

# Roland Searcy for the state

By STEVE GRAY  
Staff Writer

It is 10 o'clock Wednesday morning in the Brazos County Courtroom where about 40 misdemeanor cases await disposition.

On one side, in front of County Court Judge Bill Vance's bench, a defendant and his attorney sit on a table making last-minute preparations before court begins. At another table on the other side, a man sits with slightly graying hair.

Brazos County Attorney Roland M. Searcy Jr., is waiting to give the state's case. Searcy, 36, has occupied the county attorney's office since January 1973. He defeated another local attorney, Doug Howell, for the post in the 1972 elections.

Searcy works out of a small two-room office on the third floor of the Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan. The office walls are lined with bookshelves filled with journals and related texts. Searcy spends a lot of time thumbing through those law books, keeping up with changes.

And that, Searcy says, is a vital part of his job.

"I spend about an average of 10 hours a day on the job and about four or five hours during the weekends working on the upcoming week's cases," he said. "That means I've got to keep abreast of what's going on in legal circles."

Searcy received a bachelor's degree in history from A&M in 1961 and a law degree from Baylor University Law School in 1964. He joined W. C. Davis, now district court judge, in private practice.

It wasn't long before he got an idea of what criminal law practice is like.

"I remember the first case I defended was a man accused of murdering a police chief and wounding a highway patrolman," he recalls. "We were able to get him a life sentence when he could have gotten the death penalty."

About a year later Searcy decided to go into law practice for himself. In

January 1966 he began teaching a government course at the old Allen Academy Junior College and taught there until May 1970 when the junior college was dropped.

Two years earlier, in 1968, he had made his first bid for the county attorney's seat against Tom McDonald, now the district attorney here.

"I lost that race by 76 votes out of 11,300," Searcy said. "It was a tough one to lose."

Searcy continued his private law practice and in September 1970 became a member of the business administration faculty at A&M as a lec-

turer on business law.

In January 1972 Searcy decided to run again for the county attorney's office. He said he filed for the position after he learned that McDonald had decided to run for district attorney.

Searcy defeated a local attorney, Doug Howell, for the position. He had to resign his teaching position because at that time state law prohibited university employees from running for office.

Before becoming county attorney, Searcy was campaign coordinator in Brazos County for Senator Lloyd Bentsen during the

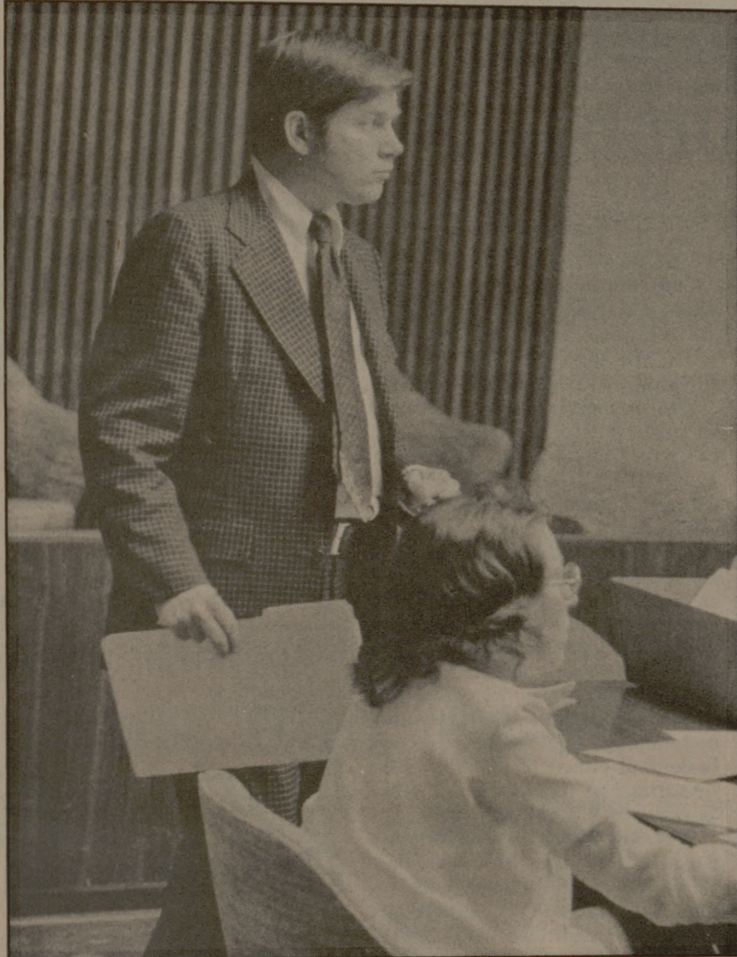
getting behind on their payments.

"I guess I sort of serve as a legal information agency," Searcy said, "but I get a lot of calls that concern civil action that I don't handle as county attorney."

The county attorney's duties include prosecuting misdemeanor cases in county court, representing the county in civil action and assisting the district attorney in preparing felony cases.

Searcy said he also gets calls from people who say they want to drop charges that were previously filed in the county court. But he says he usually refuses to comply with the complainant's wishes.

"I just feel that once a person files charges I am obligated to go ahead and prosecute them because it costs me time and money to fill out all the paperwork and put the case on the county court docket," Searcy said.



Roland Searcy - county attorney

## Campus briefs

### Campaign reform speaker

Senator Betty Andujar of Fort Worth will speak on campaign reform Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in room 224 of the Memorial Student Center. Admission is free to the Political Forum event.

### Basement traditionalism

The Basement Committee will hold a Traditional Music Night in the Basement Coffeehouse April 19 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. A combination of blues, bluegrass, and ballads will be provided by various musicians.

Admission will be 25 cents. For further information call Jim Reeves at 693-2925.

### Wildlife film festival

The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is sponsoring a film festival April 10 in the Harrington Center in room 207.

The films are from the Sierra Club, Ducks Unlimited, and Chevrolet Motor corporation.

Admission is 75 cents for non-members and 50 cents for members.

### 'Hellstrom' showing

Cepheid Variables will present "The Hellstrom Chronicle," at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. in the Rudder Theater April 10.

Tickets are \$1. For further information contact the Cepheid Variables at 5-1515.

1970 election. He was also a delegate to the state Democratic Party conventions in 1970 and 1974.

Searcy still maintains a private civil law practice but said he will soon phase that out in order to become a full time county attorney.

"The job always has been a full time one and sometimes I find myself pressed to keep things in order and running smoothly," he said. "Tom (McDonald) left things in good shape for me when I took over, though."

Searcy said that since he took office the caseload has increased because of the county's population growth.

"We filed about 1,000 cases in 1974, which is 30 percent more than in 1973," he said. "That doesn't include worthless check cases, which are now handled by the justices of the peace."

Searcy said between 175 to 200 bad check cases are filed in the county now each month.

The phone in the office never seems to quit ringing, Searcy said. He said he gets many calls from people wanting to know, for example, how they can take action against credit agencies harassing them for

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Mexican Fiesta Dinner

Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili

Mexican Rice

Patio Style Pinto Beans

Tostadas

Coffee or Tea

One Corn Bread

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

"Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style"

Tossed Salad

Choice of one vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread & Butter

MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy

Whipped Potatoes

Your Choice of One Vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread and Butter

Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE

Cole Slaw

Hush Puppies

Choice of one vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread & Butter

Tea or Coffee

THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner

SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE

Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad

Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread

Tea or Coffee

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WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Beef Steak w/cream Gravy

Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread and Butter

Coffee or Tea

FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Mexican Fiesta Dinner

Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili

Mexican Rice

Patio Style Pinto Beans

Tostadas

Coffee or Tea

One Corn Bread

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Cole Slaw

Hush Puppies

Choice of one vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread & Butter

Tea or Coffee

### WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Beef Steak w/cream Gravy

Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread and Butter

Coffee or Tea

### THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

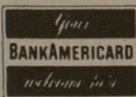
Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner

SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE

Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad

Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread

Tea or Coffee



"EATING OUT IS FUN"

### FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Mexican Fiesta Dinner

Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili

Mexican Rice

Patio Style Pinto Beans

Tostadas

Coffee or Tea

One Corn Bread

### SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

"Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style"

Tossed Salad

Choice of one vegetable

Roll or Corn Bread & Butter

### SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING

ROAST TURKEY DINNER

Served with Cranberry Sauce

Cornbread Dressing

Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea

Giblet Gravy

And your choice of any One vegetable

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