

State

Rock star's death ruled natural

United Press International
HARLINGEN — The justice of the peace investigating the death of rock 'n roll singer Bill Haley, who rose to international fame in the 1950s with a song called "Rock Around the Clock," said Tuesday the entertainer died quietly in his sleep.

"Apparently he went to sleep and never woke up," said Justice of the Peace Tommy Thompson, who went Monday to Haley's rambling ranch home to investigate the death.

"It appears he died of a heart attack," Thompson said, adding that Haley was lying on a bed in an "absolutely normal position."

Adan Lopez, a spokesman for Ashcraft-Kreiler Funeral Directors in Harlingen said Tuesday that a rosary and mass would be conducted but the times had not been scheduled.

"As far as I know, they (the services) will be public and there will be visitation here in our establishment," Lopez said.

The 55-year-old Haley was found dead shortly after noon Monday inside a room off the gar-

age of his home by a friend, Alberto Montolvo. Thompson said it appeared the entertainer had been dead about eight hours.

Haley, his wife Martha, and their three children, Martha, 18, Pedro, 10, and Gerogina, 6, moved to Harlingen about five years ago to lead a quiet life, another friend of the family said.

The entertainer, who caused riots among his teen-age fans wherever he went in the mid-1950s, drew a curtain of silence about himself and had declined requests for interviews.

It was in 1955 that a movie called "Blackboard Jungle," of which "Rock Around the Clock" was the theme song, that set Haley's career in motion.

As a result of that success, rock 'n roll became inextricably linked with the subject of the movie — teen-age rebellion. Some music historians have proclaimed Haley the father of rock 'n roll, noting that his style predated the emergence of Elvis Presley's style.

Haley and his band, The Comets, appeared in the later movie, "Rock Around the Clock," a tri-

bute to the growing teen-age craze. The recording is estimated to have sold 22½ million copies worldwide since its release.

The singer, guitarist and band-leader was born William John Clifton Haley Jr. in Highland Park, Mich., into a family of musicians. He could play guitar well by the time he entered Boothayne High School. He left classes at 15 to tour the Midwest with bands that played mostly country-western music.

His first band was the Down Homers. In 1951 Haley and his group signed with Essex Records of Philadelphia as Haley's Saddlemen and recorded "Rocket 88,"

which became a rhythm and blues hit.

The heavy beat played to country western stylings set the pace for early rock 'n roll sounds. In 1952, Haley renamed the band the Comets and recorded their first hit, "Crazy Man Crazy."

A version of "Shake, Rattle and Roll" gained worldwide attention. Haley other recordings include "See Ya Later, Alligator," "Rock a Beatin' Boogie," "Green Tree Boogie," and "Sundown Boogie."

His fame declined in the United States with the ending of the 50s decade, but continued strong in Europe. Haley's music enjoyed a brief resurgence of popularity in America in the early 1970s.

Legislator serious, wants judge ousted

United Press International
AUSTIN — A freshman Republican legislator said he is serious about wanting Congress to impeach U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice for "deliberately" weakening the state's powers.

Rep. Ken Riley, R-Corpus Christi, has introduced a resolution asking Congress to impeach Justice for burdening the taxpayers of Texas with decisions calling for busing of school children, improvement in Texas' prison system and extension of bilingual education programs.

The resolution accuses Justice of making "arbitrary rulings that not only have severely burdened the taxpayers of the State of Texas, but have deliberately weakened the powers of the State of Texas to govern its own affairs as provided by the 10th Amendment to the Constitution."

"I'm very serious about this resolution," Riley said. "I think somebody needs to get his attention. And I think this is the place to start."

Justice, who presides in the eastern district of Texas in Tyler, has ruled that the Texas Department of Corrections needs to alleviate overcrowding problems at the state's prisons. In the same opinion he said prisoners have been denied constitutional rights and have been mistreated. Justice also said TDC prisons and medical facilities are understaffed.

Attorney General Mark White and U.S. Department of Justice officials are now trying to work out an agreement to satisfy the problems Justice found during the eight-year federal case.

Justice also has issued a decision calling for more bilingual education programs in the state.

"He says bilingual education should be extended to all grades, no matter what the cost," Riley said. "That forces local governments to spend more money. His decisions force citizens to by-pass the legislative process and I think that's grounds for impeachment."

The freshman legislator also said Justice should not have had the authority to dictate to the state what it should do to rectify the bad conditions in Texas prisons.

"It's none of his business. If he voices his opinion, that's one thing. But when a state is forced to spend money, that's another thing."

Riley said the resolution would reach the floor of the House "sometime" and he indicated he had not talked to any of his colleagues about the legislation.

"No, I didn't talk to anyone. It was something I wanted to do."

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