

Lesser sentence refused for convicted lawman

United Press International
HOUSTON — A federal judge Thursday decided not to reduce the 10-year prison term for a former East Texas sheriff who was convicted of violating the rights of prisoners through water torture.

Former San Jacinto Sheriff James "Humpty" Parker originally was sentenced in October by U.S. District Judge James DeAnda to 10 years in prison and fined \$12,000.

At that time, the judge ordered a psychiatric evaluation of the 47-year-old Parker, but

after reading the doctor's report, DeAnda decided to leave intact the sentence. Although the report revealed that Parker was suffering from an alcohol abuse problem, DeAnda said it confirmed he did not overlook anything.

Parker and two of his deputies were convicted in September of conspiracy and civil rights violations in connection with a water torture treatment the men used on prisoners.

DeAnda said the tragedy of the case was that Parker corrupted other good officers and

he was responsible for the water tortures that went on in his county for a number of years.

He called it a case of "aggravated civil rights" violations and not an isolated incident.

Several people testified that the lawmen placed towels over their faces, poured water into the cloth until the prisoner confessed to a crime. The men said they had been handcuffed to chairs at the time of the tortures.

Former Deputy Carl Lee, 63, was sentenced in October to four years in prison and five years probation and former deputy John Glover, 65, was sentenced to two years in prison and five years probation.

Parker now returns to his cell at the Harris County Jail, where he is in solitary confinement.

R.I.



by Paul Dirmeyer

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Court refuses Autry appeal

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court Thursday refused to block the upcoming execution of condemned killer James David Autry, who is scheduled to die by lethal injection March 14 at Huntsville Prison.

"Cowboy" Autry, as he was nicknamed by other inmates on death row at the state's maximum security prison, came within 30 minutes of being executed Oct. 4, 1983, but was saved by a last-minute stay from the U.S. Supreme Court.

The high court Jan. 23 rejected Autry's claim a proportionality review was required by Texas' constitution and ordered a new execution scheduled.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Thursday refused to

delay the March 14 execution, rejecting the killer's argument his attorney was ineffective during the sentencing phase of his trial.

Autry also alleged he was subjected to cruel and unusual punishment on Oct. 4, 1983, by being "placed on the gurney an entire hour prior to the time when respondent had a legal entitlement to end his life ... and ... was misled into believing a stay had in fact not been obtained and his death was imminent ... amounting to psychological torture."

Autry was sentenced to death for the 1980 slaying of a convenience store clerk in Port Arthur during the robbery of a six-pack of beer. He also killed a priest in that incident.

The 29-year-old Texan contended his attorney, Charles Carver, "failed to present any evidence in mitigation of punishment at the penalty stage of the proceedings."

Autry's appeal claimed witnesses were available during sentencing who could have testified to his family background; of his parents' alcoholism and of violent and demeaning treatment by his father.

Carver testified Autry asked him not to fight the death penalty because he preferred death to life in prison. The attorney also testified he attempted to locate witnesses, but Autry preferred not to publicize his troubled youth.

Carver said he had planned to ask Autry's mother to testify,

but his strategy could not be implemented because of Autry's strong resistance to a life sentence.

Autry denied rejecting a sentence or forbidding Carver to put his mother on the stand. Autry's mother supported her son, disputing Carver's testimony that he had told her of difficulty with Autry.

The three-judge appeals panel in New Orleans found Carver's testimony to be truthful, accurate and supported the record.

The judges rejected as frivolous Autry's second claim of psychological torture in minutes before his scheduled Oct. 4, 1983, execution.

High school fire investigated

United Press International
VENUS, Texas — The state fire marshal Thursday investigated a blaze that destroyed the only high school in a small town already under state orders to ease overcrowding.

Classes were expected to resume Monday in temporary facilities after Wednesday's fire, which began in the gymnasium and gutted the structure, said

Leroy Boldt, fire chief of the Johnson County town, located 40 miles south of Fort Worth.

Two volunteer firefighters suffered minor injuries.

Asked if arson was suspected, Boldt said: "No comment. The state fire marshal is coming to check it out. At this time we don't know the cause."

"It spread awfully quick," said Shelby Clowder, one of 50 volunteer firefighters who

fought the blaze. "We contained it for a little while, but it just kept burning. We just didn't have enough trucks and enough manpower to contain it."

Principal Charles McGehee, who called the loss of the building "a bad fix," said classes had been dismissed for the day shortly before the fire started.

Several girls attending a cheerleading practice in the

gym area escaped without injury, he said.

"At this time, we have an earthy idea what we're going to do," McGehee said.

The school recently had threatened with loss of accreditation by the Texas Education Agency if the overcrowding problem was not solved.

School enrollment rose percent last fall over the entire 1983 school year, with additional students.

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In home teaching now legal

United Press International
AUSTIN — An education subcommittee adopted a recommendation Thursday that would allow children to be taught at home by their parents — a suggestion the group chairman admitted was a bad idea.

Texas law currently requires all children to attend accredited schools. A recommendation a subcommittee of the State Committee on Public Education would permit children to be educated at home through sixth grade.

State Sen. Carl Parker, chairman of the subcommittee, made the recommendation to appease parents who believed it was their constitutional right to teach their own children.

"But I don't think it's a good idea," said Parker, D-Port Arthur. "I wouldn't do it for children."

The recommendation — of dozens to be forwarded to the full committee, which will draft its legislative recommendations March 14-16 in Dallas — would require parents to home-educate children to pass the students at local schools and allow them to undergo achievement tests at schools.

The home schooling would have to follow an organized course of study. Superintendents would monitor the progress of home-taught children and could require them to attend public schools if their progress was insufficient.

Mark White Doesn't Want You To Vote.



Either he set the date for the special election for State Representative (March 10) deliberately during your Spring Break, or he just didn't care enough about Texas A&M to ask.

Student Senate opposes election date

The bill states that because "students and faculty traditionally make vacation and travel plans during the break and are therefore expected to be out of town during the election, expecting such a large number of voters to vote absentee is both an inconvenience and increases the chances of misrepresentation of the 14th district's population."

Battalion 1-26-84

Gov. Mark White Tuesday named March 10 as the special election date to fill the District 14 state representative vacancy. Democratic Secretary of State John Fainter said he did not know, nor had he heard it discussed, that March 10 was the beginning of spring break.

He said that March 10 had been described as "convenient day" by party officials. But Fainter did say the election could have been called earlier, possibly March 3, another Saturday.

Bryan-College Station Eagle Wednesday, January 25, 1984

Since 1947, an Aggie has been our State Representative. Don't let our traditions die. Vote absentee, for Richard Smith.

VOTE ABSENTEE

Governor Mark White called this special election for State Representative during the Spring Break for Texas A&M, College Station and Bryan Independent School Districts, on March 10. If you plan to leave town, you need to vote absentee. The last day to vote absentee is March 6.

Monday through Friday, vote at the College Station City Hall across from Campus or at the Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan.

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| 10:10 a.m. | Commons |
| 12:00 Noon | MSC |
| 12:10 p.m. | Commons |
| 2:00 p.m. | MSC |
| 2:10 p.m. | Commons |
| 4:00 p.m. | Duncan Dining Hall |

ELECT Richard Smith For State Representative

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Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Thursday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT

- A student's backpack containing her wallet, textbooks and \$16 in cash was stolen from the women's dressing room at G. Rollie White Coliseum.
- A blue Miyata ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the breezeway by Spence Hall.
- A man's leather, western style coat was stolen from 4177 Medical Science.