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Henry Lee Lucas no-billed by Louisiana grand jury

By DARRELL DUNN

Tribune-Herald staff writer

A Louisiana grand jury Friday no-billed Henry Lee Lucas in three murders and an armed robbery the one-eyed drifter confessed to committing.

The grand jury, which has been meeting in Covington, La., since November 1985, has been investigating four unsolved St. Tammany Parish murders.

Laura Best, a deputy clerk for the St. Tammany Parish District Court, said Friday Lucas was no-billed in three of the murders, and in one armed robbery.

Ms. Best said Lucas was no-billed in the 1982 shooting death of teen-ager Roxanne Sharp of Covington, La., the 1982 shooting death and armed robbery of motel owner-operator Kenneth Broyles of Slidell, La., and the 1983 killing of housewife Ruth Ann Mangou of Folsom, La.

The grand jury did not return a no-bill or an indictment in the 1978 slaying of St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Louis Wagner, a murder to which Lucas confessed. Wagner's killing reportedly was part of the St. Tammany Parish grand jury investigation.

According to *The Times-Picayune*, a Covington, La., newspaper, the grand jury also

has been investigating the actions of two St. Tammany Parish sheriff's detectives who were involved in obtaining the murder confessions from Lucas.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell, who has been in close contact with prosecutors involved in the Louisiana grand jury probe, said the grand jury is expected to return next week to consider whether criminal indictments against the two detectives are warranted. The detectives are Edgar McGehee and Dennis LaRocca.

In a June 1985 interview with the *Tribune-Herald*, LaRocca said he was convinced Lucas was guilty of the St. Tammany Parish murders.

"(Lucas') statements became detailed enough that he had to have knowledge," LaRocca said.

St. Tammany Parish District Attorney Walter P. Reed met with Feazell in Waco in 1985 to discuss Lucas. Following his meeting with Feazell, Reed appointed two special prosecutors to handle the Louisiana probe.

A McLennan County grand jury in 1985 conducted an investigation of Lucas' confessions to three unsolved McLennan County murders. The grand jury returned three no-bills in July 1985.