#### Old man wants to die in jail

GALVESTON — Santos Casarez Rios, 74, walked into a bank, laid his cane threateningly on a counter and rdered a teller to fill his brown paper sack with money. But police aid Tuesday his aim was not easy

After the teller handed him more han \$10,000, Rios told a bank offi-ial he wanted to be arrested and walked over to sit beside a security guard until police came for him. "He flat made a statement that

'm old, I'm sick, I'm going blind, I ook the money, I want to go back to he penitentiary and die, "United states National Bank Vice President Gilbert M. Bray said. "He said... he was all alone

"Just looking at his record, he bably spent a good portion of his ife there prison," prosecutor George Cooley said. "I'm just assuming he can't make it out in the eal world."

Police said Rios walked into the ank unarmed Monday and handed eller Teresa Kalsnes a note that ead, "This is a robbery. Fill this bag." She gave him \$10,643.

Even though Rios looked old,

tood 5'-6", weighed 135 pounds, ore thick glasses and walked with a ane, Kalsnes said she was conrinced "he was serious" and was rightened. She felt differently

"He's an old man," she said. "I sel sorry for him because he wants go back to prison. Why die in

Rios was jailed in lieu of \$20,000 ond pending arraignment.

Prosecutors said they planned a sychiatric evaluation and then pro-

cution as usual, if warranted. "Our concern is right now we ant to see if he's mentally compeent," Cooley said. "It's kind of a trange situation, but if this man wants to go to the pen and we turn im loose now he might go out and hoot somebody to make sure he

Cooley said reports from the Naional Crime Information Center incated Rios had "25 or 30 aliases." Of his 50 arrests, two dozen were immigration violations, others or burglary, theft and robbery, with 19 convictions.

"He's been out a little more than a year from the federal peniten-tary," Cooley said. "I talked to him own at the police station. I said, What penitentiary you want to go back to?' He said 'Any of them.'

"I said, 'Well how about Huntsville?' (the Texas Department of Corrections, which inmates consider inferior to federal prison.) He said 'Oh no. Not Huntsville.'"



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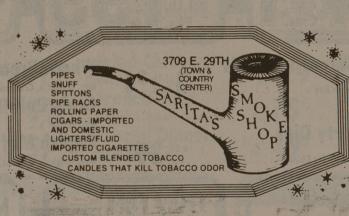
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#### Local celebrity

Tamara Follett, one of the students from Texas A&M who appears in Playboy magazine's September feature, "Girls of the Southwest Conference," autographs a copy of magazine at a local bookstore Monday.

Staff photo by Janet Golub



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### GTE \$31 million rate hike okayed; cooled by \$4 million poor service fine

AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission Tuesday granted General Telephone Co. a \$31 million-ayear rate increase but slapped the company with a \$4 million penalty for poor service, ordered the new rates delayed until Oct. 1 and threatened to revoke the operating license of the state's second largest phone company if service is not

The rate increases will raise minimum monthly service charges for residential customers - currently ranging from \$4.75 to \$16.20
— to \$7.75 in small exchange areas up to \$12.25 in cities where customers place the largest number of local

Company officials complained the delay in raising rates of its 1.2 million customers would cost the firm \$2.5 million.

"We had not expected anything like that," said F. E. Hightower of San Angelo, vice president of General Telephone Co. of the South-

Hightower also expressed surprise at the PUC move to initiate an investigation beginning next Feb. 1 to determine if the company is meeting quality of service stan-

to provide service to areas now handled by GT.

"General Telephone doesn't intend to relinquish its properties without making every effort to retain them," Hightower said.

The \$4 million penalty - deducted from the sum the PUC would otherwise have allowed in rate increases — and the delay in implementation of the \$31 million increase granted marks the first time the state agency has financially penalized a company for poor

This commission is not going to continue to permit a company to provide the kind of service that General Telephone has in this state," said George Cowden PUC chairman. "I don't think we have a company of any size in this state that has as poor a record of service as

General Telephone."

Cowden said he would favor delaying the rate hike for as much as six months but H. M. Rollins, the

newest member of the commission, suggested Oct. 1 as the deadline. Rollins noted unsatisfactory service was a major issue in the administrative hearings over GT's first rate increase request since the PUC was created in 1975.

ting certificate and allow other firms argued Don Butler, attorney for the Texas Municipal League and cities opposing the rate increase.

The company's attorney, W. W. Wueste of San Angelo, said efforts to improve service were hampered by ice storms in the north and west and tropical storm Claudette along the Gulf Coast in 1979.

Wueste said no other company has been penalized for service prob-lems and urged the PUC to allow time for the company to improve.

Allen King, a PUC attorney, said complaints about service come from every area served by GT and are not limited to times of adverse weather.

the commission have I been subjected to such a barrage of complaints as we have received from customers of General Telephone," King said. "Consumers do not object to paying a fair rate for telephone service but they can neither understand nor tolerate the poor quality of service by this company

General Telephone — which serves more than 260 communities and cities in Texas, ranging from San Angelo to Texarkna, Baytown to Sherman, and Del Rio to Bryan had requested a \$58 million rate

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