

# Bush announces grants to border communities

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Vice President George Bush, head of the Southwest Border Action Group, Wednesday announced federal grants totaling \$17 million were awarded to border communities in the past week. The grants included \$133,357 from the Department of Interior that went for con-

tracts to eight firms in Cameron County, Texas, and Yuma County, Arizona. Other awards included \$4.3 million from the Small Business Administration to be divided among loan applicants and federal contract holders in Texas, Arizona and California. The Department of Housing and Urban Development

awarded grants totaling \$8.2 million to provide for the construction of approximately 2,000 units in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. The Environmental Protection Agency allocated \$4.1 million for a wastewater treatment plant in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

# Convict says needles left in long after stay

United Press International  
HUNTSVILLE — James "Cowboy" Autry, who won a last-minute reprieve from execution by injection Oct. 4, said Wednesday officials left intravenous death needles in his arms too long after a Supreme Court stay, but he was too happy to protest.

"I was just too happy that I got a stay," Autry said. "The impression I got was that one of them couldn't make the decision, and they were looking for somebody else to tell them before they would take me off the table."

Autry said he thought it was unnecessary for officials to put him on the death gurney and connect the needles an hour before his scheduled 12:01 a.m. execution. He also thought it unnecessary to leave him there nearly an hour after TDC first got word of the stay by Justice Byron White.

"I think it was unnecessary for them to put me on that table at 11 o'clock. If they're going to execute someone, they should take them in there at 12. It doesn't take five minutes to put you on that gur-

ney and put the needle in your arm," Autry said.

"When they put you on that table and put the needle in the arm that's like starting the execution. Instead of killing you at 12:01, they can do it at 12:06. What's six minutes? It just doesn't make any sense to put you on that table and leave you there for an hour or so."

Autry's account of the timing of events differed somewhat from the official version given previously by Texas Department of Corrections officials. Autry and TDC agreed intravenous needles carrying a preparatory saline solution were placed in each arm about 11:05 p.m.

TDC spokesman Rick Hartley had said TDC received word of the stay at 11:32 p.m. and informed Autry at 11:39 p.m. that officials were trying to clarify news of a stay. Once the indefinite postponement was confirmed, Hartley said Autry was removed from the gurney at 12:13 a.m.

Autry said he first got word of a stay about 11:45 p.m. and was not taken off the gurney until 12:25 or 12:30 a.m.

Autry, 29, sentenced to death for the 1980 robbery-slaying of Port Arthur convenience store clerk Shirley Drouet, 43, a mother of five, said by the time news of a stay came he already had resigned himself to dying. But he admits he was frightened.

He said it was minutes that TDC told him he had a "temporary stay."

"It surprised me that one, and sparked a little, but it was about 15 minutes later that they told me I had an indefinite stay," Autry said. "After they told me I had a temporary stay, that's the time just seemed to stop. I lay there forever."

After he was removed from the table, Autry said, "I was just so happy to be off the table. I couldn't believe it happened and I couldn't understand why Byron White had given me a stay."

He knew White the day before had voted against giving him a stay on different grounds.

Autry said since the state has fired his court-appointed attorney, Charles Carter, Port Arthur, and is pleading the American Civil Liberties Union has become involved in his case.

*He thought it was unnecessary for officials to put him on the death gurney and connect the needles an hour before his scheduled 12:01 a.m. execution.*

*"I was laying there thinking, 'I'm not going to ever get off this table again by myself.' I asked the chaplain how much time was left and he told me 16 minutes. I almost had a heart attack," Autry said.*

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# Task force reviews confessed killings

United Press International  
MONROE, La. — Law enforcement officials Wednesday reviewed evidence from some

165 murders spanning the seven-year homicidal trek of a confessed mass murderer.

Sgt. Jay Via of the Ouchita Parish Sheriff's office said authorities have linked between 26 and 30 murders in Florida, Texas and possibly California to drifter Henry Lee Lucas and his alleged accomplice, Otis Elwood Toole.

Lucas, 47, and Toole in September admitted to the 1981 abduction and murder of a northeast Louisiana woman. Lucas' confession to that murder and 165-200 others spawned the formation of the special task force hosting the three-day meeting.

About 80 officers from 20 states including Texas, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Colorado and California Wednesday reviewed the long list of murders police have been unable to link to Lucas despite his claims.

Texas Ranger Phil Ryan and Jacksonville, Fla., police officer Buddy Terry described travel patterns, methods of operation and evidence surrounding the murders, Via said.

"If what they are saying is validated, it probably would be a record-breaking figure in the number of people they've killed over a period of time," Via said.

Via said investigators believe Lucas committed some of the murders with Toole, some alone and others with an unspecified number of accomplices.

Lucas earlier this month pleaded guilty to killing 80-year-old Kate Rich of Ringgold and was sentenced to 75 years in prison.

He faces seven other charges in Texas, one in Mississippi and is linked to eight deaths in Florida.

Lucas, a former mental patient, was scheduled to be tried Oct. 17 in Denton on charges he stabbed and murdered 15-year-old rape victim Frieda Powell in Denton, 23, 1982.

In a hearing in Denton, state District Judge Houston saw a videotaped confession by Lucas, in which he suspected mass killer described arguing with Powell, whom he met in Jacksonville, Fla.

Lucas said he then raped and stabbed the teenager, had intercourse with her and membered her body.


He told authorities he put the girl's body parts in three lowcases and spread them in a 50-yard area in a field near a road. He said he returned to the spot two weeks later and buried the girl near a tree.

The confession was taped Monday County June 13, several days after Lucas was arrested on a weapons charge.

Houston ordered Lucas previously served time in Michigan prison and sent to hospital for killing his 14-year-old mother, to undergo psychiatric testing to determine whether he was insane.

Toole, 36, is serving time in Florida prison for second-degree arson and has been indicted for first-degree murder in Jacksonville, Fla.

**OFF THE CUFF**



**BY BOB DODSON**

A father is a person who spends several thousand dollars on his daughter's wedding, then reads in the paper that he gave the bride away.

Industries seem to find it as hard to give up smoking as people do.

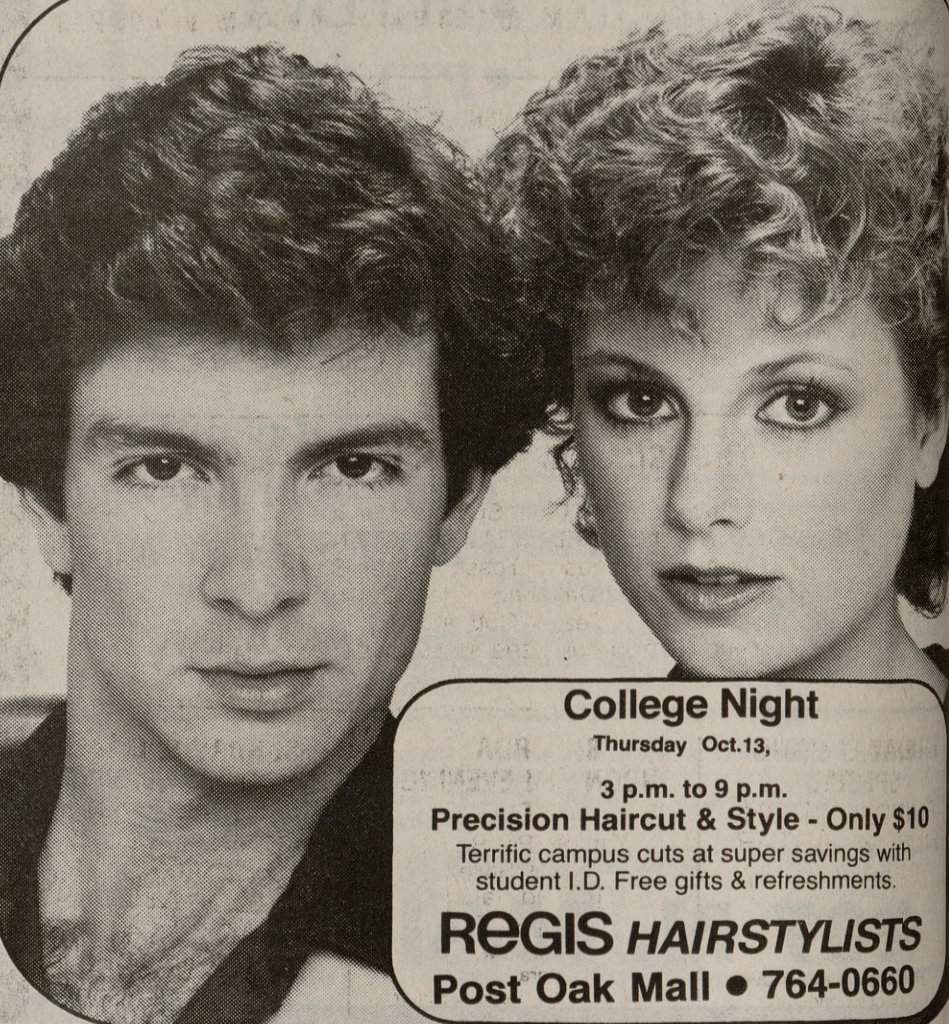
An optimist wipes off his glasses before starting to eat grapefruit.

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