

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

# SUNDAY

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, MAY 20, 1984

The Florida Times  
Jacksonville Journal

## Killing was a 'habit' for Toole

### Convicted murderer again claims to have slain Adam Walsh

By Mickie Valente  
Staff Writer

1984, Florida Publishing Co.

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

This crime then was arson.

Now it is murder. Lots of murders.

Ottis Elwood Toole explains it this way:

"I got to thinking of it [killing] like smoking a cigarette, like another everyday habit."

Toole is the latest arrival on Death Row.

Friday, he was sentenced to the electric chair for the 1982 arson murder of a 64-year-

rooming-house resident.

But it is not the end for the 37-year-old

Jacksonville native.

The night before he was sentenced, Toole

interviewed by The Florida Times-Union

at the Duval County Jail.

Deborah Sue Williamson's family thought a former boyfriend had killed her until Henry Lee Lucas became a suspect. Story, Page B-1.

"You can close the door," Toole told the young jailer. "She [the reporter] doesn't have to be afraid of me."

He sat in the tiny visitor's cubicle, wearing slacks and a dirty yellow T-shirt displaying a picture of Rocky Mountain snowpeaks. He looked disheveled, with a scrubby beard and 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 murderer Henry Lee Lucas, his fascination with fire, his "habit" of killing, his thoughts on life after death.

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

"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 and an ice pick."

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

Many of his statements have resolved cases that perplexed investigators for years.

The statement that gave him status as a national villain was to the killing of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, who was taken from a Hollywood, Fla., shopping mall. Adam's head was later found in a canal near Vero Beach. The boy's body has never been found.

Toole has not been charged with the boy's

"I got in my mind I'm going to kidnap the kid [Adam Walsh]. Get him in my car and keep him for 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, Toole again said he

(See TOOLE, Page A-8)

