

**THURSDAY**

**Oct. 2, 1986**

# TV movie may air on triple murders

By **DARRELL DUNN**

Tribune-Herald staff writer

Warner Bros. Inc. has purchased the rights to make a television movie about the Lake Waco triple murders case based on the book *Careless Whispers* by Dallas author Carlton Stowers.

The movie tentatively is scheduled to air during the 1987 television season and will be two to four hours long, said Vicky Bowles, vice president of Vicki Eisenberg Public Relations, a firm representing the book's publisher.

*Careless Whispers*, published by Taylor Publishing of Dallas, is scheduled to be released in hardback Oct. 31.

Ms. Bowles said Carla Singer of Warner Bros. Inc. has been named executive producer of the movie project.

Ms. Bowles said Ms. Singer is a former vice president of drama and development

for CBS television, where she was responsible for developing television shows "Murder, She Wrote", the new "Twilight Zone" and "Scarecrow and Mrs. King."

"Ms. Singer said she was especially interested in the atmosphere of the town following the murders, and the way the families of the victims were portrayed in *Careless Whispers*," Ms. Bowles said.

Three teen-agers — Jill Montgomery and Raylene Rice, both 17 and from Waxahachie, and Kenneth Franks, 18, of Waco — were found stabbed to death at Lake Waco's Speegleville Park on July 14, 1982.

After a lengthy investigation, David Wayne Spence, Muneer Mohammad Deeb, Anthony Melendez and Gilbert Melendez were arrested and charged with the murders.

Spence was found guilty of the murders of Miss Montgomery and Franks and was

sentenced to die for both. Deeb was found guilty of planning a murder-for-hire scheme and sentenced to die. The Melendez brothers turned state's evidence, pleaded guilty and each received two concurrent life prison sentences.

"It says to me that it's a story people are interested in. Of course I'll be more interested when the book gets out to see what the people think about it," Stowers said.

"Warner Bros. is a pretty reputable production company and I don't think they would do anything to disappoint me as far as how they handle the screenplay," he said.

Carol Buch, advertising and publicity manager for Taylor Publishing, said a contract has been signed with the Preferred Choice Book Club for *Careless Whispers* to be a main selection later this year.