Volume IX- Ottis Toole File File 3 84 Newspaper Clippings 05/20/84

Jacksonville OULT The Florida Times

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, MAY 20, 1984

## Killing was a 'habit' for Toole

Convicted murderer again claims to have slain Adam Walsh

1984, Florida Publishing Co.

A year ago he was just another name on a owded court docket.

Now it is murder. Lots of murders. His crime then was arson.

'I got to thinking of it [killing] like smoking Ottis Elwood Toole explains it this way 'igarette, like another everyday habit."

Friday, he was sentenced to the electric Poole is the latest arrival on Death Row. ur for the 1982 arson murder of a 64 yearrooming-house resident.

lut it is not the end for the 37-year-old ksonville native.

he night before he was sentenced, Toole interviewed by The Florida Times-Union

Deborah Sue Williamson's family thought a former boyfriend had killed her until Henry Lee Lucas became a suspect. "You can close the door," Toole told the young jailer. "She [the reporter] doesn't have

and an ice pick."

He sat in the tiny visitor's cubicle, wearing picture of Rocky Mountain snowpeaks. He looked disheveled, with a scrubby beard and a slacks and a dirty yellow T-shirt displaying a pot belly. He had walked in with a lanky strut.

In a quiet, casual voice and with a frequent grin, Toole talked of his life with serial mur

He killed people "I didn't think was worth The killing started when he was 14, he said.

"They'd kind of make me mad or piss me off, and I'd kill them," he said.
Young and old, men and women, Toole said he has killed them "every way but with poison

He has given statements in connection with Many of his statements have resolved 30 killings, been charged with nine and is expected to be implicated in many more.

The statement that gave him status as a national villain was to the killing of 6-year-old wood, Fla., shopping mall. Adam's head was Adam Walsh, who was taken from a Hollylater found in a canal near Vero Beach. The cases that perplexed investigators for years.

[Adam Walsh]. Get him in my car and keep him for "I got in my mind I'm going to kidnap the kid myself." Ottis Elwood Toole

death, although he has given police explicit descriptions of the slaying that lead them to believe he did it. He recanted his first statement about Adam's killing.

But in the interview,  $\bar{T}$ oole again said he

## Number of cases linked to Lucas astounds authorities

By Roger Malone Staff Writer

Henry Lee Lucas — a glass-eyed drifter whose claims of murder challenge the imagination - has amassed a staggering collection of charges to support his bid as one of history's most brutal and prolific killers.

Throughout the nation at least 22 indictments or warrants charging murder have been filed against the 47year-old Lucas, who lived in Jacksonville during the late 70s and early '80s.

He has been convicted of four murders, including the deaths of his mother and a Jacksonville teenager he called his common law wife, and he is suspected in scores of other slavings.

By his count — which has increased steadily since his 1983 arrest — he has killed as many as 360 people. Estimates by lawmen range between 100 and 200 deaths.

Alone or with Jacksonville native Ottis Elwood Toole. Lucas claims to have killed, raped, robbed, burglarized, beat, tortured, kidnapped, bound and gagged victims across the country.

In Jacksonville, he's thought to have killed eight women, but prosecutors have yet to bring the cases before the grand jury. They say they're waiting for tests to be completed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Crime Laboratory.

"I've run out of dirty words to describe these two necrophilia, cannibalism, homosexuality," said a Texas prosecutor, Don Richard. "Everyone wants to make sure that they never get out of jail.'

In the past year, Lucas has been convicted of three murders and sentenced to death, life imprisonment and 75 vears in prison

In 1960 he received a 20- to 40-year sentence for killing his mother in Michigan. He was released after five years in a mental hospital and five years in a prison.

Richard's case in Big Spring, Texas, involves a 66-yearold man who was picked up at a Greyhound bus station and beaten to death with a tire tool. No charges have been filed in that case.

"This isn't one of the better deaths," Richard said, referring to charges of more gristy, more brutal murders that have been filed against Lucas.

Sgt. Kenneth Lee of the Fort Bend County (Texas) Sheriff's Office, added, "To him there is no difference between good and bad. When he kills somebody, he has no

There are a certain amount of people in this world who are just plain bad. You can't rehabilitate them and they're no damned good to anybody. The only thing you

in Lee's county, Lucas is charged with kidnapping a 22year-old woman in Houston as she was calling her mother from a pay phone. The woman was stabbed repeatedly. and her body was found March 4, 1981, near a railroad

"I spent three-and-a-half, four hours talking to him," Lee said. "I was really amazed at the detail he could go into. I felt really relieved that he was in custody. It's still hard to believe that there are people like that,"

In June 1983, Lucas was arrested in Montague County, Texas, and jailed on a weapons charge. Three days later he told a jailer, "I've done some bad

things." Soon he had been believed pictures of the "bad things he had done, sketches of dead women — sometimes just a face; sometimes a body lying in a shallow Like sharks on a feeding frenzy, law officers from

throughout Texas, then Louisiana, then the rest of the country came to Montague County to talk to Lucas about their unsolved murders. The list of crimes in which Lucas has been charged, has

been convicted, or is considered a suspect although two charges have been filed includes. • January 1960 — Lucas' mother. Viola, was stabbed to

death in Michigan. Lucas was convicted of the murder and released in 1970 after serving five years in prison and five years of treatment in a mental hospital. Aug. 9, 1970 — Linda Phillips, 27, of Kaufman County,

Texas, was molested, then stabbed repeatedly. Her body was found in a wooded area off a county road. Bill Baker, a district attorney's investigator, said that

like many of the other cases against Lucas there was no suspect in Ms. Phillips' murder until Lucas began talking. We ran down every lead we possibly had for a number

of years," Baker said. "He gave us details that never were common knowledge." • Feb. I. 1971 - Naomi Miller Martin, 54, clad in paja-

mas and a housecoat, was found dead on her living room couch in Lubbock, Texas. She had been stabbed 25 times.



Ottis Toole (above) conferred v ton during the early portion of ceived a death sentence after of murder. Last January, Hen r Lee Lucas (right) was escorted to the Williamson Co nty Courthouse in Texas. He has confessed to more han 300 slayings.



th attorney Al Washingis recent trial. Toole reie jury found him guilty



stab wounds in

 Aug. 25, 1975 — Deborah Sue Wil amson, 18, was prison after serving four years for attet sted kidnapping of a young girl. He has been charged.

Lucas has been charged

City, Md., was strangled in a motel room - ust west of Baltimore during an apparent robbery. • April 10, 1976 - Elizabeth Price, 44. ras found in the

worked. She was partially clad and had? her chest. Lucas was charged yesterday

• Dec. 26, 1976 — A 15-year-old girl w: ; found stabbed in Clearcreek County, Colo., a mountaine s area about 30 miles west of Denver. The victim, Holly ndrews, had albeen raped.

Carl Whiteside, deputy director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, said state agents are it sking into other cases in the area that might involve Luc is. • Nov. I, 1977 — Lillie Mae Darty, 18, c Harrison Coun-

y, Texas, was shot twice in the head at hier body was found dumped near a road in Mai shall ! e county seat. • June 1, 1878 — Sgt. Louis Wagner, 26, of the St. Tammany Parish, La., sheriff's department, whis way home from work. Another man

his way home from work. Another man sted, Lucas and was convicted of the killing but later reca Toole have been charged. was raped and • July 4, 1978 — Elizabet': Taylor, 33, was raped and

stabbed to death at her Little Rock, Ark,, ar "tment during a burglary.

Lloyd King, division chief for the prosec or's office, said a strict ethics code prevents him from king about the specific case, but said the increase in seed murders, in general, is alarming.

Serial murderers kill many people over time. Police and prosecutors distinguish then from mass murderers, who kill many victims at once. "It's scary," King said. "They have the abil y to strike

at random with virtually no evidence left be people don't show any particular motive to ti Without a motive, he said, there's nothing to out to the

• Nev. 1, 1978 — A 19-year-old woman, Lisa Martini, was stabbed in her Kennewick, Wash., apartment. Capt. L.L. Abernathy with the Kennewick Police Department said revelations brought by the cases against Lucas and Toole have sparked changes in police prac-

"Law enforcement agencies throughout the nation are taking steps to combat serial killers, but it's very difficult if the person has no ties to the community and he's in and out in the same day." Abernathy said. "It's frustrating."

• Nov. 2, 1978 — Police found the decomposed body of Dottie Dement, 48, lying beside railroad tracks in Bossier

Police estimate that she was strangled about a week found at her Lubbock, Texas, home wit 17 stab wounds earlier. Before being killed, she was bound, raped, tor-- three days after Lucas was released from a Michigan tured and stabbed, Lt. Lamar Breedlove with the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office said.

 Feb. 5, 1979 — A woman between the ages of 25 and • Dec. 12, 1975 — James 7. Carpenot 1, 49, of Ellicott 35 was found burned beyond recognition in a Dade County trash dumo.

• Oct. 31, 1979 — An unidentified woman was strangled and her body dumped near Georgetown, Texas. Lucas Lubbock, Texas, airport parking ticket ooth where she was sentenced to death by lethal injection after being convicted of the murder earlier this year

Williamson County, Texas, Sheriff Jim Boutwell said, "We feel that it was random. Those two were involved in random murders across the country.

"I think it's going to be rewriting the books of criminal investigation. Most agencies normally don't look much further than their own jurisdiction," he said.

• Nov. 27, 1979 - In Jacksonville, Elizabeth D. Knotts, 31, was shot during a robbery at the Malabar Motel. Local officials say Lucas has convinced them he killed stabbed to death and her body burned, one piece at a Ms. Knotts, but no charges have been filed in this or other local cases.

• Dec. 10, 1979 — The skeletal remains of Debra Lynn O'Quinn, 18, of Barnes Road were found in a wooded area off Mount Pleasant Road in Jacksonville. Officials estimate that she was stabbed to death seven months earlier. No charges have been filed in this case.

• Jan. 5, 1980 — Jamie L. Collins, 76, was beaten and stabbed to death in her San Juan Avenue apartment. Again, no charges have been filed locally.

• April 27, 1980 — 45-year-old Jo Cole Scheffer was beaten and stomped to death. Her body was found near a day care center on West Union Street. No charges have been filed.

• June II, 1980 - Betty Kay Choate, 41, was shot and killed during a robbery at a savings and loan association in Mont Belvien, Texas.

• July 12, 1980 - The granddaughter of Neptune Beach Police Chief Howard Basil, 24-year-old Regina Azell Campbell, was strangled and her body found under a car Henry Lucas or Ottis Toole. No way, that is, short of ex next to the chief's house, where she was staying at the

So charges have been filed.

\* July 20, 1980 - The nude body of Tammy Keel Conrs, 19, of Atlantic Beach was found in a ravine at Kathn Abbey Hanna Park. She had been strangled. No charges have been filed.

• Dec. 22, 1980 — Brenda Elaine Harden, 28, of Miss affet Lane was stabbed death in her home

No charges have been filed. \* January 1981 - An unidentified woman, about 20

ars old, was stabbed to death. Six weeks later, her body is found in a wooded area off a state highway in Bossier Breedlove with the parish sheriff's office said Lucas ad-

mitted picking up the woman near Dallas as he and Toole were driving east from Oklahoma. The lieutenant notec that Toole did not participate in the killing

• March 3, 1981 - Beverly Joyce Lutrell, 46, was found dead in her mobile home near Odessa, Texas. She had been raped, stabbed and strangled with a telephone cord Detective James Long with the Odessa Police Depart-

ment said there was no sign of robbery or forced entry. "I think the system works, but these things are going to happen," Long said. "It is regrettable that it takes someone like Henry Lucas to clear a murder like this."

Long said Lucas' mobility helped him escape, noting that Lucas was out of the state within three hours after

• March 4, 1981 - Dion Marie Wilkinson, 22, was kidnapped from Houston and found stabbed to death near a railroad trestle in Fort Bend County, Texas. Lucas has been charged.

Sgt. Lee with the county sheriff's office said he looks to computers to help track down serial killers.

"That's about the only answer, because I don't think you're going to stop the killing," he said. "People are going to kill regardless of what we do. It's always frustrat

"[Also], the courts need to be held accountable for the people they let out. When you look at Mr. Lucas ... he got out of the criminal justice system before. I don't give out the sentence, I just present the case."

• April 4, 1981 - Kathy Whorton, a student from Bastrop, La., was killed in Monroe, La.

 April 14, 1981 — Shirley Ogden, a 58-year-old transient. was stabbed to death in an alley along North Main Street in Jacksonville.

No charges have been filed.

• May 28, 1981 - Two women, Lynda Karbin, 17, and Hazel Haack, 19, were found strangled and drowned in a drainage ditch in southwest Miami.

• Aug. 2, 1982 - Catheryan Powell, 35, was raped and shot in the head in her home near Tyler, Texas.

Assistant Smith County, Texas, District Attorney Rich ard Moore said Lucas and Toole asked the woman for water for an overheated radiator. Once inside her house they attacked her, beating her with a coffee pot, raping her and eventually shooting her in the head with a shotgun, he said.

• Aug. 24, 1982 - Freida L. "Becky" Powell, 15, of Jacksonville was stabbed to death and dismembered in Denton County, Texas: Lucas was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of the death in late 1983. Lucas called Miss Powell his commonday made Land

many officers across the country say remorse of Miss Powell's death triggered Lucas' string of confessions. Toole is Miss Powell's uncle.

• Sept. 16, 1982 - Kate Rich, 80, of Ringgold, Texas, was time, in a wood-burning stove. Montague County Sheriff W.F. Conway said Lucas, who

did handyman work for Mrs. Rich, was suspected of harming the 80-year-old woman since Mrs. Rich's disappearance Sept. 16, 1982. Repeated questioning failed to uncover evidence tying Lucas to the woman's disappearance, and on June II. 1883

the sheriff arrested Lucas on a weapons charge. While in jail on that charge, Lucas began his spree of confessions, at first claiming only 100 killings, then esca-

lating the number as high as 360. Lucas pleaded guilty to murder in Mrs. Rich's death

and was sentenced to 75 years in prison. • Oct. 2, 1982; March 17, 1983 and April 18, 1983 — The bodies of three woman were found in wooded areas of

Montgomery County, Texas. The times and places of their deaths could not be determined. Lawmen across the country say there's no way to protect yourself or loved ones from being a victim of another

treme paranoia. "I don't think there's any way that that you could recognize a person like Lucas," said Long of Odessa, Texa-"He's a very quiet person, very polite, well-mannered. He

would be the last person in the world you would suspect of killing someone." Sheriff Boutwell of Williamson County, Texas, added. "The only thing people can do is use more caution. People

just need to look askance at anybody they don't know And Baker, the Kaufman County investigator, warned,

"It's a terrible thing. You can't tell them by looking at

"If you were that apprehensive ... well, you'd go off the deep end if you think about it too much."

## Toole describes how he developed arson, killing 'habits'

(From Page A-1)

kılled Adam.

Sitting back, chain-smoking cigarettes, he coyly prompted a discussion of Adam's killing.

"I didn't have a pattern [of killing]," he said. "I even cut their heads off, you know!

"Did you kill Adam Walsh""

He paused for a moment, a grin ing the child's body and a machete fixed on his face as if he had been waiting for the question. "Well, I've given them [authorities]

about five statements. The last statement I told them was really the truth. Toole contends The "truth" included a missing link.

an explanation of what happened to Adam's body

Toole delved into his narrative like a well-rehearsed storyteller.

"I was sitting in front of the Sears store, and he [Adam] was running around outside. I saw he had a baseball hat on, and I asked nim it ne liked baseball.

"I said, 'I like baseball myself, and I like to go fishing and hunting and all

Toole said he lured the boy to his Toole said. car, a black-and-white 1971 Cadillac, with promises of candy and toys.

"I got in my mind I'm going to kidnap the kid. Get him in my car and keep him for myself." After he got Adam into the car,

Toole said, he told him the presents were at his house, and the boy agreed to ride with him to get them. Toole said he headed for Jacksonville on the Florida Turnpike, where ment yesterday on Toole's latest ver-

had buried the boy's body. Investiga

tors searched along the Turnpike but found nothing. back. I want you to take me back,"

Toole recalled. "I backhanded him," Toole said. "I

hat ham in the face." When Adam continued to cry Toole said, he pulled over to the side stomach to shut him up

"He fell down in the seat. I didn't think nothing of it. I thought he was When Adam remained silent during

the next hour of the diave, Toole said, he realized something was wrong. He decided Adam was dead and resolved to dispose of the body Toole recalled pulling off the highway onto a "forked" roud and remov-

from the car "I put both my hands on it [the machete], and I chopped his head off." Deeply immersed in tus tale. Toole quickly dismissed a reporter's ques-

Tim getting to that," he said, with

tion about what was clone with the

a brush of his hand. Wrapping the head in the boy's shirt, he placed it in the track seat and

laid the body in the trunit. Toole said he noticed a body of water, "a creek," next to the highway. It was there, he said, he threw the head. After reaching Jackson ville, Toole said, he stuffed the child's body in a discarded "icebox."

"I took that machete and I cut out some of his side and I ate some of it,"

Toole said he burned trie body in the icebox, lined his trunk with a blanket and threw the ashes in the

The next day he put the remains of Adam in the city dump. Police found a machete, and his de-

scription is consistent with other evidence, investigators say Hollywood police decline: I to com-

he had said in an earlier statement he sion of Adam's death. Adam was the only child he has killed. Toole said

He said he first mentioned it when "He [Adam] said, 'I want to go Jacksonville Detective J.W "Buddy' Terry asked him if he had ever killed any children. cas) for it to start with, to cover up

for myself," Toole said

Police investigated the accusation his home that his parents had planned of the road and punched Adam in the against Lucas and found that he could to demolish not have been in Hollywood in July . He said he would not set fire to .

Ollis Elwood Foole has be a charged in the following cases.

• Nov. 6, 1978 — Kevin Key, 19. Austin, Texas, was returning from movie in Austin with girlfriend Rita's lazar of Georgetown, Texas, on No. Their can ran out of gasoline and the apparently were offered a ride by Tool-Their bodies, both riddled with buriets were found the next day, his nea Georgetown and hers near Waco. Too. has not yet been charged by McLenna County authorities with the slaying

18-year-old Miss Salazar. June 3. 1978 — Sgt. Louis Wagne 26, of the St. Tammany, La. sher. f department, was shot dead on his wehome from work. Another man car fessed and was convicted of the killing but later recanted. Authorities say ev dence links Toole and Henry Lee Luca

to the killing. • Nov. 4, 1980 - Mildred Mckinney 73. of Williamson County, Taxas, wafound strangled and beaten to deatr. in

Toole told authorities that he and Lucas sent Toole's niece, Freida Powell, to the widow's door. When Mrs. McKinner opened it. Lucas and Toole overpow ered her. They bound her with tele phone cord and panty hose and spent about an hour raping her before chok ing the woman to death

They then stacked pieces of furniture on her body with the intention of start ing a fire but did not. The furniture was still on top of her when the body was found. Toole is charged with capital murder, but Lucas is charged only with burglary because of lack of proof, au-• April 4, 1981 - Kathy Whorton, 19.

Toole was about Adam's age when, he said, he started setting fires. They excited him, he said. As an adult, he said, the flames sex

ually-pleased him. The first fires were in empty fields "I tried to blame Henry | Lee Lu- but he soon advanced to houses. His first house fire was set when he was 6 in an old abandoned house nea:

OOLE CHRC NOLOGY college campus and shot twice. Her body was discarded about five miles

away on a rural road. • Aug. 3, 1981 - Sylvia Quayle, 34. of Cherry Hills Village, Colc., was shot, stabbed and raped in her home. Toole told police he picked a house at random and climbed through the bathroom win dow. He saw her lying in bed and shot her once in the head. He said he then dragged her to the living room, sexually assaurred and stabbed her

• Jan 4, 1982 — George Nicholas Sonnenberg, 64, of Jacksonville received severe burns in a Springfield boarding house fire. He died from his injuries six days later. Toole has been convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to die for this killing. • Feb. 1:1982 - Sherry Alford 16

of Swartz, La., was shot as she was driv ing down a highway. Her body was found abandoned near the highway. Robbery was the apparent motivi • Feb. 17, 1982 — Catherine C. Mar tin, 20, of lowa, La., was strangled and stabbed 16 times with a screwdriver

Her bound body was found floating in Black Bayou, south of Lake Charles, La., on Feb. 18. She was last seen leaving a friend's house in Lake Charles on Feb. 17 and her car was found abandoned on Louisiana 101 in nearby Jefferson Parish

about 11 p.m. the same day \* June 1, 1982 — William Boyd Hite. 22, of Big Spring, Texas, was hitchhiking and was picked up by Toole. Toole said that he propositioned Hite, but that Hite refused. Toole said he shot Hite several times with two handguns. Hite's body was found off Interstate 20 in Howard County.

house he knew was occupied. "I know that wouldn't be right," Toole said. "You see, I know burning things up isn't right. I wouldn't want someone to burn down a house I was

But last month. Toole was convicted of the arson murder of George Nicholas Sonnenberg, 64, who died from injuries he received in a board ing-house fire in January 1982. Toole earlier was convicted of set-

ting (are to two unoccupied buildings

in Jacksonville and was sentenced to

20 years in prison. He speaks of fire in spiritual terms. Us about like a high. Like people go to church. They raise hell all week and on Sunday they go to church. It kind of lifts them up. So it's really what you call a high. Fires kind of do

His mother realized her son had troubles, he said. "She tried to put me in a mental in-

that for me."

stitution one time, but she wasn't able to get a judge to do it." he said. Now he said he wishes she had succeeded.

"I do, I really do I believe it could have been controlled It could have been stopped if I had been in a mental institution and got help." he said. Toole's words became measured

when the conversation turned to his relationship with Lucas. Toole said he first met Lucas in Michigan, where Toole was visiting his brother. Toole said he offered Lucas a place to stay if he ever came to

Jacksonville. Lucas came to Jacksonville in 1976 and moved in with Toole and his family, including Toole's niece, Freida Powell. Lucas was convicted of murdering the girl and sentenced to life in

a Texas prison. Toole and Lucas have been described as homosexual lovers, but Toole said Lucas is not homosexual.

"He likes girls," Toole said. "He said the only reason he would let me have sex with him was to keep me from raising hell with him," Toole said. "I would give him hell about going with women and not having sex

many as 360 people, but Toole is reluctant to tell police a specific num-

"I like to keep them wondering," he

When pressed for an estimate, victims. Toole tossed back his head, squinted as if searching his memory, and said. "About 125."

killing 360, Toole said, "I don't know it Henry is including what we did to

"We started talking about that

once, and I said I thought we'd done about 50 or 60, and Henry said, 'No it's more than that." Toole said he and Lucas killed peo-

ple after breaking into their houses or picking them up along the road. "We killed a lot of hitchhikers and people we picked up broken down on

the side of the road. "You really haven't got a plan right off the bat. You're really thinking of helping those people.

The decision to kill was made faccording to how the person acted they criticized you, say this person made you mad, you kill them," he ex-

Often. Toole said, he was high on drugs.

Toole said his first slaying victim. when he was 14, was a homosexwai who had picked up Toole, stabbed his lover to death and then made Toole repeatedly stab the body and taste the dead man's blood, he said. The man then made sexual ad-

vances to Toole. Scared, Toole said, he got into the man's car and can over him, killing him. Toole was a member of a devilworshipping cult called the Hands of

Death, he said. Although he has not participated in the cult rituals for at least a year, he said he has resigned himself to al-

ways being a follower of Satan.

"Once the Hands of Death get you they have you for life," Toole said. Toole said he does not fear the death that awaits him in Florida's electric chair. "It might not really happen," he

said. "You can always appeal for years and years. But if it does happen, he believes in life after death for himself and his

"I don't say dead. I say the person is in a deep sleep." Toole said. "I believe in my mund they'll wake up in When asked about Lucas' claim of another world - reincarnation."

Lucas has said he has killed as

006055