

Lucas is ruled sane by doctor, judge says

United Press International

EL PASO — A state district judge said Wednesday a psychiatrist has ruled that convicted killer Henry Lee Lucas, once diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, is now legally sane.

Lucas is in the El Paso County Jail awaiting trial for the May 27, 1983, slaying of a 72-year-old woman, Librada Apodaca. District Judge Brunson Moore said the psychiatrist, Dr. Randolph Whitworth, filed the report Tuesday afternoon in the district clerk's office.

Moore, who ordered the psychiatric examination, said Lucas was once diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. Whitworth's report said Lucas is competent to stand trial for the ax slaying of the El Paso woman and that he was probably sane at the time of the offense.

Moore said he asked for the psychiatric report because Lucas' previous treatment for past psychological disorders raised doubts about his mental competency.

Lucas, 49, has confessed to hundreds of murders and was believed to be the greatest serial killer in U.S. history until he recanted confessions.

He has been convicted of three slayings and has been sentenced to death. Recently, he was baptized in the El Paso County Jail and told his minister he was headed for heaven.

Moore said jury selection will

begin Feb. 17 for the capital murder trial in which 500 prospective jurors will be questioned.

Assistant District Attorney Bill Moody said the state's case against Lucas is one of the strongest against the alleged serial killer. Lucas has retained Tulsa, Okla., lawyer Gary Richardson to defend him, claiming he was not in El Paso on the date Apodaca was killed.



Henry Lee Lucas — Psychiatrist says he's no longer paranoid schizophrenic.