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Estes

Daughter promotes her book in B-CS

By **DONN FRIEDMAN**
Staff Writer

Billie Sol Estes was expected to be in College Station today to help his daughter promote her book 'Billie Sol,' but Pam Estes was all alone Thursday afternoon as she answered reporter's questions at an area bookstore.

Billie Sol Estes, who was convicted in 1963 of cheating West Texas banks by using non-existent fertilizer tanks as loan collateral, couldn't travel to College Station because of a court order restricting his travel. Estes is on parole.

But Pam Estes was not in College Station to discuss her father's past wheelings and dealings. She was here for one reason, plain and simple: to sell her book.

She regurgitated an elaborate public relations version of her book:

"Billie Sol? He's the original J.R. (as in Ewing of the Dallas TV series fame). Dallas is boring compared to him."

"My sisters are very much like the people on Dallas. And my brother — we call him Howard Hughes."

The book, Estes said, has been a life-long project.

"I started it when my father was first in trouble," she said. "I was 13 — 1962."

"The book has been happening for 20 years — just another episode in a long struggle."

Pam Estes, an Abilene Christian University journalism graduate turned realtor, insisted money wasn't the primary motive for writing the book.

Her main occupation is realty, she said, and a friend of the family called her 'a self-made millionaire.'

As a golden Krugerrand swung on a chain around her neck, Estes smiled sweetly and replied, "I work real hard and make quite a bit of money."

What about the financial condition of the rest of her family, led by one of Texas' most famous wheeler dealers?

"My father has little or no

money," she said. "He's been through that stage of his life and now he doesn't care about that."

Slowly, book buyers wandered into the shop and Pam Estes, still talking in a sugary West Texas drawl, began autographing her book. Her left hand tightly grasped the corner of the book with her daddy's picture on it. She looked up and smiled as a middle-aged man watched her autograph a book to his son-in-law.

"I've never seen so much publicity," Estes said.

But not everyone at the bookstore was looking for an autograph.

A woman standing off to the side watched apprehensively as autograph-seekers talked to Pam Estes. A picture of Robert Kennedy stared out from a button pinned to her shirt.

"Robert Kennedy was trying to prosecute Estes," she said. "Giving publicity to Estes violates everything I stand for — everything Robert Kennedy stood for. That is unless she (Pam Estes) is planning on giving the profits to education or something."



Photo by DEAN...

Pam Estes, the daughter of convicted swindler Billie Sol Estes signs autographs at an area bookstore. Ms. Estes was promoting her book 'Billie Sol.'

Judges chide Peoples

United Press International

DALLAS — U.S. Marshal Clint Peoples has been criticized by three federal judges for lending credibility to convicted swindler Billie Sol Estes' accusation that former President Lyndon Johnson ordered a hit on the Dallas Times Herald reported Thursday.

Courthouse sources said judges chided Peoples behind closed doors for his handling of Estes' claims. The judges pressed concern that Peoples' involvement in the case lend credibility to an otherwise unsubstantiated story, sources said.

The newspaper said judges at the meeting were Bert M. Hill of Dallas, Halbert Woodward of Lubbock and Barefoot Sanders, U.S. attorney for north Texas at the time of the alleged murder and later Johnson legal counsel.

Estes reportedly told a Tarrant County grand jury last week that Johnson ordered the 1961 death of Henry Marshall, an investigator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Peoples investigated Marshall's death, which in 1981 ruled a suicide. The grand jury changed the ruling to homicide after hearing Estes' testimony.

Estes reportedly told the Marshall was ordered killed because Johnson feared Marshall's investigation of cotton allotments swindle could be linked to then president Johnson.

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