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Dallas reporter debunks Lucas confessions

By Julie Klein

El Paso Herald-Post courts reporter

A Dallas reporter who investigated the Henry Lee Lucas case said today that Lucas was not in El Paso the day Librada Apodaca was murdered.

Dallas Times-Herald reporter Hugh Aynesworth launched an extensive investigation into the confessions of the self-proclaimed mass murderer. He and Times-Herald reporter Jim Henderson wrote a series of articles published in April 1985 which, in essence, debunked several of Lucas's confessions.

Lucas confessed to killing hundreds of women nationwide. He also said he killed Apodaca, 72, with an ax in her Lower Valley home at 144 Irma Place. The body was found May 27, 1983.

Now, Lucas says he didn't kill the woman and defense attorneys say they want 120th District Judge Brunson Moore to toss out the confession before Lucas goes to trial. The pre-trial is in its third week.

Aynesworth testified that a few law enforcement officials and two of Lucas' friends told him that Lucas was in Stoneburg, Texas, in late May of 1983. At the time, Lucas lived with Ruben and Faye Moore at the House of Prayer in Stoneburg. They told Aynesworth that Lucas was living with them.

Aynesworth said he does not believe Lucas could have killed all of the people he professed to killing. In one case, Lucas would have had to drive 1,000 miles to get to a murder scene.

In yesterday's testimony, Mike Feary, an investigator with the Texas attorney general's office, said the Texas Rangers did not deliberately manipulate Lucas to solicit hundreds of murder confessions from him.

Feary, investigating several allegations against the Texas Rangers, reported that Lucas' confessions to at least 200 murders were not substantiated.

"But we found no evidence of wrongdoing," Feary said.