

# Unusual events result from DA's Lucas probe

tigation of the Texas Rangers.

"I probably have one of the highest DWI conviction rates in the state," he said. The Texas Judicial Council's annual report shows that for 1983, his first year in office, Feazell had a 74 percent DWI conviction rate. Williamson County, by comparison, had a 55 percent rate, Dallas County had a 66 percent rate and Tarrant County had a 55 percent conviction rate.

✓ A few days before his meeting with Adams, Feazell received a phone call from a man claiming to represent a Waco lawyer. He insisted on meeting with Feazell at his home late in the evening. Feazell said the man offered him a \$750 bribe if he would dismiss a certain DWI charge.

"I've been in office for two and

a half years," Feazell said, "and that's the first time that has happened to me."

In addition to the bribe attempt occurring while a DPS investigation apparently was under way, Feazell said he was told that City Manager David Smith, a former high school classmate of Adams, had instructed Police Chief Larry Scott to "find something" on him.

Feazell was told by one witness that Smith had ordered the investigation because "I don't like the way he's treating the Rangers."

Scott and Smith deny that such an order was given or that a city investigation of Feazell is under way.

"I was supposed to have authorized the chief to spend \$30,000 investigating him," Smith said. "Anybody familiar with our bud-

get knows we don't have \$30,000 to spend."

Besides the potential embarrassment to the Rangers, the Waco grand jury could return indictments if it finds that law enforcement officials gave Lucas the information for his confessions.

Geography and the personalities involved have added to the controversy. Waco is home of the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame. Adams is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco and has friends here, such as Smith.

There also has been more than a trace of politics associated with the attacks on Feazell and Mattox over the Lucas probe.

Walsh, the Williamson County district attorney, recently switched to the Republican party, and he called on a Republican

U.S. attorney to help get Lucas out of Waco.

Walsh has expressed an interest in running for attorney general, the office now held by Mattox, a Democrat.

Locally, Feazell has been criticized repeatedly in broadcast editorials by Tom Pauken, who recently left the Reagan administration to run a radio station here. Pauken, formerly of Dallas, was twice defeated by Mattox (1978 and 1980) in congressional races.

Feazell said last week that he began the grand jury investigation simply to find out the truth about Lucas. Except for Mattox, he has found few allies.

"Sometimes," he said, "you start to feel that you're out there all alone."



**Henry Lee Lucas** — Recanted confessions began string of other probes.