

# Chagra says drug abuse due to brothers' problems

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — Joe Chagra's judgment and memory were impaired by his heavy use of cocaine at the time he encouraged his brother Jimmy to kill federal Judge John H. Wood, the El Paso lawyer testified.

Joe Chagra said Wednesday under cross-examination that his drug abuse began with the pressures that followed the murder of his eldest brother Lee in December 1978 and the indictment of middle brother Jimmy on drug charges in February 1979.

"My whole life changed after my brother's murder and my other brother's indictment," said Joe Chagra, whose cross-examination was to resume Thursday.

He is testifying under a plea-bargain arrangement in the trial

of Charles Harrelson, accused of being the triggerman in the Wood slaying on May 29, 1979. Also on trial are Jimmy Chagra's wife, Elizabeth, and Harrelson's wife, Jo Ann. Jimmy Chagra is to be tried later on a murder charge.

Joe Chagra said he also was under the influence of cocaine when he says Harrelson confessed to him in detail about Wood's murder.

"I think it definitely affected my memory," Chagra said of the drug. "It affected my judgment. It affected my personality."

Chagra said the idea to kill Wood arose after Jimmy, scheduled for trial on cocaine-smuggling charges, refused a government plea-bargain to plead guilty in exchange for 15 years in prison. Jimmy wanted to plead guilty to two counts of

marijuana smuggling for 10 years, Joe said.

The plea negotiations broke down a week before Wood was killed, Joe said.

"Are you telling this jury you and your brother Jimmy conspired to kill Judge Wood over a five-year differential in sentence?" asked Harrelson's attorney, Tom Sharpe of Brownsville.

"Yes, I am," Chagra replied after a long pause.

Then he said: "Jimmy's main reason for not accepting the plea is that he would not accept a cocaine count. The 15 years is not what bothered him — it was the drug involved."

After Wood's death, Jimmy Chagra was tried by federal Judge William Sessions, who is also presiding in this trial, and was sentenced to 30 years with-

out parole.

Other evidence Wednesday showed Elizabeth Chagra told her husband the FBI had "hit it right on the head" that she delivered a payoff for the slaying to Harrelson's stepdaughter.

The Chagras wrote notes to each other during a 1981 visit at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan., because Jimmy Chagra had learned the FBI was taping all his telephone conversations and visits.

"If the FBI is just guessing, how did they happen to hit it right on the head about a PG (pregnant) lady paying Teresa?" one of Mrs. Chagra's notes said.

Mrs. Chagra was eight months pregnant at the time prosecutors say she brought a \$250,000 payoff for Harrelson to his stepdaughter, Teresa Starr, at a Las Vegas, Nev., hotel a month after Wood's death.

# Roloff rites set for Friday; pastor expects large crowd

United Press International  
HOUSTON — An autopsy of radio evangelist Lester Roloff showed nothing unusual, the Harris County medical examiner's office reported, and his body was released for preparation for a funeral expected to draw 10,000 people.

Roloff's body was transported to a Houston funeral home Wednesday. From there it was to be moved to Corpus Christi in preparation for tomorrow's funeral at the Corpus Christi coliseum.

Roloff and four of his followers were killed early Tuesday when the Cessna 210 he was piloting crashed in Leon County.

"We've had calls from around the world since the word spread of Roloff's death," said the Rev. Mike Rios, assistant pastor of Roloff's People's Church in Corpus Christi. "We're expecting at least 10,000 people."

A spokesman for the Cage Mills Funeral Home in Corpus Christi said the funeral would be held at 2 p.m.

Investigators said Roloff's single-engine plane apparently came apart and fell to the

ground suddenly, scattering wreckage across a pasture three miles north of Normangee. The wings and tail of the craft fell a half-mile from the fuselage.

Also killed in the crash were

Elaine Wingert, 30, Roloff's secretary; Susan Lynn Smith, 29, a teacher at Jubilee Home; Cheryl Palmer, 24, a Roloff missionary in Arizona; and Enola Slade, 25, a counselor at Jubilee.

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