don Carpenter’s hope of adding to his eight years at the head of the 1,100-employee, \$44 million-a-year Sheriff’s Department.

Looking toward the Nov. 3 election, Williams has the nominal advantage of running with the party that has dominated local Tarrant County races for eight years.

It has been five months since Williams’ April runoff victory over three-time sheriff’s candidate Jim Hunter. In that time, Williams has picked up a potent list of GOP supporters, from Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, and Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, to local businesspeople and long-time party activists.

Despite the big-name GOP backing, Williams’ campaign has been dogged by questions first raised in the bitter last weeks of the runoff. Taken as a whole, they amount to: “Is he his own man?”

“All I see is a neophyte being led around,” said Joe Cameron, a GOP stalwart, insurance agent and leader of a local taxpayer’s group.

At campaign forums and functions, and in media interviews, Williams’ campaign manager, Tom Wilder, is a constant presence — elaborating on the candidate’s words, cutting in on his conversations, even finishing his sentences.

During a recent meeting before the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* editorial board, for instance, one questioner asked whether he was watching Wilder playing ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, with Williams sitting in as the dummy Charlie McCarthy.

Wilder the manager, not Williams the candidate, fielded that question and ran with it for more than three minutes before Williams cut in with a few words of his own.

“Tom does the politics and he does them pretty well,” Williams said of his campaign manager, a longtime Republican organizer, former Commissioner’s Court candidate and commercial real estate agent.

“I came into this knowing very little about politics but a good deal about law enforcement,” Williams told the group. “The thing is, a manager gets things done through other people.”

Wilder added later: “David is obviously a different personality; he is contemplative, I am somewhat more aggressive. I guess we get that reputation because of the difference in our personalities.”

Williams has also been answering questions about the source of his campaign funding. His election finance reports through July show that roughly \$44,000 of the \$73,000 he spent in the primary and runoff came from a single source: Ed Max, a Fort Worth dealer in rebuilt auto parts, or Max’s family.

The latest report, through Sept. 24, shows the Max family contributing about \$2,000 of the roughly \$20,400 that Williams has raised for the fall campaign.

Max is also Williams’ campaign chairman. Williams’ headquarters is in the mezzanine of a north Fort Worth auto parts store that Max owns, and Max has pledged to help underwrite the \$20,000 cost of a canine narcotics-patrol unit that Williams has been promoting on the stump.

“Anybody who allows himself to be financed in that great degree can most definitely be influenced,” said Hunter, Williams’ runoff foe, in a recent interview. Hunter said he supports Williams’ Democratic opponent, River Oaks Police Chief Dub Bransom.

Max, talking last week at his spacious Eagle Mountain Lake home, stated emphatically, “We don’t want to dictate anything to anyone.”

The 65-year-old businessman continued: “We’re not hunting any way of doing business with the county; we never have and we don’t intend to start now. Our total attraction to this is that we want to see Tarrant County with good and sufficient law enforcement.”

Said Williams: “I am going to be the sheriff of all the people. All people are going to get my attention, not just a select few.”

In public, Williams is clearly at his best when working variations of his standard stump speech. Talking off the cuff, as in a recent interview in his map-covered campaign office, he is sometimes a halting con-

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versationalist. Talking about his life and career, he often pauses, holds his head in his hands and closes his eyes as he searches for the memories.

Born in the college town of Norman, Okla., the son of a car salesman/service station owner and a homemaker, Williams comes from what he calls "conservative family origins."

While anti-war protests swirled around his hometown in the late '60s and early '70s, he took after his conservative parents and grandparents and did legwork in high school for the GOP.

Because of family financial strains, he said, he dropped out before his senior year and went to work at his father's gas station. In another year, at age 18, he enlisted in the Army and served four years in the military police.

"I wouldn't trade the experience for anything," he said. "It provided a good alternative, plus the opportunity to learn law enforcement with one of the biggest police forces in the world."

After his Army service, Williams earned his high school equivalency diploma in 1977. He went to work that year as the sole member of the Police Department in Washington, Okla., population 500. After three months of patrolling the school zones and answering calls that rang through to his house, he moved to the 12-member force in nearby Purcell, Okla., where he stayed two years.

In Purcell, Williams met Ruth Seiter on a blind date and they married that year. After a short stint at another small police department, this time in Perry, Okla., the couple moved to Fort Worth in 1980 so Williams could begin criminal justice classes at Dallas Baptist University. He said he chose the school for its program and religious grounding.

During the next six years, going to school on and off, he earned 51 credits.

Williams also went to work in 1980 as chief of security and administrative services at the conservative Kenneth Copeland Ministries, where his wife also worked until the birth of their first child. Ruth Williams now schools their three children at home in Watauga.

During his five years at Copeland, Williams recalled, he managed a staff of 16 involved in security and such things as keeping the church buses rolling and the switchboard staffed.

"I enhanced my managerial skills but I missed police work," he said. "I missed the directness of it."

Following through on that impulse, Williams in 1986 took a pay cut — from \$30,000 a year to \$20,000 — and went to work for the Haltom City Police Department. After more than a year on patrol, a job that "didn't give you any problems staying awake if you were on the night shift," he was put in charge of revitalizing neighborhood crime watches.

"There was a lot of apathy and David helped turn that around," said Haltom City Police Chief Tom Cowan, who has been with the department since 1987.

In the years since then, Williams has been a DARE anti-drug education officer, a background investigator, personnel officer, police chaplain and director of a DARE program covering five Northeast Tarrant cities and three school systems.

Williams, who has been on unpaid leave since January and campaigning full-time, holds the rank of detective and director of police community services. He has been paying his bills, he said, with money saved from an inheritance and oil and gas consulting work.

As a lawman involved in several community organizations — the Northeast Richland Lions Club, the Tarrant County Gang Task Force — Williams began making political contacts. By 1990, he was being approached by Republican Party stalwarts for a run for sheriff, according to Williams and several friends and party activists.

"I saw the incumbent had some vulnerabilities and the people I saw on the horizon were the perennial candidates, the good 'ol boys," Williams said.

In the primary and runoff, the campaign gravitated toward issues such as abortion and the hiring of homosexuals. Williams opposes abortion and hiring openly gay deputies.

Although the candidate and his manager said they campaigned in the primary on law enforcement issues, not Religious Right litmus tests, Wilder acknowledged that the campaign worked hard to get out the church vote.

Williams has attended the independent, evangelical Living Word Center in Haltom City since 1984. He is an active and devout Christian but hardly the "religious zealot" or "Christian nut" that his opponents try to portray, Wilder said.

"He didn't know who the Religious Right was until I brought him to some of these people," said Wilder, referring to Williams' introduc-

Williams

tion to the Hurst Pro-Family Republican Organization, which Williams joined.

To downplay the subject of religion in this fall's campaign, Williams' literature makes no mention

of Kenneth Copeland Ministries, referring to it only as "an international corporation."

The decision to do so, Wilder said, was his.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

Tarrant deputy wounds man as pair scuffle at home

By KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County deputy sheriff today shot a man as the two scuffled inside the garage of the deputy's south Fort Worth home, police said.

The injured man, James Anderson Jr., 24, of Fort Worth, was listed in stable condition at John Peter

Smith Hospital with a gunshot wound to the lower left abdomen, said Fort Worth police spokesman Lt. Ralph Swearingin.

Swearingin would not release the name of the 42-year-old deputy, who was taken to police headquarters downtown for questioning after the 9:30 a.m. shooting.

(More on DEPUTY on Page 26)

Deputy

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The deputy had not been arrested and it was unknown whether he would be, Swearingin said.

Apparently, the deputy returned to his home, in the 4800 block of Richards Terrace, about 9:30 a.m. today and found Anderson inside his home, Swearingin said.

"He is escorting [Anderson] from the house when they reach the garage area and once inside, the altercation begins and escalates into a fight and from there, a shooting oc-

curs," Swearingin said.

The deputy and Anderson have a long running dispute, he said.

Results of the criminal investigation will be turned over to the district attorney's office and then probably forwarded to a grand jury for any action, Swearingin said.

No one could be reached immediately at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to comment on the shooting. Swearingin said the city will be conducting the criminal investigation, while the sheriff's department conducts an administrative investigation into the shooting to see if any action will be taken.



**Law Enforcement Officers
Association of Texas**

In Memorium

It is with prayer in our heart and deepest sympathy for the loved ones left behind, that we pay our last respects to the fine, courageous officers whose names are listed below.

These are the officer members of the Law Enforcement Officers Association of Texas, who have passed away during the past year. With their passing, the Association and their respective communities have suffered an irreparable loss.

WILLIAM LESLIE JOHNSON
Police Chief
Levelland, Texas/Hockley County

HOWARD PAUL WILKINSON
Jailor
Tarrant County Sheriff's Dept.
Fort Worth, Texas

CHARLES V. STRICKLAND
Lieutenant
Abilene Police Dept./Taylor County

GEORGE CURTIS WEBB
Deputy Sheriff
Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.

EDWARD M. BEEBE
Police Section, VA Hospital
Waco, Texas

WILLARD H. McMANIS
Super. Comm.
Victoria Sheriff's Dept.
Victoria, Texas

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Star-Telegram* welcomes your views on any matter of public interest. Letters must have a signature and a printed full name, address and daytime phone number. They should be concise, to the point and original — no form letters, please. Writers are limited to one a month. Length is subject to editorial judgment, and letters will be edited to comply with *Star-Telegram* style and standards. Address: Letters to the Editor, Box 1870, Fort Worth 76101. Fax: 390-7789. Questions? Call 390-7754.

Let Bransom lead the way

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department has been the brunt of jokes for the last several years. This is the reason several deputies pushed to start the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriff's Association 20 months ago.

Our association is nearly 800 members strong, and our main goal is to raise the professional standards of the sheriff's department to protect our residents to the fullest extent.

The Sheriff's Association has endorsed Dub Bransom in the Nov. 3 election. We believe Bransom will help us raise professional standards quicker and will bring the highest proficiency level possible to make our department the best in the nation.

Bransom has the education and experience in administration as well as on the streets. He has a successful record as a supervisor with the Fort Worth Police Department and as chief of police in River Oaks. Bransom has two decades of law-enforcement experience and cares about our community. He is dedicated to stopping our escalating crime rate.

We ask you to vote for Dub Bransom for sheriff. With his leadership, the Tarrant County Sheriff's department can be one of the best law-enforcement agencies in the nation.

Mack West
President
Tarrant County
Deputy Sheriff's Association
Fort Worth

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1992

Sheriff hopeful questions debate,

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A pro-choice Republican women's club in North-east Tarrant County was still fuming yesterday over the decision by the GOP sheriff candidate's campaign manager to not allow the candidate to appear before the club with his Democrat opponent last week.

Tom Wilder, David Williams' campaign manager, said he would not allow Williams to appear before



the 38-member "etc." Republican Women's Club to debate Democrat Dub Bransom because of fears that the candidates' stands on abortion, not law enforcement, would be emphasized.

In addition, Wilder said, he didn't think it was proper for Republicans to offer Democrats a forum, such as the club's meeting

last Wednesday.

"They're a pro-choice group of so-called 'traditional Republican' women who are out there attacking the party's candidates who do not agree with their pro-choice philosophy," Wilder said yesterday.

"We were certain the debate would have been over abortion, not law and order issues, and we decided not to participate because abortion has never been an issue in this race."

Williams has repeatedly said dur-

GOP women's club's loyalty

ing the campaign that he favors the state GOP position on abortion, which prohibits the procedure except to save the mother's life.

Bransom, who believes the issue of abortion should be left solely up to the woman, appeared solo before the club and answered questions about his background and plans for the office.

He said those attending the forum never asked him about his stand on abortion.

"I was not asked about it one

time," Bransom said. "I guess they already knew my position. Most of the questions had to do with law enforcement issues, which are non-partisan, and many of them dealt with qualifications."

Williams said he was not aware of the club's abortion position until after he decided some weeks ago to limit his appearances before such small political groups.

"I am sincerely sorry if they are offended, but I made a policy decision to maximize my appearance

before the largest number of voters some weeks ago and I delegated those decisions to Wilder," Williams said yesterday. "The decision to not attend was a matter of tactics, not a snub of the club because of its abortion position."

Wilder also said he and Williams had decided that Williams would not accept any more debates with Bransom before political clubs because of what Wilder called "planted questions" by Bransom support-
(More on WILLIAMS on Page 17)

Williams

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ers that he said destroyed any chance for what Wilder termed "an honest debate."

Tookie Scherder, the club's program chairman, said Wilder's concerns about planted questions were "a bunch of bull. The only people there were club members; there were no 'plants' in the audience.

"I think they [Wilder and Williams] were afraid to meet Dub Bransom head-on in front of a group of women known for asking tough questions," Scherder said yester-

day.

Wilder also said yesterday that his decision was based on principle.

"We did not appear as a matter of principle because a Republican club should not be sponsoring a debate between a Republican candidate and his Democrat opponent," Wilder said. "The Democrats' clubs certainly never invited us to any debates before them."

Steve Hollern, the county's GOP chairman, agreed.

"If they are styling themselves as Republicans, I don't see why they'd invite a Democrat. They've got no business doing that sort of thing," Hollern said.

But Evelyn Parmer, the county Democratic Party chairman, disagreed, saying the only unusual thing about the club's request was that Williams did not appear.

"Those women wanted information about the candidates' positions on the issues. I think it is very un-

sual for Mr. Williams not to reply to that invitation," she said.

Meanwhile, Williams and Bransom continue heavy campaigning as the race winds down to Election Day, Nov. 3.

Williams is attending scores of small neighborhood meetings throughout the county and walking neighborhoods. Wilder was reluctant to reveal where Williams would be campaigning.

"We've found some spots that Bransom has missed and we don't want him to read about them in the newspaper and then follow us out there," Wilder said.

Bransom, who continues to work part-time as River Oaks police chief post, said yesterday that he "would be anywhere there's anybody to talk to."

Bransom added he would be walking neighborhoods and revisiting parts of Tarrant County in the final days of the campaign.

Bransom assails Williams' 'turned loose to kill' mailing

'Sleaze' is muddying race, Democrat says

BY LOU CHAPMAN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Democratic candidate Dub Bransom, angered by the latest campaign literature from his opponent, said yesterday that the race for Tarrant County sheriff has gotten increasingly "sleazy."

As evidence, he cited a mailout from Republican candidate David Williams that features convicted killer Kenneth McDuff and statements about how the two sheriff candidates differ on a program to keep tabs on repeat violent offenders on parole.

"This is all just dirtying up the race," Bransom said angrily during a morning news conference. He held up Williams' flier with McDuff's police mug shot and the words "Turned Loose to Kill" in large let-

ters.

"I resent this," Bransom said. "This implies that somehow I would set Kenneth McDuff free on the streets of Tarrant County. This is the most totally inappropriate piece of trash I've ever seen."

"Kenneth McDuff shouldn't be followed; he should be executed."

Williams espouses a project called the Violent Repeat Offenders Program to operate out of the sheriff's office; Bransom has said that although it is a good idea, it is not the sheriff's job and is a less complete answer to crime in Tarrant County than Williams maintains.

The flier quotes *Texas Monthly* as calling McDuff "one of the most sadistic, vicious murderers Texas

(More on BRANSOM on Page 22)

Bransom

From Page 19

has ever produced."

In smaller print, it says "600 violent repeat offenders like Kenneth McDuff have been released by the Texas Department of Corrections in the last two years."

Bransom, the River Oaks police chief who stresses his own long career in law enforcement, declared: "McDuff, to David Williams, is only a vague concept. He has never written warrants; he has never walked a beat; he has never faced down the barrel of a shotgun."

In a telephone interview, Williams said the program he supports would use sheriff's deputies and other law officers to monitor the actions of certain repeat violent offenders and set up sting operations and other methods of stopping them from continuing to commit crime.

He said he had no firm figures on how many such violent parolees live in Tarrant County but said he had "heard that the number is between 20 and 200."

State officials said Tarrant County currently has about 6,000 parolees from the Texas Department of Corrections under supervision for all types of felonies, with about 90 officers to monitor their cases.

Williams' campaign manager, commercial real estate agent Tom Wilder, said he designed the recent mailout. He and Williams said the literature was not intended to imply that Bransom would allow criminals like McDuff to be on the loose.

"The connection, of course, is that here's an individual that came back to Tarrant County and killed people, and he could have been part of this VROPE program," Wilder said.

McDuff was convicted for murdering a Tarrant County teen and suspected of killing two others in 1966 and was paroled in 1989 after being denied release several times. He has never been charged with any other killings in Tarrant County.

He was jailed again in September 1990 for making threats and was released a second time in December 1990, after which he is suspected of killing several Central Texas women. He was arrested in Missouri in May and remains in custody.

The use of a convicted killer's story to raise doubts about a political opponent raised a hue and cry nationwide during the 1988 presidential campaign. In that case, GOP television ads showed paroled murderer Willie Horton, who killed after an early release from prison, and said Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis had instituted that early-release program when he was governor of Massachusetts.

Williams and Wilder said yesterday that they were not trying to repeat the Willie Horton campaign tactic.

"Willie Horton was released by Michael Dukakis," Williams said. "That happened. Our McDuff piece never says or implies Dub Bransom is advocating the release of these people."

"I think it gets their attention," Williams continued. "That's what it was designed to do. I wanted something that would grab their attention and hold their attention."

Williams conceded that the Sheriff's Department has no control over paroles and pardons.

Instead, he said, the message is that he has a plan to help reduce crime in Tarrant County, and Bransom doesn't.

Williams, a detective with the Haltom City police, further said he has had vast street experience as a police officer.

"I've kicked in doors, I've gone in with weapons out, hundreds of times," he said.

15 judges begin handgun training; Tarrant officials plan more classes

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — While 15 Tarrant County judges began a two-day firearms school yesterday, sheriff's officials are already planning additional classes for other members of the judiciary.

Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter said several judges who couldn't attend yesterday's class plan to attend today's session at the shooting range. And those who can't make it are clamoring for more classes, he said.

"I've already had calls from judges who couldn't attend this time," Minter said. "They asked for notice and the next time we'll give them more than three weeks."

The idea for the school came up after the July 1 shootings at the Tarrant County Courthouse, which left two attorneys dead and two judges and another attorney wounded.

The judges will fire weapons on the shooting range today, and Minter said the

course's aim is to bring the judges up to date on the latest handguns they may see during trials and make them more comfortable around the weapons.

"No matter what kind of court you're in — be it criminal or civil — you're going to encounter handguns and violence in the cases that come before you in court," Minter said. "All of the sudden they have experts to call on to answer questions about weapons. They may have had these questions for years."

Criminal District Judge Don Leonard, an avid hunter, has been around guns for years. He remembers spending time with his father at the Waco police shooting range as a child. But he said he knows little about today's handguns.

"I've been afraid to go and touch these automatic handguns that come into court," he said. "Often, these young DAs [district attorneys] of both gender haven't been around these weapons and don't know how to handle them."

The class will not change Leonard's plans to keep his handgun out of his courtroom. Leonard made that decision after capital murder defendant James Bigby grabbed the judge's gun from the bench in March 1991 and tried to take the judge hostage. Leonard was able to wrestle the weapon away from him.

"I think it's probably safer not to have it in the courtroom," he said. "I haven't had it in there since it happened and I think it's a pretty good idea to keep it that way."

The judges who attended the class yesterday said it didn't affect cases pending in their courts. District Judge Everett Young said he was preparing for a capital murder trial that begins next week so he didn't have a trial this week.

"But if I had been in trial and it would have delayed the case by me going to class, I wouldn't have gone," Young said. "I would have taken the class another time."

Minter said he continues to be deluged with media calls about the gun school for

judges, but today's session at the range is closed to everyone except judges. He said one TV network, NBC, is still planning to come to Fort Worth to do a report on the class.

Selection of jury begins tomorrow in sheriff's case

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — This was to be Don Carpenter's week. The two-term sheriff of Tarrant County had often spoken confidently of being elected a third time.

But that was before the indictments, his subsequent leave of absence and his defeat in the Republican primary.

Now, instead of facing the judgment of the voters, Carpenter is scheduled to face the judgment of a jury that will decide whether he illegally gave a property-room gun to a county commissioner.

The irony of the trial's timing was lost on no one. Judge Bill Burdock decided that holding proceedings Tuesday — Election Day — would have been inappropriate. So jury selection is scheduled to begin tomorrow with testimony expected to start Wednesday.

The 61-year-old sheriff was indicted on eight felony charges and has been on paid leave of

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Carpenter

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absence since January.

Carpenter is being tried on a charge of theft by public servant. He is accused of giving a gun to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson in 1987. If convicted of the third-degree felony, Carpenter could be sentenced to prison for two to 10 years and fined up to \$10,000. The other indictments against Carpenter are pending.

Since a grand jury first returned indictments against Carpenter in January, the sheriff has not discussed the allegations. His lawyers, however, say the sheriff maintains he has done nothing wrong and will not consider any offers to plead guilty in exchange for a lesser sentence.

"He believes he is innocent and so do I," said attorney Joe Brent Johnson.

Special prosecutor Galen Sumrow of Rockwall has said the case against the sheriff is not complicated.

"A jury will have to decide whether he gave the guns away or not: It's that simple," Sumrow said after a pretrial hearing last month.

with Sumrow or defense lawyers since he went before the grand jury. He said he was caught off-guard when he read that Carpenter was being tried in connection with the gun the sheriff gave him.

"I was little surprised," he said. "The only facts I have on this being the case are what I have read in the newspaper. I even asked the two Rangers if the trial was involved with just this weapon or everything else and they said they didn't know."

The trial is expected to last a week.

But Carpenter's lawyers see it differently. They note that Sumrow decided to try the sheriff on one of two indictments returned on May 14 — almost five months after the initial six indictments were handed down.

This indicates, Johnson said, that the prosecutor's original indictments were weak and that he scrambled to put another case together against the sheriff.

"They are now saying this is their best case," Johnson said. "I think if this is their best case, they've got problems."

It was more than a year ago that Carpenter's problems began.

The first reports that he was under investigation surfaced Oct. 30, 1991, when the sheriff and four of his deputies were subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury.

As the investigation against him unfolded, Carpenter said in a Dec. 5 *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* article that he believed he gave a gun to Johnson early in his first term.

The county commissioner gave the .38-caliber handgun to Texas Rangers last year. He said in December he had no idea where Carpenter got the weapon and added that the sheriff gave him the weapon to protect himself against illegal trash haulers in his district.

"I assumed from the get-go that the sheriff had loaned me one of his pistols," Johnson said last week.

The Texas Rangers have subpoenaed Johnson to appear in court. But Johnson said he has not talked

Get Williams' record straight

In his Friday letter, Jim Hunter made some statements regarding David Williams, the Republican candidate for sheriff, that are highly misleading. Hunter is either sorely uninformed or his loss to Williams in the Republican primary has severely biased his assessment of Williams.

When Hunter said that Williams has only nine years of certified law experience, he is ignoring the five years that Williams spent in the military police. True, government service is not considered by the certifying agency, but Hunter saw no problem in taking credit for his own government service when he listed his credentials in the primary. Apparently, Hunter believes in a double standard in such matters.

Hunter also asserts that Williams reached the highest rank he has held in a small, 15-member department in Oklahoma. The facts are that Williams has risen to the rank of detective in the Haltom City Police Department, which serves a city of 40,000 people, a city almost seven times larger than the city that employs Dub Bransom. This has been documented in a letter from Haltom City Mayor Charles Womack.

As far as Hunter's assertion that Williams will not debate Bransom, Williams has had numerous appearances with Bransom, including a recent appearance before the police chiefs of Tarrant County, a group that Hunter said Williams has not appeared before.

An interesting point to note about Hunter is that when he appeared before the Republican Candidate Recruitment Committee, he pledged to support the winner of what was a seven-way primary. Apparently, Hunter considered his pledge valid only if he was the winner of the primary. At any rate, his behavior is certainly surprising from one who says he has converted to the Republican Party.

Steve Hollern
Republican County Chairman
Fort Worth

Crossing party lines

I am a Republican and live in Colleyville. Based on party loyalty, I had planned to cast my vote for Republican David Williams for sheriff. I met Williams recently at the Colleyville Chamber Bar-B-Que. After discussing a variety of issues, I knew that he was not the person for sheriff.

His knowledge of law enforcement at the county level was less than impressive. He did not seem sure of himself. I'm sure that he is a fine man and a good detective, but he does not meet the leadership requirements in order to effectively deal with crime rate, jail operations and continuity of the entire department.

Later, I met Democratic nominee Chief Dub Bransom of River Oaks. Objectively, he seemed to have the experience, intelligence and determination capable for such a position. I am totally sold on Bransom. His positive attitude and problem-solving methods are real. It was obvious that police officers, deputies and constable officers looked up to him.

I know my party affiliation, but Bransom is the best for Tarrant County.

James Alexander
Colleyville

Sure shot for sheriff

I have known Dub Bransom since we worked together at the Lone Star Gas Co. more years ago than I care to remember.

Bransom is well known as an efficient businessman, a professional law-enforcement officer and a fine family man and citizen. He has pledged to reduce crime, and he will cooperate with all police agencies in the county. He has had to continue working at his job of being police chief of River Oaks during the campaign for Tarrant County Sheriff. He doesn't have any of the real big contributors, just a lot of small contributors who want a professional in office.

Bransom is the best candidate for sheriff. He knows the business and speaks for himself.

H.E. "Ed" Baldwin
Fort Worth

Elect Williams sheriff

I had a bad dream the other night. I am still quaking from the fear of it.

My neighborhood used to be safe. I'm writing to tell you that I'd sleep a little better if David Williams were my sheriff.

I am tired of threatening dreams. I want to be able to sit on my back porch again at night and watch the stars. I want my neighborhood back with some semblance of safety.

I worked with Williams for six years. He is a competent, confident, disciplined man and administrative genius. It's a vote I know you'll never regret, and frankly, I could use the rest.

Laura Cleveland
Fort Worth

Sheriff waives jury trial

Carpenter's fate rests in hands of the judge

By **BILL HANNA**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — With Sheriff Don Carpenter waiving his right to a jury trial yesterday, a Tarrant County district judge will decide the verdict in the drawn-out theft case.

Carpenter's choice was made halfway through jury selection yesterday afternoon. Prosecutors quickly agreed to go along with District Judge Bill Burdock deciding the case rather than a 12-member panel.

Before releasing prospective jurors, Burdock questioned the sheriff to ensure that he was fully aware that he was waiving his right to a jury trial.

"I'm leaving it in your hands, your honor," Carpenter said.

The charge against Carpenter, 61, is theft by a public servant, a third-degree felony. The charge arose from the alleged gift of a confiscated .38-caliber handgun to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson in 1987. If convicted, Carpenter could face two to 10 years' imprisonment and fines of up to \$10,000.

Carpenter's lawyers would not discuss the decision, saying they were reserving comment until the end of the trial.

Special prosecutor Galen Sumrow said time may have been a factor in Carpenter's decision.

"This just makes it a little simpler," Sumrow said. "Now you have to try the case before one person instead of 12."

By having a judge hear the case, the prosecutor said, the trial could be over in a day.

A panel of 62 prospective jurors was brought into the 371st District

(More on SHERIFF on Page 16)

Sheriff

Court yesterday morning. Lawyers quickly realized that many of the people were familiar with the allegations against Carpenter. This prompted questioning of individual panelists on their knowledge of the case while the remainder sat in the hallway.

After 31 were questioned, lawyers from both sides approached Burdock and told him they were ready to go ahead without a jury. Defense lawyers earlier in the day elected to have the judge decide the sheriff's punishment if Carpenter is found guilty.

Carpenter, whose annual salary is \$74,136, has been on a paid leave of

absence since January, when six indictments were returned against him. In May, a grand jury indicted him on two more charges, including the one he is being tried on this week.

The sheriff, who was wearing a gray business suit, declined to comment after yesterday's proceedings. Carpenter has not publicly talked about the charges since his indictment.

The two-term sheriff finished fifth in a seven-man Republican primary last March.

Burdock is not holding court today because of the election. Testimony will begin at 9 a.m. tomorrow.



Don Carpenter: Indicted on eight felony charges

Lott declared competent to be own lawyer

BY KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Judge Sharen Wilson ruled yesterday that George Lott, charged with capital murder in the July 1 courthouse shootings, is competent to act as his own trial attorney. But she denied a prosecutor's motion to have him submit to a mental evaluation.

In denying the prosecutor's request, Wilson said testimony, personal observation and transcripts of court proceedings in which Lott defended himself convinced her that he is capable of representing himself at the trial.

She also said that in defending himself in the past, Lott had "done a good job."

State law mandates that defendants understand the ramifications of representing themselves, but it

(More on LOTT on Page 16)

Lott

From Page 13

does not require a hearing to determine whether they are competent to do so, officials said.

Prosecutors had asked for the examination to preclude an appeals court from overturning the lower court ruling if Lott is convicted.

Assistant District Attorney Alan Levy said that because the case against Lott is capital murder, he wanted "a hearing on the entire subject."

Lott is charged with capital murder in the shooting deaths of Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall, 41, and Dallas attorney John Edwards, 33. He is accused of opening fire inside the 2nd Court of Appeals about 10 a.m. July 1, killing the attorneys and wounding three other people.

He was arrested that afternoon by Dallas police officers after claiming responsibility for the courthouse shootings, which he said were an attempt to draw attention to a judicial system that he thought had failed him in a custody battle over

his son.

In brief testimony yesterday, 231st District Judge Maryellen Hicks and Fort Worth attorney Vaughn Bailey, appointed to represent Lott's son during the custody suit, said they thought Lott had acted capably during the divorce and custody trial in 1990.

Ann Turbeville, a consulting psychiatrist, said she interviewed Lott the night he was arrested in the courthouse shootings and placed in Tarrant County Jail. She said he didn't exhibit delusions, hallucinations or any indications of psychotic behavior.

"He was very tired, but I thought that appropriate, given the circumstances," she said.

Lott argued against the motion for a mental evaluation, saying that Dr. James Grigson had evaluated him July 3 and that he should not be subjected to another evaluation.

Lott said he was fooled into taking the evaluation, having been told by Grigson and homicide detective Danny LaRue that Wilson had ordered the evaluation.

"I object to having the same one twice," Lott said. "I'm not in a position to trust Dr. Grigson again."

Williams new sheriff but rhetoric still flying

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Republican David Williams, a political first-timer, rolled to victory over Democrat Dub Bransom to keep the county's sheriff's job within the GOP for another four years.

With 100 percent of yesterday's the vote counted this morning, Wil-

iams had 53.1 percent to Bransom's 46.9 percent.

Williams, 38, claimed victory at 9:50 p.m. as he exchanged an over-the-head handshake with Ed Max, his major campaign contributor, while campaign manager Tom Wilder shouted to the cheering crowd, "Tarrant County has a new sheriff!"

(More on SHERIFF on Page 22)

Sheriff

From Page 1

As campaign workers rolled in a huge white cake bearing a replica of the Tarrant County sheriff's badge, Williams said, "I want to thank everybody for all their efforts, all their prayers and all the time spent."

Max, with a wide grin on his face, said that Williams' victory was wonderful.

"I am an elated old man," said Max, 65. "This night was only second to the day I got married."

Williams, a detective with the Haltom City Police Department, said that he intended to rest, spend time with his family, and "catch up on a long honey-do list."

Williams said he has campaigned 15 hours a day, seven days a week over the past three months to collect his first political victory.

Across town, in Bransom's campaign headquarters, the mood was bitter, in keeping with a campaign that Wilder described last night as "mildly dirty."

"I feel like we've taken a beating tonight," Bransom, 55, told about 150 supporters gathered around him as he conceded defeat around 10 p.m. "All I can tell you is that I am sorry and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. This loss is not your fault, it is mine. I just didn't do

enough."

He thanked them for their loyal work and then, in an interview, unloaded on Williams and his campaign.

"Tom Wilder is a slug," said Bransom's campaign manager, Bruce Roberts. "I know exactly his mindset and attitude. He's going to start a witchhunt in the sheriff's office."

Bransom has said repeatedly that he expects deputies who supported him to be at risk if he lost the race.

Wilder denied the allegations.

"As I understand it, a slug is a poor little creature with little intelligence. I am neither," he said.

As for beginning a witchhunt, Wilder replied: "The man is a lying hypocrite. That charge is totally false. It is the same one he put out in his hate mail and it is totally untruthful."

Williams adopted the same stance.

"The man [Bransom] is in dreamland," Williams said. "The thing we have to do now is rebuilding and healing the department."

Bransom also said in the interview that he was disappointed in the electorate's choice of a sheriff.

"This election was very surprising to me," he said. "They [the voters] voted against good law enforcement in the county. I guess that's what they want."

Bransom's campaign manager, Bruce Roberts, said Williams and his backers "bought this election," a



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / MILTON ADAMS

David Williams, shown with his daughter, Reina, talks on the phone.

reference to Max.

"If we'd had a patron saint to underwrite what we needed to do, we could have done better," Roberts said.

Wilder said the allegation that he bought the election was ridiculous.

"I'll bet you we spent less money than Bransom did," Wilder said.

Campaign expenditure records released just before the election show Bransom spending \$34,000 during the reporting period to Williams' \$28,000.

The GOP has held the Sheriff's Department, which pays \$74,136 a year, since 1984, when Sheriff Don Carpenter took office. Although a political unknown in Tarrant County, Carpenter, a former warrant officer under ex-Sheriff Lon Evans,

easily won re-election in 1988 and sought the GOP nomination to a third four-year term in the spring.

But in January, Carpenter was indicted on felony counts of giving away confiscated guns from his property room and falsifying records. In May, he was indicted on two more counts, including lying to the grand jury.

He ran fifth in a seven-candidate GOP primary, chiefly because of his legal troubles.

Carpenter has been on an involuntary paid leave of absence since February and is on trial this week on a charge of theft by a public servant involving a confiscated gun that prosecutors say was given to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson.

Staff writers Jim Jones and Thomas Korosec contributed to this report.

Gun value at issue in testimony

Defense questions if felony criteria met

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The value of the confiscated gun Sheriff Don Carpenter is accused of stealing from his department became an issue this morning as testimony opened in the law officer's felony theft trial.

Defense attorneys raised the subject while questioning Gerald Davis Jr., the Alvarado man from whom the .38-caliber deringer was confiscated when deputies served him with a mental warrant in December 1986.

A sales receipt introduced as evidence by prosecutors showed Davis had purchased the gun for \$198.50. The indictment against Carpenter accuses the sheriff of a third-degree felony — theft by a public servant — but Texas law says the value of the property must be \$200 to be considered a felony.

Special prosecutor Galen Sumrow then asked Davis how much sales tax he paid on the purchase and Davis said \$11.19.

"Is this (the purchase price plus tax) in excess of \$200," Sumrow asked.

"Yes, sir," Davis replied.

Davis testified that after his arrest he spent three days at John Peter Smith Hospital and then six weeks in a private hospital for treatment of drug abuse.

After his release, Davis said, he and his mother went to Carpenter's office and in late March or early April 1987 and asked the sheriff to return the gun deputies had confiscated.

(More on SHERIFF on Page 32)

Sheriff /

From Page 29

"He gave us his card and told us he would call us in a few days," Davis testified. "We called him several times but never got him. We just felt like we got the runaround."

Under questioning by Sumrow, Davis said he believed that sheriff would call him to let him know whether the gun would be returned.

"And you're still waiting for that phone call to this day?" Sumrow asked.

"Yes," Davis replied.

Carpenter, who waived his right to a jury trial and will let Judge Bill Burdock render a verdict, is accused of giving the gun to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson in 1987. Johnson has said he never used the gun and gave it to Texas Rangers investigating the case against the sheriff.

If convicted, Carpenter would face two to 10 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000.

Johnson was expected to testify later today.

Sheriff-elect says he has no malice for opponent's supporters

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — David Williams, the sheriff-elect of Tarrant County, made his first round of post-Election Day news conferences yesterday wearing high-top tennis shoes instead of cowboy boots, a sartorial symbol of how he intends to change the office.

Looking rested and refreshed

after his victory over Democrat Dub Bransom on Tuesday, Williams, 38, posed for photographs in khaki slacks and an open-collared shirt and talked about his priorities.

His first task, he said, is to assure the 1,100 sheriff's deputies and employees that he "holds malice toward none," despite the bruising nature of his campaign, which left some deputies convinced that their

support of Bransom would trigger a witch hunt by their new boss.

"That is not my nature at all," Williams said. "Regardless of who they supported in the past, the bottom line now is that we all serve the citizens of Tarrant County."

He said he will be a business suit-and-tie sheriff who will occasionally wear a uniform, instead of continuing the image of his predecessors in

boots, western suits and cowboy hats.

"I think the troops seeing me in uniform every now and then is a very positive thing," he said. "It sends them a message that we are all serving together. I intend to spend time in every division learning how the divisions work, as well. I don't intend to micromanage them, just learn."

Williams entered the race in January as a political unknown, a detective in the Haltom City Police Department making his first stab at elected office. He won a seven-man primary that included the sheriff, a former county commissioner and a former federal Drug Enforcement Administration officer, all campaign veterans.

Williams ran a highly organized,

highly computerized campaign, directed by Tom Wilder, a Northeast Tarrant County real estate agent and a veteran of several national GOP campaigns.

Instead of billboards, the Williams campaign bought direct mail, aiming at small pockets of voters who tended toward Republican can-

(More on WILLIAMS on Page 30)

Williams

From Page 27

didates at the county level.

Williams worked seven days a week and up to 15 hours a day, meeting prospective jurors as they lined up at the courthouse, appearing before large and small Republican clubs and walking neighborhoods in swing districts.

"We figured it up yesterday and David probably has met and spoken to 75,000 people since the campaign began," Wilder said.

It paid off. He wound up in a runoff in the primary with Jim Hunter, the former DEA agent, and bested him.

In the general election, Williams' showing proved the intense county interest in down-ballot races — he won almost 58,000 more votes than President Bush, who also carried the county for the GOP. Unofficial returns showed Williams polled 231,304 votes, to 204,501 for Bransom.

With the Republicans keeping their hold on the Sheriff's Department, Williams is preparing to take over a department whose top official, Sheriff Don Carpenter, is on trial this week on felony charges of theft by a public servant.

"We need to begin the process of healing," Williams said. "There has been a lot of trauma in the department in the past few months and we need to heal that trauma."

Restoring the Sheriff's Department's confidence in itself and the public's confidence in the department is the most crucial issue facing his administration, Williams said yesterday.

"There is a wealth of talent over there," he said.

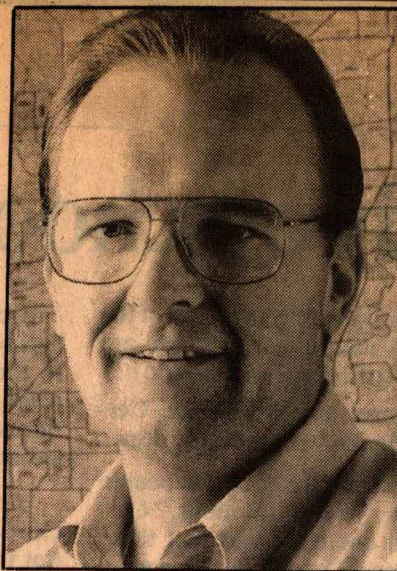
He has been "mentally mapping" how to get on top of the job, he said.

One method he will use is a full briefing from department supervisors from the rank of captain and above.

"I need that overview of what they see that the department needs," Williams said.

He added that he had talked with Lt. Mack West, president of the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association, and passed along his message of conciliation.

West said he believes that the deputies association and Williams can work together, despite Williams' public position against collective bargaining, which the association favors.



David Williams

"The people have spoken and we all need to work together," West said yesterday. "He now has time to show us he can run the department and sway us over, so to speak."

Williams said his immediate goal is to name a transition team composed of line and staff sheriff's officers and advisers from the private sector to smooth his way into the county's top law job. When he takes office in January, he will inherit a force of 1,100 people and an annual operating budget of \$39.1 million.

The department will continue to operate under acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter while Carpenter's trial continues in Judge Bill Burdock's criminal district court.

Carpenter is charged with felony theft by a public servant, involving a pistol he is charged with taking from his property room in 1987 and giving to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson. Carpenter has been on a voluntary paid leave of absence since February after a Tarrant County grand jury indicted him on the charge.

If Carpenter is convicted and elects not to appeal, state law gives Burdock the power to declare the sheriff's office vacant and then either allow Minter to continue to serve until Williams takes office in January, or appoint someone to fill the post, or allow the county commissioners to do so.

In that scenario, Williams could be appointed to fill out Carpenter's term. He hopes that won't happen.

"This [early appointment] is not part of my game plan," Williams said yesterday. "I want to go through with my transition team approach, have some time to come in and look at the department before taking over."

"But, I'll be available if that's the will of the court," Williams said.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

A defense attorney displays a pistol. Sheriff Don Carpenter is accused of giving the gun to a county commissioner.

Shop owner says gun worth \$140 at best

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Garland gunshop owner testified today that the .38-caliber derringer Sheriff Don Carpenter is accused of stealing was worth \$120 to \$140 at the time it was confiscated from a man arrested on a mental warrant.

Carpenter's attorneys contend that the "fair market value" of the gun — whether it was worth \$200 or more — is crucial to the sheriff's defense against a felony charge of theft by public servant. Texas law states that property must have a \$200 market value

for the charge to be considered a felony.

Weapons expert Wayne Buxton, the owner of two Garland gunshops, testified as the opening witness in Carpenter's defense, saying that he buys and sells 3,000 to 4,000 guns a year.

In his estimation, he said, the .38-caliber Derringer that Carpenter took from the sheriff's property room and gave to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson had depreciated in value after its original purchase for \$198.50, plus \$11.19 tax.

The gun was confiscated in (More on CARPENTER on Page 30)



County Commissioner J.D. Johnson looks at the .38-caliber Derringer he says the sheriff gave him in November 1987.

Carpenter

From Page 27

December 1986 when deputies served a mental warrant on its owner, Gerald Davis Jr., who subsequently was admitted to John Peter Smith Hospital and a private facility for treatment of drug abuse.

Under questioning by defense attorney Marc Richmond, Buxton said that in December 1986 he would have sold a new .38-caliber Derringer for about \$150.

Throughout Buxton's testimony, prosecutors and defense attorneys argued over the definition of fair market value. At one point Judge Bill Burdock, who is trying the case without a jury, told the attorneys:

"Counsel of both sides, if you're trying to get to the value of the gun, you're going about in a round-about way."

If the judge decides that the value is less than \$200, the charge against Carpenter becomes a misdemeanor. That could create a domino effect leading to the dismissal of the charges because the statute of limitations on misdemeanors is two years. Carpenter is accused of giving the gun to Johnson five years ago.

Burdock would not discuss the matter directly yesterday. However, he did say: "There's some issues of law that have to be resolved. I'm going to have to research the law."

The legal questions and research could cause Burdock to delay reach-

ing his verdict for several days after conclusion of the trial.

In yesterday's testimony, Johnson described how Carpenter pulled a .38-caliber Derringer from his coat pocket in November 1987 and handed it to him.

Johnson said the sheriff gave him the gun because Johnson had had two confrontations with illegal trash dumpers and believed that the Derringer would be easier to conceal than a gun Johnson owned.

The county commissioner said he considered the weapon a loan and was willing to give it back whenever the sheriff asked. Except for a couple of times when he test-fired the gun, Johnson said, he never used it.

Last fall, he turned the weapon over to Texas Rangers investigators when they requested it as part of an investigation of the Sheriff's Department.

Another witness, sheriff's Deputy Terry Dalton, testified that after the weapon was confiscated, he filled out a property card on the gun and it to Carpenter.

The sheriff, sitting at the defense table, vigorously shook his head "no" during this testimony.

Dalton said that the sheriff's policy was for all seized guns to be taken to Carpenter and be kept in a property room attached to the sheriff's office.

But when defense attorneys asked him about the Derringer, Dalton said that he might have given the gun to the sheriff's secretary. He said later that he was unsure who got the gun.

Suburbs end era of cowboy sheriff

Someday, another Democrat may win back Lon Evans' old sheriff's office.

But it won't be some good ol' boy from the county's western fringe. Or some old Fort Worth cop.

Ora Dub.

The era of Tarrant County's cowboy sheriffs



BUD KENNEDY

came to an end Tuesday night, when

"Shurf" Don Carpenter's pearl-buttoned shirts were

replaced by the button-downs of a young Republican from the new suburbs near Alliance Airport.

The straight-arrow guy with the badge is police Detective David Williams, 38, of Watauga. (That's an old Indian word for "very conservative town.")

Along the way, Williams had to overcome his history as the one-

(More on KENNEDY on Page 30)

time chief bouncer for a Tiltonesque TV evangelist. He also had to defend his stand as part of the movement against most birth-control methods and legal abortion.

"There were a lot of nonissues in this campaign," Williams said on election night, celebrating with coffee and punch at a Fort Worth auto parts store.

But to voters in the power alley of Arlington and Northeast Tarrant County, there was only one issue:

He was the Republican. . . .

The elephant shop: No matter what happened in California or Little Rock, the Republicans still

drive the bus here.

Bransom was the Democrat, from the shrinking west Fort Worth fringe power base of Jim Wright and Gib Lewis. Williams was a staunch Republican from growing Northeast Tarrant County — riding strong support from U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm.

Williams' win was no surprise. Except to myopic old Democrats from Fort Worth.

When Bransom spat and stormed about his loss Tuesday night, he was standing in his headquarters in far southwest Cowtown — more than 40 miles from most of the people in Tarrant County.

Three-fifths of the registered voters here live in Arlington or the cities northeast of Loop 820. Not only that, they vote.

On Tuesday, Arlington and Northeast Tarrant County outvoted

Fort Worth 2-to-1.

That's why the real Main Street in this county is no longer the brick road to the courthouse. It's Farm Road 157 from Arlington to Euless and Bedford. . . .

From Shurf to Mister Sheriff: Bill Clinton may be president-elect. But in Grapevine, Southlake, Keller and Colleyville, he got a big 16 percent of the vote.

If they won't vote for a Bill, they definitely won't vote for a Dub. Bransom was stuck with a name that sounds more old-fashioned and cowboy than he is, and the suspicion that he would be another good-ol'-boy sheriff.

Williams is no good ol' boy. He is quiet, serious, downright shy. Or was, until a moment of triumph Tuesday night.

When campaign architect Tom

Wilder delivered new winning numbers, Williams turned into Arsenio, waving a fist and shouting, "Who! Who! Who! Who! Who! Who!"

Later, he said the personal quizzes made the campaign "definitely something like off *The Monty Python Show* — 'And now for something completely different.'"

Daughter Reina, 5, grabbed her dad around his long legs and addressed him with a grin and proper respect: "Hi, Mister Sheriff!"

He wore a suit. In the corner, an organist was playing soft music. Later, the celebrators joined in prayer.

Definitely something completely different.

Bud Kennedy's column appears Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, and Friday in Star Time. Phone 390-7538, fax 390-7789.

Sheriff awaits verdict

Judge to announce gun ruling Nov. 17

By BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A state district judge will rule Nov. 17 on whether Sheriff Don Carpenter is guilty of a felony for taking a confiscated .38-caliber Derringer weapon and giving it to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson.

The verdict hinges largely on what value Judge Bill Burdock places on the gun: If it is at least \$200, the charge is a felony. Anything less would be a misdemeanor, meaning Carpenter could not be convicted because the statute of limitations on a misdemeanor offense has expired.

Lawyers for both sides spent much of yesterday hammering away at the question of the gun's "fair market value," calling three gun experts to testify and then dissecting their contradictory testimony.

Gun shop owner Harold Rollins said he sold the gun to Gerald Davis for \$207 in 1986. He said the manufacturer's suggested retail price for the weapon is \$239.

However, defense lawyers contended that the sale receipt bore writing showing that Davis paid either \$189 or \$198.50 for the gun. Prosecutors pointed to a \$229 figure at the bottom of the receipt. And Rollins testified he sold the gun for \$207 after calculating applicable discounts.

(More on TRIAL on Page 24)

Sheriff's deputies confiscated the gun from Davis in 1986 after he was arrested on a mental warrant. Carpenter is accused of giving the gun to Johnson in November 1987 for protection after the sheriff heard that Johnson had twice confronted illegal trash haulers in his precinct.

Giving away the confiscated gun, prosecutors contend, is theft by a public servant. If found guilty of the third-degree felony charge, Carpenter could be sentenced to two to 10 years in prison and be fined up to \$10,000.

Carpenter, who has been on administrative leave since January, lost a bid for re-election in the Re-

publican primary. David Williams, who defeated Carpenter, won the general election Tuesday and is scheduled to take over the job in January.

Carpenter's lawyers called two other men who have bought and sold guns. Both testified that the gun's value was much less than \$200.

Wayne Buxton, the owner of two Garland pawnshops, testified that in December 1986 he would have sold a new .38-caliber Derringer for about \$150.

Throughout Buxton's testimony, prosecutors and defense attorneys argued over the definition of fair market value. At one point, Burdock, who is trying the case without a jury, told the attorneys:

"Counsel of both sides, if you're trying to get to the value of the gun, you're going about in a roundabout way."

Another gun expert for the defense, Donald Heath, also testified that the value of the gun would be less than \$200.

In closing arguments, Dallas lawyer Marc Richmond also hit on the defense's second issue: statute of limitations. While arguing that Carpenter had not committed a crime, he said the statute of limitations has expired on the case.

"Even if he did commit an offense, it was a misdemeanor and the statute of limitations ran out at two years, and even if he did commit a felony, the statute of limitations runs out at five years," Richmond said.

Special prosecutor Galen Sumrow of Rockwall challenged Richmond's argument by saying the crime didn't occur until November 1987, when Carpenter gave the gun to Johnson. That would make it less than five years before Carpenter was indicted in May.

Sumrow also said that the judge should find Carpenter guilty because what he did was wrong.

"I hate this," Sumrow said. "I had to indict the sheriff, but I have a duty to the public. It's just not right for a law enforcement officer to take property and then decide who gets it back."

"There's right way to do things and wrong way to do things. What Don Carpenter has done is the wrong way."

At the end of the day, Carpenter left without talking to reporters. But Richmond said, "It's not over until it's over."

Sumrow expressed confidence. "I felt I proved my case," he said. Burdock told lawyers to submit legal briefs by Wednesday.

Sumrow said he believes he can dispel any questions about the gun's value and statute of limitations in those briefs.

"The law is very clear," he said.

Murder trial is delayed after attack in courtroom

Lawyers attacked in court

Teen on trial cuts 2 with piece of glass

BY BILL HANNA
AND KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The capital murder trial of Cedric Ransom, the teen-ager who slashed his attorney and a prosecutor with a makeshift glass knife smuggled into court, was postponed yesterday after the judge allowed the lawyers to withdraw from the case.

Judge Sharen Wilson, however, refused to remove another Ransom attorney, Ed Brownlee, who argued that his fear of Ransom might compromise his ability to present an effective defense.

Wilson, who described the Wednesday night slashing attack as unprovoked, appointed Gary Medlin to replace defense attorney Chris Phillips and assist Brownlee. She also dismissed prosecutor Bob Gill,

who, like Phillips suffered facial cuts while trying to subdue Ransom.

The judge then dismissed the jury and granted a three-week delay to allow the new defense attorney and prosecutor to familiarize themselves with the case. She instructed the jurors not to read or watch anything about the case.

Ransom, 19, is on trial for capital murder in the robbery-slaying of an Arlington gun dealer. He also faces capital murder charges in the slayings of two convenience store owners in separate robberies.

Wilson said Ransom, his ankles shackled by chain, was seated at the defense table about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday when he suddenly pulled a 5-inch, makeshift glass knife and lunged at Phillips. Phillips and Gill, who rushed to the defense attorney's aid, suffered facial cuts while subduing Ran-

BY BILL HANNA
AND KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A shackled teen-ager on trial for capital murder smuggled a 5-inch piece of glass from jail and lunged at his defense attorney in court last night, slashing him and a prosecutor on the face, Judge Sharen Wilson said today.

The two attorneys and a court bailiff quickly subdued Cedric Ransom, 19, on trial in one of three capital murder cases with which he has been charged.

Ransom's defense attorney, Chris Phillips, and Assistant District Attorney Bob Gill suffered what Wilson described as superficial facial cuts. Both were treated by county jail medical personnel.

The judge said the circumstances differed greatly from a July 1 incident in which a courtroom spectator pulled a gun and opened fire, killing two attorneys and wounding two judges. That incident led to increased security at county buildings, including the use of metal detectors at entrances.

som.

Phillips and Gill were later treated by county medical personnel and did not require hospitalization.

The incident prompted Brownlee to tell Wilson at a hearing yesterday that he no longer believes in his client's innocence.

"I believe my client, Cedric Ransom, deserves the death penalty and I did not believe that before last night," Brownlee said, asking the judge to also remove him from the case.

Brownlee testified he now feared Ransom, which he said could effect his ability to present an effective defense.

"I thought he was trying to kill him," he said. "I left. I was afraid. I left."

Wilson, however, denied his request to be removed from the case.

Low-risk prisoners moved after blast damages facility

BY RICHARD DOTSON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Maintenance crews today were repairing damage at a low-risk jail facility where a boiler exploded during the weekend, knocking tiles and cinder blocks loose but injuring none of the inmates.

The explosion caused some structural damage to the Cold Spring Road jail, an old public school building converted to hold prisoners crowded out of the downtown jail.

Until repairs are completed, prisoners housed there have been moved to other facilities, creating an added burden to the overcrowded Tarrant County Jail, Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter said.

"The additional people that were moved will tax our bed space," Minter said. "As of Friday there were 467 sleeping on the floor in all of the jails."

The explosion occurred about 3 a.m. Saturday on the main floor of building, located about a mile north of downtown Fort Worth near the west fork of the Trinity River. The boiler was used to heat the building and provide hot water.

"The facility consists of two separate structures," Minter said. "Where the explosion occurred there were about 170 prisoners."

The entire facility holds approximately 500 prisoners classified as nonviolent. The other prisoners are housed in an addition to the building that was not affected by the blast.

Four prisoners sleeping in a room adjacent to the boiler room escaped injury, although the blast knocked tiles and cinder blocks out of the wall, Minter said.

"On the scene there were no injuries reported," Minter said, adding that there might be some guards and prisoners still feeling aches and pains from the blast.

Brent Sheffer, 30, serving a seven-month sentence for violating his probation for driving while intoxicated, said he was one of 20 prisoners being held in a large cell directly above the boiler room.

"We were all asleep and the floor just started rumbling," he said in a telephone interview from the jail last night. "When it blew up, all the walls came out."

Sheffer said the cell was badly damaged, with cinder blocks blown out of the walls and glass windows shattered.

Neither he nor his cellmates had seen a doctor despite their complaining to a nurse of constant headaches and ringing in their ears, he said. Many felt disoriented, he added.

"We have begged to see a doctor," Sheffer said. They were assured they will see a physician today.

After the blast, his cellmates were instructed to retrieve blankets from the dust-covered cell and report to the auditorium, where they had to sleep on the floor, he said.

The Fort Worth Fire Department, Water Department and Lone Star Gas Co. were called to the scene, but there was no fire, Minter said.



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WHY
THEY
CALL IT
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Lott encounters ex-wife during court appearance

By JACK DOUGLAS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Lott, who has said he was responsible for the July 1 courthouse shootings, objected in court today when his ex-wife's lawyer said he had left a "trail of tragedy."

Under tight security, Lott met face to face with his former wife, Margo Livesay, in a court hearing in which Livesay is seeking increased child support for the couple's 5-year-old son.

Lott is charged in the July 1 shootings that killed a prosecutor and defense attorney and wounded three people, including two judges.

Lott, in a confession to a television anchorman, said he went on the

shooting rampage because of frustrations over his divorce to Livesay. He is an attorney who is representing himself in both civil and criminal proceedings.

Livesay's attorney, Brian Webb, told State District Judge Bill Burdock this morning that Lott had left a "trail of tragedy in his wake." He also accused Lott of sexually abusing his son.

Dressed in green jail clothes and his feet shackled, Lott rose from his counsel table and said: "I'm going to have to object to this trail of tragedy. I don't believe that's been proven in court.

"It's real cute, but I'd ask that it be stricken from the record."

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Lott

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Burdock allowed Webb's comments to remain on the record.

Livesay glanced periodically at her former husband and caught her breath several times as Lott walked past her to take the stand as the first witness in the hearing.

In his opening remarks, Webb said that Lott repeatedly sexually abused the couple's son during visits after the couple divorced in January 1990.

"It's brutal; it's cold-blooded,"

Webb said.

The attorney said the abuse was done with a "gun, a stick, a hand, a finger and other objects."

Lott did not object to those allegations.

Webb said Lott had not made a child support payment since June 15. He also said that Lott was worth between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

Webb said Livesay wanted \$5,000 in back child support payments and an increase in future payments — to be made in a lump sum — to help care and counsel her son. Lott challenged the \$5,000 figure, saying he thought he was only behind by \$3,500.



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