

State senator denies foul play in land deal

United Press International
DALLAS — State Sen. Ted Lyon profited from a condominium marketing firm under state and federal scrutiny and failed to warn potential investors he was representing personal financial risk in the transactions, The Dallas Morning News reported Tuesday.

Lyon, a Mesquite Democrat whose law firm handled business for Kitco Developers Inc. and its owner Clifford Sinclair, denied any wrongdoing in the enterprise, according to a copyright report in the Morning News.

Under the scheme, Kitco recruited investors to pledge their net worth as security on loans to buy land, mostly around Lake

Ray Hubbard east of Dallas. The land was appraised at inflated values and investors were paid the difference in bonuses of at least \$20,000, the Morning News reported.

According to state records compiled in a two-month Morning News inquiry, the Lyon and Smith law firm handled incorporations for dozens of investor companies formed to take part in the land deals and received fees of \$500 to \$1,000 for each transaction.

But the deal was so structured that individuals were personally liable for the loans, a fact Lyon did not bring up while the deal was being closed, the Morning News said.

"Anybody who would go

down there and sign a note for that much money and not read the papers is pretty stupid if you ask me," Lyons said.

But an attorney representing an investor in one of the transactions said it was up to Lyon to warn investors of possible risks.

According to records, Lyon himself personally took part in a land deal through Lyon Development Inc. in which he signed a \$700,439 note to Bell Savings Association of Belton for two acres in Lancaster.

Bell Savings president Ken Law said Lyon demanded several months ago that he be allowed to assign the debt on the land — site of a planned condominium project — to another investor.

Group rejects federal law

4 harbored tax fugitive

United Press International
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Leonard Ginter, the man accused of helping hide tax fugitive Gordon Kahl before a fiery shoot-out June 3, was sentenced to five years in prison Tuesday but his wife was spared a prison term.

Norma Ginter, 58, received a five-year suspended sentence and was placed on probation for that time.

She will remain in custody, however, until the Ginters are tried for capital murder in the death of Lawrence County Sheriff Gene Matthews. Authorities said Matthews and Kahl killed each other with their last shots at the Ginters' home near Smithville.

Two other men convicted of harboring Kahl were also sentenced by U.S. District Judge Franklin Waters.

Ed Udey, 70, of Cotter received two concurrent five-year sentences, and Arthur Russell, 74, of Mountain Home, was sentenced to five years with all but six months suspended.

The maximum penalty would have been 10 years in prison and a fine of \$15,000.

"I thought it was a just sentence and we were very satisfied with it," said Prosecuting Attorney Asa Hutchinson.

According to testimony in the October trial, the Ginters

helped hide Kahl in Mountain Home for about a month, then moved him to their concrete bunker a few days before authorities found him.

At the time, Kahl was being sought in the February shooting deaths of two federal marshals in North Dakota. Kahl had been a farmer there and was a member of Posse Comitatus, a paramilitary group that opposes individual income tax and rejects federal authority.

Ginter was a charter member of Posse Comitatus when he lived in Dickeyville, Wis., but the couple banded with a less formal group of tax protesters in Arkansas, a friend and neighbor said.

The Ginters were also vivalists, preparing for a nuclear catastrophe or Soviet invasion, said Bill Wade. Eight thousand rounds of ammunition stored inside the bunker exploded during the police firefight when Kahl died.

"Leonard was a good student of the Bible," Wade said. "He felt that the biblical prophecies for the end of the world were being fulfilled. He thought the millennium was upon us, and that the Rapture might be coming up from the shores any day. He wanted to be ready."

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The Kitco condominium investment packages involve hundreds of investors who are personally liable for millions of dollars in real estate notes, which could represent substantial losses to lending institutions in event of default, the Morning News found.

The schemes have come under scrutiny of the FBI, the Texas Savings and Loan Department and the Federal Home Loan Board, the Morning News reported.

Crash causes unexplained

United Press International
MIDLAND — No mechanical or pilot errors have been found to explain the crash of a private plane that killed eight men, including six Midland-Odessa television station employees, an official said Tuesday.

An investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, Warren Wandel, confirmed the chartered twin-engine Beechcraft-100's landing gear was up when the plane crashed early Saturday.

But he told reporters at a

news conference the pilot would have put the landing gear up if he had decided to make another approach before landing at the Midland Regional Airport.

The plane, carrying employees of the Odessa-Midland KOSA television station, was returning from taping two high school football games when it crashed.

He said more tests would be conducted to try and determine mechanical or pilot failures.

The plane was traveling between 100 mph and 150 mph when it crashed in a field east of the main runway.

Pilot Keith Elkin of Midland had more than 5,000 hours of flying experience, with 100 hours experience flying a particular type of plane, Wandel said.

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"According to witnesses we have interviewed and a reconstruction of a flight profile, the landing gear was down when the pilot approached runway 16," Wandel said.

He added that the landing lights had been on — indicating the gear was down.

Sometime during the accident sequence the pilot selected to gear up, and it was up at impact, but it was down during the approach, which indicated it was

He predicted it would take to six months before the cause of the crash was determined by Federal Aviation Administration officials in Washington, D.C.

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