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Elderly woman convicted on assault charge

Associated Press

DALLAS — Jurors convicted a 65-year-old woman of aggravated assault Monday for shooting a high school student after what she described as years of abuse she suffered from pupils at his school.

Stein, who acted as her own defense attorney during the trial, could be sentenced up to 10 years in prison.

The July 24 shooting occurred outside Highland Park High School, across the street from her house, when Ward Huey III left after taking a summer school Spanish test.

Huey, 18, testified the woman shot him after he cursed her for telling him he should be arrested for noisily spinning his car's wheels as he left his parking space on two occasions during the day.

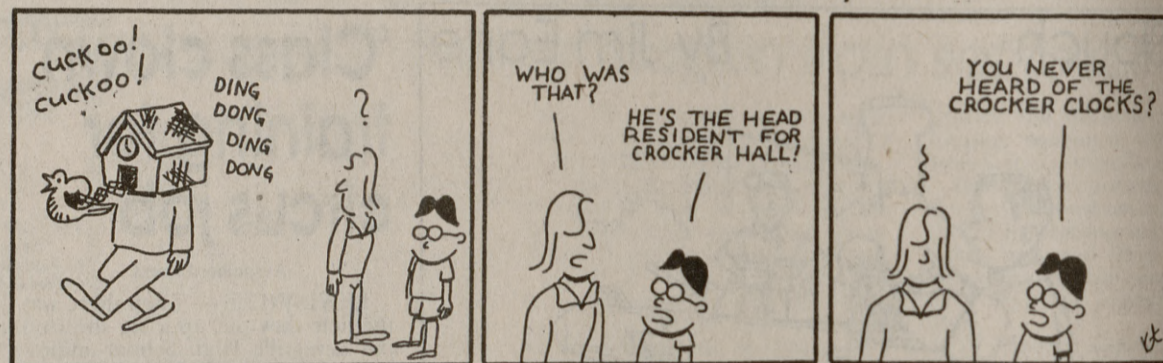
Stein testified the school's students have taunted her for years, and that she only meant to shoot out the tires of Huey's car.

When she took the stand in her defense, she referred to students as "little degenerates," "sadists" and "little communists."

She was cited for contempt of court when she called Assistant District Attorney Jim Nelson "stupid" and "you simple-minded thing." Moyer asked the jury to leave the room before announcing the contempt ruling.

Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Driver of hijacked bus utilizes common sense

Associated Press

DALLAS — A security guard who was disarmed and forced to drive a hijacked Greyhound bus more than 50 miles says he considered escape but decided it would be too risky on the busy highway.

Mark Showers, 30, of Irving, said the only things he could think of doing, such as swerving sharply, might have caused him to lose control of the bus and endanger other motorists.

"A lot of things went through my mind; however, common sense prevailed," he said.

Showers, a security guard at the Greyhound bus terminal in down-

town Dallas, was abducted at gunpoint shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday by an armed man who said he wanted to go to Oklahoma City.

After an 80-minute chase involving a Dallas police helicopter and more than 50 officers from five departments, the abductor surrendered just before the empty bus reached a roadblock near Valley View in Cooke County.

Joe Louis Ozuna, 30, of Dallas, was being held on \$100,000 bond in Lew Sterrett Justice Center on a charge of aggravated robbery.

Investigators Monday still had not determined a motive for the

hijacking.

"A perfect description would be Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," Showers said of his abductor. "Part of the time he was a perfect passenger and the rest of the time he was yelling and screaming at me..." The last part of the trip all he would say to me was 'Keep driving; don't stop.'"

As they neared the roadblock, the man handed Showers both guns — his own and one he'd taken from Showers — and waited silently on a bus seat for police, Showers said.

"A great load had come off my shoulders," the security guard said.

TDC chair: Prison rodeo will continue

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Texas prison officials said Monday the state prison rodeo last month made about a \$100,000 profit, and the chairman of the prison board predicted the 54-year-old tradition would continue for at least another year.

"I'd like to see us look not whether to keep the rodeo, but how to structure it, keep costs down and whether we need outside help," Texas Board of Corrections Chairman Alfred Hughes said.

Commissioner James Parsons suggested, and the board agreed, to set up a committee to look at the rodeo and report the findings to the full board in January.

Hughes said the board "will vote to keep the rodeo" when the matter comes up the first of the year.

The rodeo, held on the four Sundays of October, was given a man-

"I'd like to see us look not whether to keep the rodeo, but how to structure it, keep costs down and whether we need outside help."

— Texas Board of Corrections Chairman Alfred Hughes

date this year to show a profit or face extinction.

"The bottom line is that we had a \$100,000 profit, which may change by plus or minus 10 percent," James Lynaugh, deputy director for finance, told the board at its meeting Monday.

Lynaugh said exact figures should be available after the state auditor's office reviews the rodeo finances and takes into account new practices which make the rodeo comply with the fiscal year instead of the cal-

endar year.

Lynaugh, after receiving compliments from board members, attributed the rodeo's success last month to "a whole lot of luck."

Meanwhile, he said prison officials have asked four firms to provide estimates on what it would cost to repair the rodeo arena adjacent to the Walls Unit in Huntsville. Another firm is being asked to estimate the cost of installing aluminum bleachers capable of handling 30,000 spectators.

Hughes said any study of the rodeo's future also should consider how much time the rodeo takes from normal duties of prison officials and staff.

Some thought also should be given to the possibility of moving the rodeo away from the Walls Unit because the prison "desperately needs recreation land" there, Hughes said.

In other matters, the board approved several construction projects, including a new \$60 million, 2,250-inmate prison at Coffield and an \$11.7 million expenditure for expansion of the system's Diagnostic Center in Huntsville.

Coffield was selected as site for the new unit earlier this year. The new prison will be paid for with money from the sale of department land.

Mexican border midwives exist in shadows

EDITOR'S NOTE — Hundreds of midwives, "parteras," exist in a sort of shadow world along the Mexican border, following codes and customs of their own. Officials estimate that about half of their patients are Mexican women from south of the border. That's because a baby born in the United States is automatically a U.S. citizen.

Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE — A month ago, Mrs. Irma Ramirez walked heavily up a dirt path to a small house typical of many in this border town. She had come to give birth to a child, her ninth, and was well on the way.

The woman who greeted her, Mrs. Eufemia Lopez, was likewise no stranger to childbirth.

Outside the one-story, clapboard Lopez house, scrawny chickens pecked at tufts of thin grass beneath a sign that said: "Se Atienen Partos." In the local idiom: "birthing done here." Lopez is a "partera," a midwife.

She is one of the more experienced in the American towns along

the Rio Grande. She calculates she has assisted at more than 2,000 births — about 150 a year for 14 years. Her fee, \$200, is about average.

Midwives flourish along the border for a variety of reasons, mostly to do with poverty, but also with politics, for a simple reason.

Immigration, generally illegal, is at a historic high along this very porous, 1,950-mile border. Congress is trying yet again — for the fourth time in four years — to write a law to control it. Authentic U.S. citizenship has never been more prized.

Well, a baby born in America is automatically a U.S. citizen. So if a Mexican mother times it right, she can give that precious gift to her offspring with no more trouble than a brief trip across a bridge. Records are unreliable, but the best estimate in this one Texas county, across the river from Matamoros, Mexico, is that up to half the midwife deliveries are to Mexican nationals.

Ramirez's nationality was not recorded. Tragically, it doesn't matter. Ramirez died giving birth to her ninth child. So did the child, a boy.

"How many babies are buried in

backward graves we have no way of knowing," said Antonio Zavaleta.

"I do know," he added, "that Hispanics have the highest birthrate in the nation and the lower Rio Grande valley has the highest birthrate among Hispanics. The problem of untrained, unregulated midwives is going to get worse unless something is done."

Zavaleta is a 38-year-old professor at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. He is also the chairman of the city's Lay Midwife Advisory Board, which he started eight years ago as a way of getting something done.

"Until then," he said, "nobody gave midwifery a second look. It was just sort of accepted, the way things were."

Zavaleta grew up in Brownsville. But he had been away from home, away from the border and its customs, for 10 years. He returned not only with a doctorate in anthropology (his specialty: folk medicine) but also a fresh look at old ways.

He persuaded the city commission to enact an ordinance requiring lay midwives, parteras, to complete a course of training and to pass a test

to get a license. It also sets out procedures. One is to require the expectant mother to be first examined by a doctor.

These requirements, however, end at the city limits of Brownsville. Lopez, after a hearing, lost her license — not necessarily because of the deaths but for failing to follow prescribed procedure. This, however, will be nothing more than an inconvenience.

"I will move outside the city to the county," she said. "I don't want to do that, but I will have to."

When she does, it will leave only seven licensed lay midwives in the city compared with about 40 in the county — and hundreds more all along the border where requirements for a license are no more than filling out an application and paying a fee.

To prove the point, Zavaleta dropped by the courthouse one afternoon and picked up one himself.

"Cost me five bucks," he said. "All I need to do now is rent a house trailer, park it outside the city limits and hang up a sign. I could make a lot more money than by teaching in a junior college."

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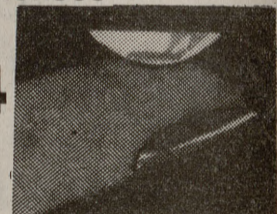
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