

# Battalion Classifieds

# Insurance money may be murder motive, police say

**Associated Press**  
**HOUSTON** — An attempt to collect about \$300,000 in insurance benefits was the motive behind the alleged murder-for-hire slaying of a 40-year-old Houston man, police said.

Geraldine Swaim, 43, the victim's wife, and her son from a previous marriage, Anthony Joseph Palmire, 18, remained in the Harris County Jail without bond Monday. They were charged Sunday with capital murder in the slaying of Gilbert Boyce Swaim.

Mrs. Swaim allegedly masterminded to have her husband killed

and hired two men in October to carry out her plan, Sgt. C.W. Kent said.

The killers were allegedly promised \$50,000 for the slaying, he said. Swaim was found shot in the neck in the bathroom near the master bedroom of his home in southeast Houston on Saturday.

Charles Steven Sisk and Jerry Chaffin, both 19, also were charged with capital murder Sunday and were being held without bond, authorities said.

A "contract of termination" and the weapons believed used in the killing were found buried near a home where Chaffin and Sisk lived, investigators said.

Investigators said the killing was supposed to take place in November, when Swaim went on a hunting trip in Arkansas. Police said they believe Swaim was followed for three weeks, but no attempt to kill him was made. "Apparently, they were going to make it look like a hunting accident," Kent said.

According to investigators, the fee for the killing was raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000 after Swaim returned to Houston.

Mrs. Swaim is accused of arranging for the couple's house to be left unlocked the morning of the killing, Kent said.

# Town raises money for child's transplant

**Associated Press**  
**HASLET** — Only about 300 people live in the tiny Tarrant County community of Haslet, but they responded in a big way to a little girl's need for a costly liver transplant.

Over \$65,000 was raised through a variety of fund-raising benefits and contributions for Patricia "Tye" Foster, 3, a victim of biliary atresia — the absence of ducts that drain the liver.

Paula Foster, the girl's mother, said, "We're just amazed at the response."

Dr. Rob Squires, Tye's pediatric gastroenterologist in Fort Worth, said she could die without the transplant, but would have an 80 percent to 90 percent chance of surviving with a new liver. She is now on a waiting list at Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

The transplant is expected to cost \$150,000.

The girl's father, Cye Foster, a maintenance supervisor for the Coca-Cola bottler in Fort Worth, said that when he learned that his insurance would not cover Tye's pre-existing condition, his family turned to their community for help.

Three months ago, their church, the Haslet Church of Christ, began a letter writing campaign that reached 750 churches across the state and helped put \$30,716 in the Tye Foster fund.

Betty Knox, secretary and treasurer at the church, said checks have come in the mail every day.

"It's really incredible," Knox said. "The Rev. Joe Hawkins, pastor at the church, said the response has been tremendous because people understand."

"We're looking out for one of our own members, but also everyone realizes that this could be anyone's child," he said. "And when they look at the little girl — she's there all the time in church and everybody has grown up with her — it just tugs the heartstrings."

On Nov. 23, the Haslet Volunteer Fire Department sponsored a benefit barbecue and auction that raised \$21,110 for Tye's fund.

"When we have something, it takes the whole community to get together to make it work," said Haslet Fire Chief Delton Sewell. "That's what this effort was — the whole community."

# Supreme Court to review Texas inheritance law

**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON** — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to review a Texas law that makes it more difficult for an illegitimate child to inherit from the father than from the mother.

The court granted a hearing to a Texas woman who claims she is entitled to a share of her father's estate even though she may have been born out of wedlock.

A year ago, a Texas appeals court ruled against Delynda Ann Reed, 27, who is seeking a share of the estate of her natural father, Prince Ricker.

Ricker was married to a previous wife at the time of the marriage to Reed's mother. Ricker died in 1976 without leaving a will.

Under 1979 amendments to the law, an illegitimate child was allowed to inherit from the father only if the child was born or conceived before or during the marriage of the father or mother, if the child was legitimized by court decree or if the father formally acknowledged his paternity in a written statement.

# Texas town puts on changed look for PBS film about teenage mayor

**Associated Press**  
**McDADE** — When the movies came to town, nothing was quite the same in this century-old Bastrop County community.

Seigmund's General Store was renamed for somebody named Goya. Dungan Drug Store had some red curtains on its windows and a sign out front calling it the Zeebar Cafe.

George Cole, 70, was playing checkers instead of dominoes, and the beer cans on the table had water in them.

"It's a lot of excitement for McDade," said Dennis Atkinson, 75, the town's unofficial mayor.

Atkinson, a former dancer in Hollywood, is one of the few townsfolk not in "The Lone Star Kid," a film being shot this month in McDade and the surrounding area.

The film, to be aired Feb. 10 by the Public Broadcasting Service, tells the story of Brian Zimmerman, who at the age of 11 became mayor of the unincorporated town of Crabb,

southeast of Houston.

The film stars country singer Charlie Daniels as an elderly farmer opposing the youngster for the mayor's job. James Earl Jones plays a blind man who is Brian's adviser.

And Anson Williams of Happy Days fame is executive producer and director of the film.

McDade was chosen instead of Crabb because of McDade's picturesque downtown area, with stores concentrated in a one-block area, and because of its proximity to motion picture industry facilities in Austin, said Barbara Hiser, producer-writer for the project.

About 100 area residents are used as extras.

"I think just about everybody in town is in the film," Hiser said during a day of filming last week. "We shut the town down. It's TV movie day."

A fight between two stray dogs

has been the only hitch in filming, Hiser said. She said stray dogs, babies, and other local color have been added to the production.

Brian Zimmerman, now 13, was on the set Thursday to view the production and possibly to be in some crowd scenes.

He said the film's depiction of him has been fairly accurate, except for two points.

The crowd that is gathered around the general store is bigger than the number that was in Crabb on election day, Brian said. Only 30 people voted in the Crabb election.

Also, it bothers him that a skinny kid is playing his friend Moses Rangel.

"Moses weighs about 180 pounds and that Bennie Moore guy playing him weighs 100 pounds less," Brian said. "I'm going to have fun explaining that to Moses."

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