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Feazell burglary is latest oddity in Lucas saga

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Associated Press

EL PASO — The burglary of a district attorney's office is the latest in a series of odd incidents involving people connected with Henry Lee Lucas, the one-eyed drifter who has said his confessions to hundreds of murders were a hoax.

Lucas, 45, is in El Paso while his attorneys present evidence before state District Judge Brunson Moore on a motion to have a murder confession ruled inadmissible.

Lucas is charged with first-degree murder in the May 1983 killing of Librada Apodaca, 72, in her El Paso home. He confessed to that slaying, as well as to about 600 others, then recanted all of them.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell, who last year spearheaded a grand jury investigation that concluded that many of Lucas' confessions were false, said Monday his office in Waco was burglarized during the weekend. Feazell is under federal indictment on charges of taking bribes from defense lawyers to settle criminal cases.

"Nothing of value was taken other than the elements to the (secretaries') typewriters," he said.

However, he said, the burglars took a list of license plate numbers of cars he believes have been following him, and recordings he had made of telephone conversations.

He is also missing notes he made on the case against him, on his grand jury investigation of the Lucas case and on one of his employees' testimony before the grand jury that indicted him.

"I think it's awfully suspicious,"

he said.

Feazell predicted last year that he would be indicted because of the way he embarrassed the Texas Rangers and their Lucas task force, which he accused of prompting Lucas into making confessions. He is expected to continue testifying at the hearing Tuesday.

Other strange incidents in the Lucas case include:

■ The burning of Bob Lemons' home in Ringgold, Texas, in June. Lemons and his wife, Joyce, have spent \$130,000 to prove Lucas did not kill their daughter and have criticized the Texas Rangers' investigation. Lemons said he suspects arson.

■ Two burglaries of Hugh Aynesworth's Dallas home, the second in September. Aynesworth, a reporter with the *Dallas Times Herald*, wrote several stories challenging the Lucas confessions and questioning the Rangers' investigation. Aynesworth testified at the hearing that each time the burglar passed up television sets and other valuables and instead took tapes marked as Lucas interviews.

■ The slaying of Yovani Valenzuela Chavez in Juarez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso. Valenzuela died of a severe beating in August just after he was identified as a suspect in the Apodaca killing.

After Feazell's arrest and indictment in September, Lucas' attorneys in El Paso speculated that they themselves might be indicted.

"They really go after you when you start defending Henry Lucas," defense attorney Doris Sipes told *The El Paso Times* last week.



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Ms. Sipes has brought several witnesses to the hearing who have testified that the Rangers refused to consider evidence that would have shown Lucas' confessions were bogus.

"The only thing anybody was interested in was they had themselves a mass murderer," Lemons said.

Lemons' 18-year-old daughter, Deborah Sue, was killed at her Lubbock home in 1975. The Lemonses, unhappy with the Rangers' investigation and assurances that Lucas was their child's killer, conducted a probe of their own.

Aynesworth also said the Rangers' task force turned down evidence he uncovered that would have cleared Lucas in several cases. He testified he believed the Rangers didn't want to know the truth.

Lucas is already on death row for his conviction in the 1979 murder of an unidentified hitchhiker in Georgetown, Texas. Aynesworth testified he has been able to place Lucas in Jacksonville, Fla., at the time the hitchhiker was being killed in Texas.

Lucas has said he lied about committing the crimes because he was being fed drugs and was under pressure from law enforcement agencies to take the blame and help clear unsolved killings.