

# Sheriff's official: SA Express Lucas lied

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Henry Lee Lucas lied when he confessed to killing county music nightclub owner Bobbie Lee Barker and five other San Antonio women, the sheriff's chief investigator said Tuesday.

Officers have probed deeper into the slayings and concluded Lucas did not kill the Bexar County victims he claimed in confessions made earlier this year, said Maurice Rose. "We haven't cleared any murders on Henry Lucas," Rose said. "All our (murder) investigations are still active."

Last March, Sheriff Harlon Copeland told reporters Lucas had been flown to Bexar County and confessed to the killings of Barker, her housekeeper, Frances Machado, and four other women.

Lucas had led Texas Rangers and sheriff's officers to the slaying sites and convinced them of his guilt, Copeland said.

Since then, Lucas has told reporters his murder claims — totaling more than 300 by early this year — were mostly hoaxes.

A jury in Georgetown 18 months ago found Lucas guilty of capital murder in the 1979 slaying of an unidentified female hitchhiker.

He received a death sentence.

The 48-year-old drifter is being held now on Death Row at the Ellis I Prison Unit north of Huntsville.

Rose, a former San Antonio Police narcotics division investigator, joined Copeland's staff as chief investigator on May 20.

He succeeded former Texas Ranger Captain John Wood, who resigned to resume his retirement, saying he had signed on with Copeland to organize an investigations unit and had accomplished the mission.

In an interview Tuesday, Rose said he and his homicide investigators have reviewed Lucas' claims in

connection with unsolved Bexar County murders and concluded Lucas lied when he confessed.

"I feel like we have one of the best homicide investigation teams in South Texas," he said of deputies Dalton Baker and Sal Marin. "Their preliminary investigation indicates Lucas had nothing to do with the murders."

Rose said he and his investigators have reviewed evidence in unsolved murders, particularly the Barker-Machado slayings of Sept. 23, 1982, and plan to sift through the informa-

tion in detail again before the end of the year. Barker was stabbed repeatedly. Machado was shot twice with .22 caliber slugs.

He said Lucas has not been formally charged with any Bexar County murders and is not likely to be charged in the future.

Referring to the Barker-Machado slayings, Rose said, "They (Baker and Marin) have an idea of how this transpired and none of it has to do with Henry Lucas."

Rose confirmed information the Express-News published earlier in the year concerning polygraph (lie detector) examinations given a suspect in the Barker slayings.

The newspaper revealed the suspect had failed several lie tests.

At the time of Lucas' confessions, the newspaper also raised questions concerning information about the whereabouts of Lucas and companion Ottis Elwood Toole around the time of the Barker-Machado slayings.

Rose indicated he and his investigators raised those same questions.

Lucas claimed to have raped Barker, but an autopsy revealed she had not been sexually assaulted.

Questioned at the time, Copeland and Wood said Lucas had told officers he was not capable of ejaculating.

Although Rose said he has never come face to face with Lucas, he compared Lucas to other drifters who stay alive by skillful "street cons" or cleverly told but fanciful untruths.

The description was similar to that provided by some other lawmen — including South Texas Rangers — who have encountered Lucas.