

Lucas gets life imprisonment for stabbing young girlfriend

United Press International
DENTON — A jury Thursday sentenced Henry Lee Lucas, whose claims of murdering more than 150 women could make him the country's most prolific killer, to 99 years or life in prison for stabbing and dismembering his 15-year-old girlfriend.

Punishment deliberations took three hours.

"I expected it," Lucas said as he was led away following District Judge W.C. Boyd's formal

pronouncement of sentence. "I am relieved. This is what I asked for."

Lucas told reporters he would plead guilty to the eight remaining murder charges against him.

"I will ask for death," he said. The one-eyed former mental patient said the murder conviction Wednesday was "just what I expected" in his first trial since he began telling authorities he killed more than 150 women in 17 states during the past eight years.

The jury Wednesday con-

vinced Lucas, who served prison time for killing his mother, in the death of 15-year-old Frieda "Becky" Powell, a traveling companion Lucas confessed to killing in a field near Denton.

Under Texas law, the jury's finding on punishment is binding.

In his presentation Wednesday, District Attorney Jerry Cobb urged the jury to "have the guts" to send Lucas to jail for life for Powell's murder.

"The punishment has to do with removing this animal from the streets of America and pro-

tecting the American society. It has to do with the protection of 15-year-old girls and old ladies. If you have the guts, the reasonable thing to do is to send him away for life," Cobb said.

The jury was apparently unmoved by an appeal from Lucas' court-appointed lawyer, Tom Whitlock, who stressed Lucas' co-operation with authorities merited consideration and asked for a five-year sentence.

Whitlock said he would decide on an appeal after the sen-

tencing. "He (Lucas) always in the basic facts of the case he took a life and he was punished for it," he said. "This man deserves credit for this."

Lucas, a one-eyed drinker, served time in a Michigan prison for killing his mother and pleaded guilty Sept. 30 to slaying of Kate Rich, 80, of gold, Texas, and was sentenced to 75 years in prison. He faces seven murder charges in Texas and one in Louisiana.

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2 more charges filed in CS shooting spree

A Brazos County grand jury returned two more capital murder indictments Thursday against a man police say killed six people during a rampage in southeast Texas last month.

Eliseo Moreno, a former Donna lawnmower repairman, was charged Thursday in the Oct. 11 deaths of Juan Garza and his wife, Ester, at their College Station apartment.

Police say this is how the shootings happened:

The Garzas became the first of six victims when Moreno went to their apartment in search of his estranged wife, Blanca, who was Garza's sister.

After Moreno shot Garza and his wife to death, he fled and was stopped by DPS Trooper Russell Lynn Boyd, 25, on a highway between Navasota and Hempstead.

Moreno fatally shot Boyd and a short time later shot two women and a man in Hempstead. Two of the three Hempstead residents died instantly

and the third, Ann Bennett, died Sunday.

Before Thursday's indictments, Moreno had been charged with three counts of murder and one count of murder in Hempstead.

Moreno also faces kidnapping charges in the abduction of a Houston man. Police forced the family to drive Pasadena. The other abducted was driving when he was captured, roadblock in Wharton.

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