

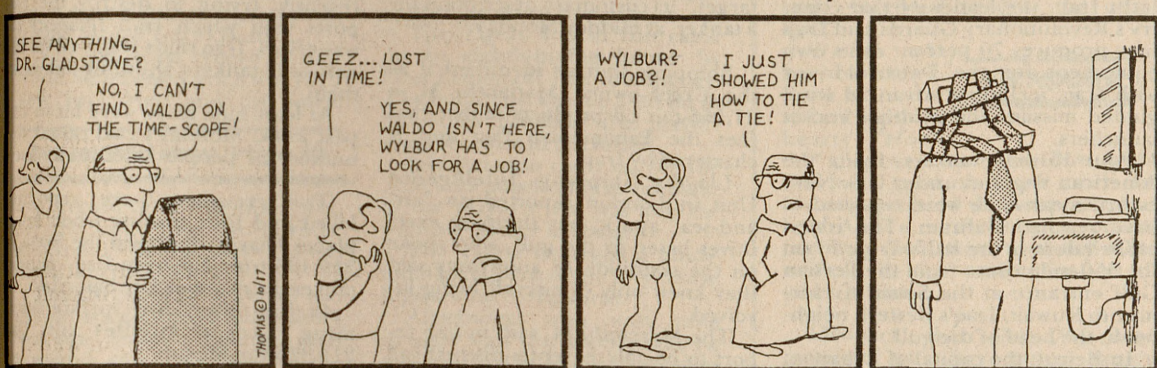
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

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Joe Transfer

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Suspect in slaying of three will be taken to Nebraska

AMARILLO (AP) — A Nebraska man charged with theft and suspected in a triple-slaying in Omaha waived extradition Monday and was set to be taken back to Nebraska, authorities said.

Patrick Hankins, 22, of Omaha appeared before two judges after turning himself in to police early Sunday, saying he might be wanted for murder, Potter County Sheriff's Sgt. Austin Brown said.

Two Omaha police detectives were in Amarillo Sunday to question Hankins about the slayings a week ago in Omaha of Danae Cook, 18; Kevin Cook, 16; and their mother, Barbara Cook, 45. Their bodies were found in Danae Cook's apartment.

Hankins appeared before Justice of the Peace Lewis Brazier for arraignment on the theft charge and Brazier set bond at \$150,000, Brown said. A short time later, Hankins ap-

peared before State District Court Judge Don Emerson and waived extradition.

Authorities were making arrangements to take him back to Omaha, Brown said.

"If they can't take him back today, we'll keep him another night," Brown said.

Hankins was arrested on a felony warrant charging him with the theft of a car belonging to Danae Cook.

Amarillo Deputy Police Chief James Skinner said Hankins called the Amarillo police at 12:05 a.m. Sunday from the Union 76 Truck Stop on Interstate 40 in east Amarillo. Hankins was taken into custody about 10 minutes later.

Earlier, Omaha police had said they had no evidence to link Hankins directly with the deaths.

Omaha police learned that Hankins had been staying with Danae Cook for some time and had

stopped living with her just before last weekend. Investigators said they did not believe she and Hankins were romantically involved.

Mrs. Cook and her son, Kevin, formerly lived in Omaha but had moved to Aurora, Colo.

The three murder victims all suffered fatal head injuries. Police declined to comment on how the injuries were inflicted except to say the three died violent deaths.

Danae Cook's 1974 Chevrolet Monte Carlo had been missing since the bodies were found.

Hankins' arrest came after a nearly two-day manhunt for him in New Mexico. State police recovered Cook's car after a 70-mile chase Friday in east-central New Mexico.

New Mexico authorities said officers lost the man when his car became mired in sand and he fled on foot.

Controversy over state bail law delays Dallas County revenues

DALLAS (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to Dallas County have been delayed by a new state law affecting the responsibility bail bondsmen have for clients who don't show up for trials.

Bail bondsmen have flooded judges with requests for jury trials in routine bond forfeiture cases because of the new law, and the contro-

versy will probably be settled in court.

The new law took effect June 20 and changed several of the rules regarding bond forfeiture hearings. Judges were confused by the law and stopped conducting bond forfeiture hearings and collecting payments from bondsmen during most of the summer.

But two weeks ago, several judges, believing the new law is faulty, began conducting hearings and demanding payments from bondsmen when clients don't show up for trial.

"You've got to pretty much throw a monkey wrench in the system," said Randy Adler, a Dallas attorney representing several bail-bonding companies. "I don't think the judges are out to get anybody. It's just that right now, we don't know what the rules are."

The controversy stems from a state criminal appeals court ruling two years ago that overturned a key section of the state bail-bond act dealing with the liability of bondsmen for clients who are no-shows.

Founder of children's home unexcited about retirement

DALLAS (AP) — For a woman who devoted the last 25 years to severely handicapped children, retiring from the home she founded for them is nothing to look forward to.

"Life is a little threatening right now," Thelma Boston said as she pondered her future and its income of \$50 per month. "I've got to learn to shut my eyes and wade myself out."

Through her window she can see the foster home next door that she founded 25 years ago for severely handicapped children. After a series of recent illnesses, Boston helped plan for the day when she would no longer be at the helm of the Thelma Boston Home for Handicapped Children.

But now that she is retired, she readily admits that her new role is one of the most difficult of her life.

At age 64 and a widow since 1969, striking out on her own with a new household to maintain independently of the foster home has presented new concerns — and some regrets, she said.

"I know I should have planned

for me while I was planning for the children," she said, but the children came first.

As founder and director of the home, she received room and board but took no salary. All donations, including a \$60,000 bequest from a benefactor two years ago, went to the foundation for care of the children.

She has no pension or medical insurance and has not yet qualified for Social Security. After a heart attack three years ago, her insurance company discontinued her coverage.

The board of the Thelma Boston Foundation, which now operates the foster home, is helping pay the balance of her medical bills and will pay her \$50 a month as a consultant.

But the prospect of paying utility bills on her own this winter is unsettling, at least until her eligibility for Social Security benefits is determined, she told the Dallas Morning News Monday.

But worry fades when conversation turns to nurturing more than 200 "children nobody wanted" over the last quarter-century.

Under the nullified section, bondsmen were liable for 5 percent of the amount posted to get a person out of jail if they helped bring the defendant back for trial within two years of the original court date.

But Dallas County judges imposed formal guidelines about how much a bondsman should pay the county if a client misses the trial and when the payment was due.

Bondsmen who liked the 5 percent provision pressed for and ultimately won a new rule, outlined in the law that took effect in June.

It forces the county to wait 18 months before seeking payment from a bondsman if his missing client is charged with a felony crime and nine months if the charge is a misdemeanor.

The bondsman is liable for nothing, except expenses, if the bail-jumper is captured within those time frames, regardless of whether the bondsman aided in the apprehension.

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