

FORT WORTH
STAR-TELEGRAM
02-10-92

In defense of the sheriff

The residents of Tarrant County have been well-served by Sheriff Don Carpenter, a man of sincerity, honesty and a sincere determination to continue doing his job despite the antics of and attacks by his political enemies.

The *Star-Telegram* has twice backed a man with nebulous law-enforcement experience for this office. Your writers — whether columnists such as Bud Kennedy or Bill Thompson, editorial writers who hide in anonymity, news writers such as Frank Perkins, or satirical editorial cartoonists such as Etta Hulme — have launched some of the most mean-spirited and vicious personal attacks on Carpenter it has been my misfortune to read.

If you don't like the job he's doing, say so, but please belay the name-calling. It cheapens you more than your target.

Carpenter has more than 30 years' experience in law enforcement. He has done a great job of keeping the jail open when the state prison refused to accept its prisoners, resulting in an almost unbelievable overcrowding of the facilities provided him.

As I watch the present activity against Carpenter, I think of a group of furry little fellows prematurely bailing out of a presumably sinking ship or a pack of coyotes trying to bring down a tough old bear. Well, that ship ain't sunk, and that ol' bear ain't down yet.

—Will Kinson
River Oaks

Sheriff gets June court date

Defense predicts no trial

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter's day in court has been set for June 8, although one of his attorneys predicts that the case will never make it to trial.

A grand jury returned six felony indictments against Carpenter, 60, on Jan. 17. Several weeks later, he began a paid leave of absence.

Three of the indictments involve charges of tampering with property room records. Two others involve handguns given away as door prizes, and the other indictment alleges that a property room gun was placed in a closet in Carpenter's office.

After yesterday's setting of the trial date, one of Carpenter's attorneys said he is optimistic that the sheriff will not stand trial.

"I've said all along that we have some very significant motions to file in this case that I believe will clear the sheriff's name and make a trial unnecessary," Joe Brent Johnson said.



Carpenter

The motions will not be filed after defense attorneys are allowed to see the physical evidence, sometime next week, Johnson said.

The special prosecutor in the case, Galen Sumrow of Rockwall, said that the indictments are based on solid evidence and that he is planning to go to trial in June.

Sumrow said there still could be more indictments on Carpenter, but he also said he has not scheduled any additional appearances before the grand jury.

Johnson said that if the case does proceed to trial, the sheriff can get a fair trial in Tarrant County.



Don Carpenter

TARRANT

Sheriff Don Carpenter's day in court has been set for June 8, although one of his attorneys predicts that the case will never make it to trial.

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Verdict's already in on Watson's ability

Until last Friday, the centerpiece of O.L. Watson's campaign for Tarrant County sheriff had been the \$100,000 judgment he won in a slander suit against a woman who accused him of sexual harassment.

When Watson announced his candidacy on Jan. 2, he handed out copies of the judgment and proclaimed that it represented total vindication.

"These are the findings of a court," he said, "not rumors, not innuendoes or leaks put out on me by some of the newspapers around here."

But now, Watson's vindicating legal judgment isn't worth the paper it's printed on.

On Friday, District Judge Joe Bruce Cunningham set aside the judgment and ordered a new trial in Watson's slander suit against Vickie Van Velsor.

It was Van Velsor, a county employee, who charged that Watson sexually harassed her in 1988, while he was serving as a member of the county Commissioners Court.

Watson blamed the harassment charges for his defeat in the 1990 Republican primary for Pct. 2 county commissioner, and subsequently sued Van Velsor for slander.

Watson was awarded \$100,000 in damages after a trial in which Van Velsor attempted to serve as her own attorney.

Her current lawyer, Bill Bogle, argued in his request for a new trial that the burden of proof in the original trial had been unfairly placed on the lawyer-less Van Velsor.

Bogle cited legal precedents that a "public official, such as Commissioner Watson, must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant made a false and defamatory statement of fact with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not."



Bill
Thompson

So. What does all this mean?

For one thing, it means that Van Velsor will finally get a chance to defend herself against Watson's claim that she slandered him when she accused him of sexual harassment.

For another, it means that Watson can no longer run around the county telling voters that a court of law has vindicated him. No such vindication exists.

If Watson was falsely accused, he will now have to prove it in court — and this time, Van Velsor will have a lawyer.

Watson brushed off Cunningham's ruling as a "legal technicality," which tells us a lot about Watson's fitness for the office he is seeking.

What is at stake here is nothing less than Vickie Van Velsor's constitutionally guaranteed right to a fair trial in the court system. If Watson believes that a fair trial is a "technicality," we can only imagine what sort of chaos he might create in a law enforcement position as important as that of county sheriff.

Watson says the decision won't affect his campaign — and it might not have, if he hadn't placed so much importance on the slander judgment.

But he can't have it both ways: If the judgment was important before, it's important now that it's been set aside.

Watson obviously outsmarted himself when he decided to make the slander judgment a major issue in his campaign. Also obviously, it is not difficult to outsmart Watson. Even he can do it.

The idea of O.L. Watson becoming sheriff of Tarrant County is too awful to contemplate. Watson was an unmitigated disaster as county commissioner and has done nothing since leaving that post to suggest that he deserves to be returned to public office.

Watson has said that Van Velsor's accusations — and the *Star-Telegram's* reporting of those accusations — caused his 1990 primary defeat. But, as one of Watson's opponents for sheriff pointed out recently, it wasn't Van Velsor or the *Star-Telegram* who tossed him out of office.

"The voters made the decision in Mr. Watson's commissioner's race," the candidate said.

They certainly did. And they made the right decision.

Here's hoping the voters make the right decision in Watson's sheriff's race.

Bill Thompson's column appears Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Marshall for sheriff

As a former judge and now again practicing attorney, I have had an opportunity to observe many people in the position of sheriff.

After looking over the list of potential candidates for Tarrant County sheriff in the upcoming election, I support and urge the voters to vote for Steve Marshall without hesitation or reservation.

Marshall is the candidate who will best serve the needs of the people of Tarrant County. This is true because of his legal skills, ability to handle people without being abrasive and his dedication to law enforcement.

—Charles A. Friedman
Fort Worth

Lawmaker looks at lockup

FORT WORTH
STAR TELEGRAM
02-11-92



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

State Sen. Mike Moncrief, center, views the security center during a tour of the new Tarrant County jail yesterday. Jim Skidmore, left, the jail warden, led the

tour with acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter, not pictured. Officers in the security center monitor and control movement in the jail.

FORT WORTH
STAR-TELEGRAM
13 FEB. 1992

Can you describe what a sheriff does?

Once upon a time, we were making a speech to some school kids and were in the process of winding it up with a little question-and-answer session and were getting the feeling we were about home free and beginning to breathe a sign of relief when a student stood and asked:

"Tell me, sir, how do you print on both sides of the paper at the same time?"

We've seen a newspaper printed a million times. But after using maybe a million words to try to answer the question, we left with the feeling we had not done a very good job of it.

In this business, you have to be on the lookout for blindsiding torpedoes like that.

Just now, for example, there was a nice woman on the line with a perfectly reasonable, legitimate question:

"What is the sheriff's job description?"

She said she had called various places, hadn't come up with one.

Sometimes, we wish we would get an easy question, such as what is the hypotenuse of the courthouse dome.

There are some things that are known about the sheriff's job:

We know, for example, that the sheriff's pay is \$74,136 a year.

We know that the sheriff gets a car, and we are told that the car of the incumbent sheriff, who is on leave pending outcome of some indictments against him, is parked on county property until all of this is settled.

We know that the sheriff has a work force of 1,099.

We know that the sheriff's department has a budget this year of \$34 million, in round numbers.

We know that the posse of candidates riding in hot pursuit of the sheriff's job have their own, varied ideas of what the sheriff should do.

We also have our own ideas of what we'd like to see the sheriff do, and we more or less spelled them out in this space recently.

But an official job description for the sheriff?

Hypotenuse, in comparison thy name is simplicity.

It is a logical question, since most places seem to have job descriptions these days. But, uh, county government is not exactly your average, run-of-the-mill place.

Now, to be sure, county govern-



Roger
Summers

ment does have job descriptions for most of those on its payroll. We've read some of them. And they are about as up-to-date as you can get. They'd make a wordsmith proud. Well, anyhow, they are fairly specific.

But the sheriff's job, like some other top elected jobs at the courthouse, is in something of a category unto itself. The job to some extent is what you make of it, though the Texas Local Government Code does cover a lot of ground regarding a sheriff's responsibilities.

We're not so sure of the value of any official job description for sheriff, although we personally have one pretty much in mind.

But, obviously, some people do place value on a job description.

So, official job description or no job description, we're curious as to what people think the sheriff's job should be. As stated, we have our own ideas. But maybe you have better ones. We'd like to know what they are.

Since you're going to hire a sheriff this year and since you're going to pay his salary, send us your sheriff's job description. Maybe we'll pick one as the best and perhaps arrange for the winner to get a prize. You know, say something like a free tour of the jail.

And, by the way, if you can succinctly tell a student how the newspaper is printed on both sides of the paper at the same time, please, please send that along, too.

If you have a good answer to that one, maybe we'll throw in an extra-special prize.

Maybe we'll let you substitute for us next time we're asked to speak to a bright bunch of school kids so you'll get a real-life, up-close look at what a running torpedo looks like.

And, we promise, after it's over, we won't even ask you what its hypotenuse is.

Roger Summers is a *Star-Telegram* columnist and editorial writer. The address is Box 1870, Fort Worth 76101.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1992

On the video

Judges using 2-way camera system for hearings with jailed suspects

BY STEFANI GAMMAGE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Instead of heading to the courtroom yesterday, Magistrate Gene Grant spun around in his gray upholstered chair and turned his attention to a video monitor in the corner of his basement office in the Tarrant County Justice Center.

Five months ago Grant and other judges would have had face-to-face

hearings with jailed suspects to read them their rights and set their bail; now the process has gone high-tech.

Since the new Tarrant County Corrections Center opened Oct. 1, the old system has been replaced with two-way video cameras and monitors that allow jailers to walk inmates from their holding cells to a room a few feet away for their first appearance before a judge.

(More on VIDEO on Page 18)



Judge Gene Grant uses a two-way live video system to preside over a hearing

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELE

In most cases, magistrates don't have to leave their offices, leaving the officials available for police officers or attorneys needing to take care of business. Fort Worth municipal court judges still make the trek from one end of downtown to the other, where they do video hearings from the city's area in the jail.

"I think it's using existing technology in a wise way," said Senior Assistant District Attorney Steve Chaney, who said he would like to see the system expanded county-wide. "It saves us money and doesn't take away from a defendant's rights. I don't see any negatives at all."

Said acting Jail Administrator John Pempsell: "It's very cost-effective in manpower. We don't have to move the inmates any great distance to get them to the courtroom."

On average, 150 to 200 prisoners go through the process each day, he said. The video hearings are held four times a day, seven days a week.

Grant, senior criminal district magistrate, said he likes that he's not taken away from his office. On busy weekends, he said, judges can spend 1½ hours doing paperwork for the hearings, which take a total of about 45 minutes.

Also, Grant prefers the distance between himself and the inmates, even though a cage separated the inmates and judges in the old jail.

"Some of them do show up with an attitude problem," he said.

Magistrate Roberto Cortez gave a mixed review of the video arrangement.

While lauding it as speedier and letting judges have access to computers to refer to criminal histories, Cortez added, "You don't have as much control." Sometimes faces are not on the screen and it can be hard to hear the proceedings, he said.

Pempsell said audio problems can be adjusted.

Because the proceedings are public by law, the magistrate's courtroom is equipped with a monitor on which observers can watch the hearings. Criminal attorney Terry Casey, who works with the American Civil Liberties Union, said he doesn't perceive any problems with the setup.

"Right off the top of my head, I can't think of a problem as long as they don't start doing it with a videotape of the judge," he said.

Six debates scheduled in sheriff's race



BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Half a dozen forums and debates for sheriff's candidates are scheduled around the county this month, in the run-up to the March 10 primary election.

A debate is slated for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday before the Republican Club at Team Bank, 600 Bailey Ave., near the intersection of Camp Bowie Boulevard and University Drive in Fort Worth.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs' Association will hold a candidate forum in the old Central Jury Room in the Civil Courts Building, 100 N. Houston St. in Fort Worth.

On Thursday, the League of Women Voters has scheduled its sheriff's candidate reception and debate for 6:45 p.m. in the Tarrant County Commissioners Court room on the fifth floor of the County Administration Building, 100 E. Weatherford St. in Fort Worth.

On Friday, a debate is scheduled for 11 a.m. at Woodhaven Country Club, 913 Country Club Lane in east Fort Worth. It is sponsored by the Town and Country Republican Women's Club.

On Feb. 25, the Azle Republican Club will sponsor a debate beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Pat's Country Kitchen, 130 Industrial Blvd. in Azle.

On Feb. 27, the Arlington Republican Club will hear sheriff candidates at the Coors distributorship just off Interstate 30 at 3508 Ave. F East in Arlington.

Official to ask for an audit

Sheriff's Department is target of inquiry

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Pct. 3 Commissioner Bob Hampton said he will call for a management audit of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department at tomorrow's 10 a.m. county commissioners meeting.

Hampton said he is honoring a request made by a Tarrant County grand jury that returned six felony indictments against Sheriff Don Carpenter last month.

If approved by the commissioners, the audit will examine procedures and established lines of authority within the department, Hampton said yesterday.

Three other commissioners on the five-member Commissioners Court support the idea.

Carpenter was indicted on charges that he illegally took confiscated guns from the property room and falsified records to cover their removal.

Hampton said he will ask that the audit be performed by a seven-member team consisting of County Auditor Jimmy Causey; Assistant District Attorney Steve Chaney; County Budget Officer Debbie Schneider; Pct. 4 administrator Jon Ed Robbins, a former Texas highway patrolman; Pct. 3 administrator Jane Sanford, a specialist in public administration with an emphasis in confinement; an outside police chief to be named by the court; and a member of County Administrator G.K. Maenius' staff.

Clements backs Watson for sheriff

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Former Republican Gov. Bill Clements today endorsed O.L. Watson's candidacy for Tarrant County sheriff.

"It is unusual for me to endorse a Republican candidate in a Republican primary," Clements said. "But I made an exception in this case because I am convinced O.L. will make Tarrant County a first-class sheriff."

Clements drove from his Dallas residence to make the announcement at a news conference at the Tarrant County Republican Party headquarters.

Watson is one of seven Republicans, including incumbent Sheriff Don Carpenter, running for the nomination in the March 10 Republican primary.

The winner will face the winner of the three-candidate race in the Democratic primary.

Clements said Watson coordinated his 1978, 1982 and 1986 gubernatorial campaigns in Tarrant County and served as his appointee to the state's Criminal Justice Division Advisory Board, Crime Stoppers Advisory Council and Governor's Crime Task Force.

Clements credited Watson, a former Pct. 2 Tarrant County commissioner, with masterminding his gubernatorial campaigns in the county.

"Old loyalties and friendships run deep and I am delighted to give him my support," Clements said. "I am convinced he is extremely well qualified to be sheriff."

Watson was defeated in 1990 by Republican Marti VanRavensway on the heels of a sexual harassment suit filed by county employee Vicki Van Velsor, who contended Watson exposed himself to her during a visit to his farm.

Watson said the suit was politically motivated and disputed the allegations.

She dropped the suit shortly before the election, which Watson lost.

He filed a countersuit claiming that she had slandered him and won a \$100,000 judgment against Van Velsor earlier this year.

Shortly after Watson announced for sheriff, Van Velsor received a new trial on the matter, sparking another charge of political interference from Watson.

"I was a victim of the liberal element of the media," Watson said today. "As Governor Bill Clements used to say, 'Anytime the liberal element picks on you, chances are you're being a good conservative Republican and doing a good job.'"

"I'd like to add that anytime the liberal element picks on a good conservative candidate, he or she probably will be re-elected," Clements said. "I am certain O.L. will win his race and I will do all that I can to help him."

Watson also announced that another veteran Republican legislator, former state Sen. Betty Andujar, had agreed to serve as his campaign chairman. Andujar was ill and did not attend Clements' announcement. Watson was her area coordinator from 1972 through 1982.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

O.L. is OK

This is in reference to Bill Thompson's columns on Feb. 6 and Feb. 11 in which he urged voters not to vote for O.L. Watson for sheriff.

If he is so knowledgeable about the office and can advise voters how to vote, why is he not running for office? Could he open the book on his life to public scrutiny?

Watson is not a homosexual, doesn't drink, party or do drugs. He has been married to the same woman for 27 years and been a good

husband. He has raised two children who have been and still are alcohol and drug-free. He has been a good father. He does spoil his granddaughter but is a good grandfather. He is a successful businessman and debt-free. He is a strong law-and-order advocate, with the background to prove it.

During his tenure as county commissioner, he was devoted to stopping political scandals, operating the county on a businesslike basis and stopping the waste of taxpayers' money. Because of this, he stepped on some big toes, which created controversy. He is honest, hard-working and plain-spoken.

Watson has never and will not succumb to the pressures of the press. He also has the audacity to oppose those who buy ink by the barrel.

Watson cannot be bought, bribed or threatened. He knows right from wrong, what is lawful and unlawful. His character, qualities and attributes are appreciated by the residents of this county who know him.

Thompson call them a "dim-bulb approach."

—Vonnice Watson
Mansfield

Panel favors auditing Sheriff's Department

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — County commissioners embraced the idea of a management audit for the Sheriff's Department yesterday, as urged by the grand jury that indicted Sheriff Don Carpenter, but spurned the proposed group to carry it out.

Pct. 3 Commissioner Bob Hampton offered the plan during yesterday's meeting, but withdrew it for at least a week after the other four members of the court balked at using county employees to do the study.

Hampton had proposed that the study be done by a panel composed of county Auditor Jimmy Causey; Budget Officer Debbie Schneider; Assistant District Attorney Steve Chaney; Pct. 3 Administrator Jane Sanford; Pct. 4 Administrator Jon Ed Robbins; a staff member from the county administrator's office and an outside police chief.

Robbins is a former Saginaw city manager and an ex-officer with the Texas Department of Public Safety. Sanford has a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in confinement.

Hampton wanted a final report from the group by July 31.

"Now is a perfect time for this audit," Hampton said. "Acting Chief Deputy [Jim] Minter has assured me that not only would it receive his full cooperation, but the enthusiastic participation of the sheriff's office as well."

Jim Ryan, who is running against Hampton in the March 10 Republican primary, attacked commissioners for considering an audit.

"You're trying to make Bob

Hampton look like the hero of the hour and Don Carpenter look like a scoundrel before his day in court," Ryan said. "The people can see through your political hypocrisy."

Hampton said the audit was in reply to the foreman of the grand jury that returned six felony indictments against Carpenter over confiscated guns missing from his property room and records that prosecutors say were falsified to cover the missing weapons.

In his report, foreman Jerry Partlow requested that Carpenter step down and that an audit be conducted of his office's procedures and lines of authority.

Carpenter took a leave of absence, and Minter was appointed acting chief deputy to run the department.

Minter said he and his officers "would cooperate completely" with any audit.

The others on the court agreed with the need for the audit, but disagreed over using county employees to do it.

"I have enormous respect for those whom you named, but I am wondering if the wiser course of action is to hire an outside professional firm," County Judge Tom Vandergriff said.

Other court members were concerned about the group's objectivity and whether those people had time to do the audit in addition to their regular jobs.

Hampton could see that he did not have the votes he needed yesterday, so he withdrew his audit motion, but promised its return.

"I will keep this item on the agenda until it is done," he said.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1992

★ ELECTION ★
1992

Candidates for sheriff

Hunter's the best choice

Tarrant County sheriff candidate Jim Hunter is by far the most qualified person for the office. Hunter is an extremely competent administrator who is not reluctant to make decisions. His judgment is superior, and he takes full responsibility for decisions made.

Hunter has always exercised sound judgment in stressful situations, and his decisions are always in favor of strong and just law enforcement.

During Hunter's last year with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, I rated his overall performance as "superior." On my recommendation, Hunter received a

special service award for superior performance of administrative duties.

I am fully aware of the other candidates' qualifications and strongly recommend Hunter as being the most qualified to represent the people of Tarrant County as its next sheriff.

—James A. Carey
Irving

★ ELECTION ★
1992

Candidates for sheriff vow reforms

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The nine candidates who want to unseat Sheriff Don Carpenter promised his deputies last night that they would return the department to a position of respect by doing away with coin-flip promotions and punitive internal affairs "witch hunts."

The nine made the promises at a candidate forum sponsored by the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, formed a few months ago because of promotions decided by a coin flip and similar personnel problems.

The forum was held in the Central Jury Room in the old County Courts Building, and about 150 deputies and others attended.

Another forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, will begin at 6:45 p.m. today in the county commissioners courtroom on the fifth floor of the county administration building, 100 Weatherford St.

Carpenter was not present last night. He has not appeared at any of several forums even though he is seeking a third term.

Carpenter has not spoken to the news media since he was indicted by a Tarrant County grand jury last month on felony charges involving weapons missing from his property room. County commissioners last month threatened a civil suit to remove Carpenter from office, but he took a voluntary leave of absence until his trial.

"I don't have to go to those forum things," Carpenter said in an interview before the indictments were returned. "I am running on my record and don't have to go to no debates."

Present at last night's meeting were GOP hopefuls David Williams, a Haltom City detective; O.L. Watson, former Pct. 2 county commissioner; Steve Marshall, an assistant district attorney; Tom Graves, a reserve deputy and telephone company executive; Jim Hunter, a retired federal agent and private investigator; and former Deputy Mike Utley.

Also attending were Democrats Dub Bransom, River Oaks police chief; Lupe Coronado, a retired deputy; and Glen Allison, a deputy in the criminal warrants division.

Past forums have been mild-mannered, but Utley took off the gloves last night and jabbed his Republican opponents.

"Unlike them, you won't have to train me to be a sheriff," Utley said.

Sheriff candidates split over gay-hiring issue

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The question of whether to allow a homosexual deputy on the force surfaced again for Tarrant County sheriff candidates, this time at last night's League of Women Voters forum.

Four of the nine candidates attending the forum — Democrats Lupe Coronado and Dub Bransom and Republicans Mike Utley and Jim Hunter — said they would not fire a deputy who admitted to being a homosexual.

Republicans O.L. Watson, David Williams, Steve Marshall and Tom Graves said they would either suspend or dismiss the deputy because homosexual intercourse is against state law.

In a candidate forum earlier this month sponsored by a Republican anti-abortion group in Hurst, the same four said they would not hire homosexual deputies.

Watson, a former Pct. 2 county commissioner, stirred up a storm of protest from homosexual groups after the first debate when he said, "Not only would I not hire one, if I could get them prosecuted, I would throw every one of them in jail."

Incumbent Sheriff Don Carpenter, who is seeking a third term, did not attend last night's forum. He has previously said that he would not discriminate against homosexuals.

Carpenter, who last month took a voluntary leave pending the outcome of six indictments for allegedly falsifying records and misusing confiscated guns, is seeking the Republican nomination in the March 10 primary.

Democrat Glen Allison, a deputy in the criminal warrant division, was the first candidate questioned on the gay police issue at last night's forum, and he was surprised.

"It would depend on how I found out he was a homosexual," Allison said. "That would have a lot to do with it. Under current state law, it's illegal. That's a tough question."

Bransom, River Oaks police chief, said: "You can't discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, creed, sex or sexual preference. I wouldn't fire him or her."

Those who agreed are: Coronado, a retired sheriff's investigator; Hunter, a former federal agent; and

Utley, a former deputy sheriff.

Watson did not repeat his jailing threat last night.

"I wouldn't know if they were gay unless I caught them in the act," he said. "Sodomy is still against the law and if he or she violated the law, they would be fired."

Marshall, a prosecutor; Williams, a Haltom City detective; and Graves, a telephone company executive; said that as long as the sodomy law — a class C misdemeanor

punishable by a fine of \$100 — is in effect, they would obey it, and that means suspending or firing a homosexual deputy.

The question of the constitutionality of the Texas sodomy law currently is before the Texas Supreme Court.

The nine pledged to hire more minorities and women if elected and to work to improve the department's professionalism.

21 February 1992

MR. ROGER SUMMERS
THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
P. O. BOX 1870
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76101

Dear Sir:

As a concerned citizen, a registered voter in Tarrant County, and tax-payer, I feel compelled to reply to your article of February 13th, in the Evening Edition of the "Star-Telegram," when you asked for opinions of the sheriff's job description.

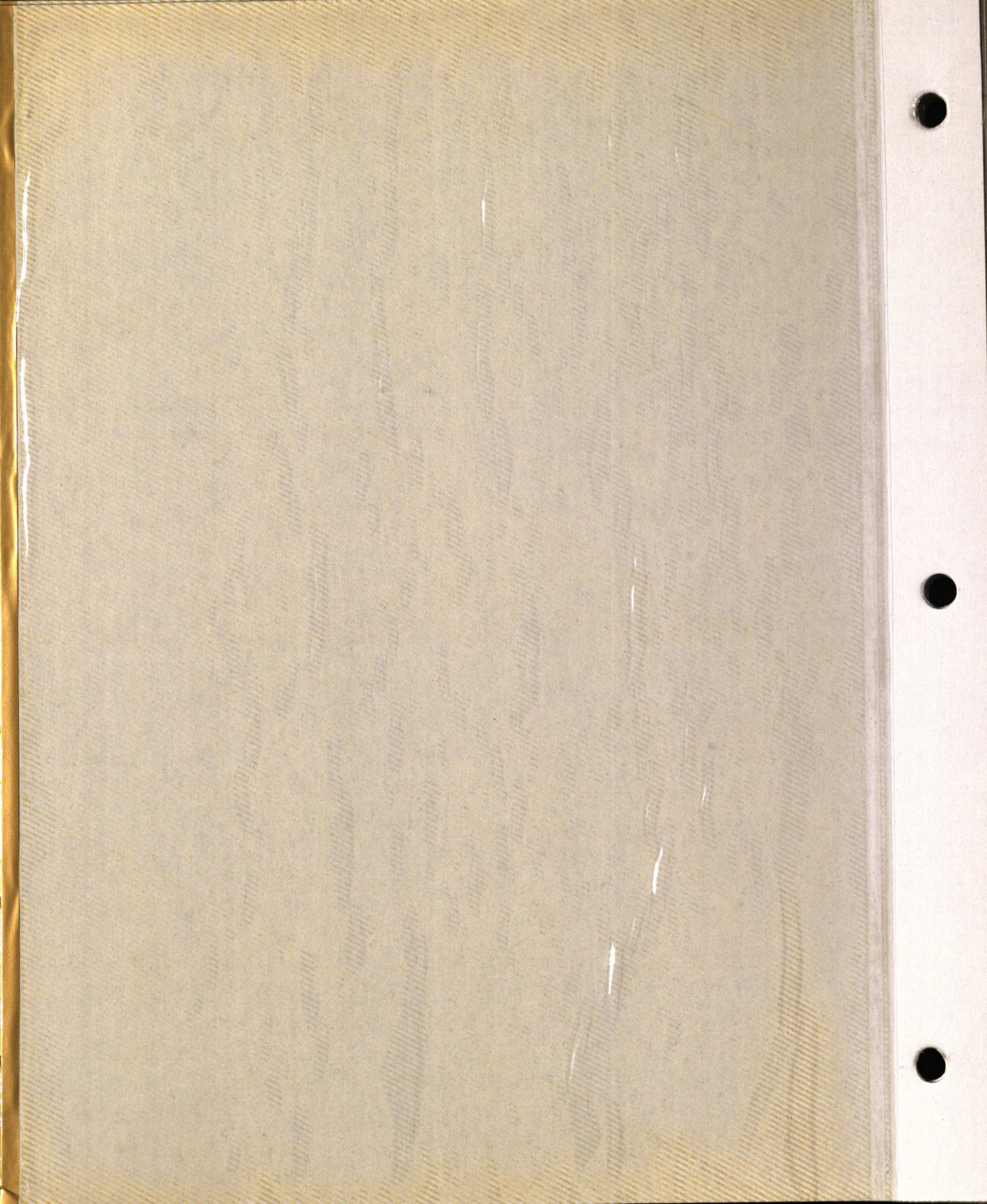
I'm not certain even I can answer that question. However, when one considers that the job carries with it an annual budget of some \$34 million dollars, a salary of just over \$74,000 a year, and the task of managing the daily routine of some 1100 employees, I suppose it is easy to find fault with one who has such responsibilities. Yet, it does seem to me that a "hypotenuse" for such a serious political debate could be espoused on administrative issues without name-calling and character assassination as "printed on both sides of your paper," almost daily.

So, you ask, what is the sheriff's job description? Yes, that's a hard question. We know he is the county's chief law enforcement officer, but what does that actually mean? The nearest to that definition, I have found, is the Law Enforcement Officer's Code of Ethics, which reads in part: "As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression and intimidation; and the peaceful against violence and disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice."

I'm sure each candidate opposing the incumbent feels that he can permeate the job as sheriff to a higher standard. Maybe so....maybe not. Perhaps, it is a task for the public to decide, as they will surely do come election date.

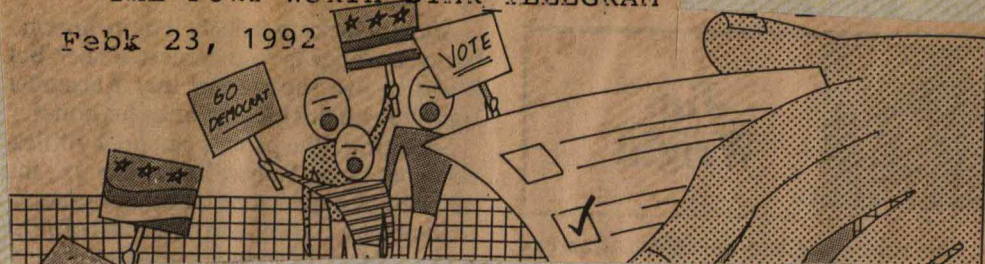
Whether it be one of the candidates, or Don Carpenter, who fills the job as sheriff, he is certainly a man to be appreciated and respected. But then, you see, perhaps I am prejudiced; for I am a member of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department....and proud of it!

FLOYD F. CLARK
Release Officer
Tarrant County Corrections Center



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
Febk 23, 1992



Vote for Bransom for sheriff

As a native of Fort Worth and a longtime news reporter in this area, I have observed a lengthy succession of law-enforcement officials — the good, the bad and the in-between.

I feel compelled to write today because for years I have cringed at some of the stories that have come out of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. The ineptness, the chicanery and the pettiness involved in some of those stories are a constant source of disgust. And there never seemed to be any way to correct the situation short of a recall election or courtroom charges.

Now the people of Tarrant County have the opportunity to restore honor, competence and honesty to the sheriff's department through the election of Dub Bransom as sheriff. I have known Bransom since the late 1960s, when he was fighting drugs for the Fort Worth Police Department. Since that time, I saw him become president of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and chief of the River Oaks Police Department.

Dub Bransom will bring something very needed to the sheriff's department — professionalism, experience, integrity and plain old honesty. What more could the voters of Tarrant County ask for?

—Jim Marrs
Springtown

Getting to know Tom Graves

Anyone who owns a television set or subscribes to a local newspaper is painfully aware of the fact that the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department is currently experiencing a crisis of leadership.

On March 10, the Republican electorate in Tarrant County will be given the responsibility of electing the person who is best prepared to re-establish the integrity of the sheriff's department.

The problem with this year's contest is that the familiar faces in the race are familiar for reasons that we would like to forget.

If we are, in this election, to restore the image of the Sheriff's Department, it is critical for the electorate to take the time to look beyond the familiar names on the March 10 ballot.

One of the unfamiliar names is Tom

Graves. I have known Tom Graves for many years and know for a fact that he has the characteristics and abilities that we need to restore the tarnished image of our sheriff's department.

He is the only candidate in the race who has both the administrative skills and the business background (bachelor's degree in business from Texas Wesleyan University; 15 years of managerial experience at Southwestern Bell) that will be needed to regain control of the department. And he has a strong law enforcement background (deputy sheriff in Tarrant County for seven years; Texas commissioned peace officer; lieutenant for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Reserve).

Moreover, Tom Graves' unfamiliar name is becoming more familiar by the minute as he picks up support from voters and elected officials across the county. In my own city of Euless, for example, he has been endorsed by Mayor Harold Samuels and by four of the five current city council members, including myself.

Please get to know this candidate! He will be a sheriff we can be proud of.

—Todd Smith
Euless

Williams an excellent choice

A lot of recent elections left us feeling as though we did not have a choice. Those of us who bothered to vote were often voting to keep someone out of office, not to vote someone in. Some of us may have voted for an independent just to send a message of disapproval to the two main candidates. Well, there's a break in the weather, folks — the Tarrant County sheriff's race.

We have an excellent choice in David Williams. I have examined his qualifications; you should, too. His experience in law enforcement makes him an able law enforcement officer who can take back what I consider to be my streets. He also has the administrative capability to competently handle what I consider to be my tax money.

Let's not miss an opportunity to make a good choice when we finally have a choice, Tarrant County. Vote on March 10 for David Williams.

—Ginger Pattee
North Richland Hills

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Editorials/Opinions

Amon Carter, Founder-Publisher, 1906-1955 Amon Carter Jr., Publisher, 1955-1982

Sheriff

Tough job demands tough, smart leader

Sheriff of Tarrant County.

The name, the badge may be the same. But the job is enormously different from what it once was.

In choosing a sheriff, it is critically important that the people of Tarrant County reclaim their sheriff's office by filling it with someone who not only recognizes that change has come but who also will champion it, take up the challenge and carefully direct us toward it.

The sheriff's office must be put in capable, competent hands. In the process, voters must insist that the office be restructured to meet changing requirements.

They must insist that the old way of doing things must give way to the new, that there will be high expectations for the sheriff to administer the office expertly and make it better fit into the criminal-justice process.

That includes requiring the sheriff to be an out-front, hands-on, ideas-in-mind leader in pursuing collaborative, cooperative, crime-fighting ventures with police and other law-enforcement agencies.

Anything less in a sheriff or in his approach to the job is unacceptable. It will not do because the office presently is in ineffectual disarray, because it must function at high level for the good of the people, county government and the criminal-justice system and because increasing amounts of tax dollars are going there. Citizens are entitled to know their money is being used prudently on their behalf.

To that end, we make the following endorsements in the March 10 primary:
Republican — Steve Marshall.

As an attorney, a college and law-school honors graduate and seasoned prosecutor, he fits the bill. Marshall has handled — and handled well — hundreds of criminal cases. He comes from a law-enforcement family and is close enough to the sheriff's office to know what must be done there but far enough away so that he could bring fresh insight and perspective.

His legal training and experience, together with his youthful vigor, give him the capacity to be the kind of sheriff this urban county requires. In some past elections, the *Star-Telegram* has endorsed Jim Hunter, who again is a candidate. We still view Hunter as well-qualified, but in this race, we think Marshall is the better choice.

Democrat — Dub Bransom.

Law enforcement has been his life. He has been cop on the street and suburban chief of police. In between, he ran a successful business. So he knows how to do a job and how to supervise. Bransom knows how to operate a jail, how to patrol, how to administer, how to budget, how to get along with others but still stand his ground.

He has a practical approach to today's law-enforcement procedures and can be a leader in preparing for tomorrow's techniques. His experience comes from hard knocks, from being there, yet he knows the value of new approaches. He has what it takes.



Bill
Thompson

Leadership is key to choice of sheriff

Hear ye, hear ye: There is a Democratic race for sheriff in Tarrant County's March 10 primary.

Several Democrats have reported that they are annoyed with me because I've written several columns about the Republican sheriff's race and not one word about the Democratic candidates.

It is not unusual for Democrats to be annoyed with me. Come to think of it, it's not unusual for Republicans to be annoyed with me.

But I haven't been ignoring the Democratic sheriff's race for the sheer joy of irritating Democrats. It's just that the Republican primary seems to be a more pressing concern because of the most recent Republican nominee's tendency to win the sheriff's office — despite a pathetic lack of qualifications and a widespread reputation as a nincompoop.

We are speaking here of Don Carpenter, the twice-elected incumbent sheriff who is currently enjoying a paid leave of absence because of pending criminal indictments.

Carpenter is a candidate for re-election, although he does not seem to be actively campaigning. He has been conspicuously absent from candidate forums and debates, and has been quoted as saying, "I am running on my record and don't have to go to no debates."

If Carpenter were smart, which of course he isn't, he would be running *from* his record, not on it. The other candidates — six Republicans and three Democrats — are unabashedly running *against* his record.

All of the candidates — except Carpenter, who don't have to go to no debates — were on display at several forums last week.

And all of the candidates made good impressions — all of them, that is, except O.L. Watson, who remains as worthless as he was when he mindlessly made a mess of everything he touched as a member of the county Commissioners Court.

When other candidates are asked why they should be sheriff, they talk about their successful experience in law enforcement or private business; they talk about their innovative ideas for improving the sheriff's office.

They talk about their plans for restoring respect and pride to the sheriff's department and its employees.

Watson spends a lot of time bragging about his long record as a political party hack.

Here is one of Watson's brilliant ideas for managing a major law-enforcement agency: "You should have homicide officers working homicide and burglary officers working burglary — not right the opposite."

And here is his response to a controversial question about homosexual deputies:

"If there wasn't a law preventing me from firing him, I'd fire him. If there was a law preventing me from firing him, I wouldn't fire him."

He's got a million of 'em, folks. He can babble all day long.

Fortunately, the other candidates aren't babbling. They've got ideas. They've got plans.

On the Republican side, political newcomers such as Tom Graves, David Williams, Steve Marshall and Mike Utley have emerged as articulate and thoughtful candidates. Jim Hunter, who nearly defeated Carpenter as a Democrat four years ago, is also a solid contender for the Republican nomination.

Among the Democrats — Dub Bransom, Glen Allison and Lupe Coronado — Bransom is the apparent front-runner and the most impressive candidate. The River Oaks police chief gives concise, direct answers to the toughest questions, and he understands what this election is all about.

"What it comes down to is a simple matter of leadership," Bransom told the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association during a forum last week.

Leadership. It's what the sheriff's office has sadly lacked the last seven years, and what it desperately needs today.

When you cast your vote in the primary — whether Democrat or Republican — don't forget that word: *Leadership*.

Bill Thompson's column appears Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Campaigning mild in 10-man battle for sheriff's office

Tarrant County candidates have a variety of approaches for a prominent job.

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The battle for the sheriff's job is the hottest race on the March 10 primary ballot county-wide, with nine challengers trying to get the drop on an indicted incumbent seeking a third term.

The job is one of the most powerful political posts at the county level.

Indeed, the role of sheriff was considered so important to civilizing the Texas frontier that it was the seventh elected executive position established by the state's constitutional convention sitting in 1845. And it has lost little clout since, which guarantees crowded ballots.

Lawmen traditionally have been sheriffs in Tarrant County, and eight of the 10 men seeking the job this year are from that profession.

They fall into two general categories: law enforcement veterans, and "civilians" with management

The "civilians" are all Republicans: O.L. Watson, a former Pct. 2 county commissioner and constable, now a rancher and real estate broker; Tom Graves, a Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. executive and reserve sheriff's lieutenant; and Steve Marshall, an assistant district attorney and prosecutor.

Marshall, 30, is the youngest candidate. Carpenter, 60, is the oldest.

The presence of the "civilians" in the race mirrors the public perception of the sheriff's changing role — from law officer to administrator and manager for a department on the threshold of the 21st century.

The candidates point to a departmental budget of \$34 million and a staff of more than 1,000 deputies — most of them jailers guarding the 3,800 prisoners housed in the county's four jail facilities.

"It's become a suit-and-tie job," said Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter, who was put in charge of the office after a Tarrant County grand jury indicted Carpenter last month.

Carpenter was named in six felony indictments involving missing weapons from his property room and falsified property room documents. He has said through his attorneys that he is innocent and is on voluntary leave from the job.

The challengers say they support an effort to conduct a management audit of the Sheriff's Department in the wake of the indictments. Such an audit was urged by Jerry Partlow, foreman of the grand jury that indicted Carpenter.

The nine have appeared in forum after forum around the county — drawing audiences ranging from less than a dozen to more than 100 people — to press their campaigns. Carpenter has not attended any debates.

"I'm running on my record," Carpenter said before he was indicted in late January.

The challengers have been quizzed on their views about abortion, hiring or firing homosexual deputies, and their concerns about the prestige of the office.

All nine agree that the department needs to cooperate with other police agencies and county officials; that

promotions should be based on merit and testing; that only violent offenders should be jailed while others should be confined under house arrest, in boot camps or in county work farms; and that the department's level of professionalism must be raised.

In addition, in response to questions from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* posed to all candidates, Carpenter stressed that his main goal is to stay in compliance with state jail standards to prevent the federal courts from taking over the jail operations.

The nine challengers have pledged to hire and promote more women and minorities and have promised to make the new Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs' Association a part of their decision-making team.

How to accomplish these goals is where they differ.

Williams thinks that having the department accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies will cure the lack of professionalism.

Utley wants to hire a certified public accountant to handle the department's budget, and he promises to publish an annual report on the department's operations every year in a newspaper.

Coronado wants to hold quarterly employee meetings and recruit at local high schools and colleges.

Bransom wants to change the department's structure to conform to a "modern police agency structure" to increase credibility and improve morale.

Allison wants to update the department's equipment and capabilities, including seeking federal grants for a helicopter and a K-9 and drug-dog unit.

Marshall wants a countywide reference system for protective orders to help fight increasing domestic violence and to participate with Dallas County in an area fingerprint identification system.

Sheriff

From previous page

credentials and little or no experience as law officers.

The law enforcement veterans include all three Democrats: Dub Bransom, the River Oaks police chief; Lupe Coronado, a retired Tarrant County deputy sheriff; and Glen Allison, a deputy in the criminal warrants division.

The Republicans with law enforcement experience include Sheriff Don Carpenter; David Williams, a Haltom City detective; private investigator Jim Hunter, a retired Drug Enforcement Administration officer; and Mike Utley, a former sheriff's investigator.

Watson wants professional jail administrators in each of the county's confinement facilities and promises to promote through the ranks.

Hunter stresses cooperation with other agencies and the Commissioners Court.

Graves said he will depend on sound management practices and procedures to restore credibility and efficiency to the department.

The hopefuls have refrained from bashing Carpenter despite his well-publicized public relations gaffes, such as determining promotions among equals by flipping a coin and his ongoing court battle with county commissioners over control of the jail commissary.

They have studiously refrained from commenting on his indictments.

When they do zing each other, it is more in the nature of a group of friends trading genial insults than political throat-cuttings.



Don Carpenter: "He's using his time off to run," wife says

Carpenter busy seeking re-election

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Sheriff Don Carpenter is running hard but somewhat silently for a third term, according to his wife, Weda.

"He's out there every day, putting up signs and meeting people, drinking coffee and asking for votes," she said Friday in a telephone interview.

Facing six felony indictments, Carpenter has taken a voluntary leave of absence and has quit speaking to the news media. But he has not

Utlely, a former sheriff's investigator, youth officer and jailer, was the first to take a swipe at his opponents, sniping at fellow Republicans for their lack of "street cop" experience.

"Hunter retired 10 years ago from the DEA, so his knowledge is 10 years out of date," Utlely said at a recent forum before the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association.

"Watson never worked as an officer on the street; Williams is an attorney who puts in prison the bad guys you and I go out and arrest; and Graves is a reservist. I'm sorry, but 25 hours a month duty as a reservist is not the same as 40 hours a week out there on patrol," Utlely said.

Bransom took a good-natured shot at his opponents' qualifications at Thursday's League of Women

Voters forum, sounding as if he was holding court at his favorite River Oaks coffee shop.

"If you need a drug abuse officer, ol' Dave Williams is your man. If you need a youth officer, call on Mike Utlely here. If you need something investigated, there's no one better than Lupe Coronado.

"If you need a warrant served, Glen Allison's your man. If you need an attorney, there's Steve Marshall. If you need a private investigator, give Jim Hunter a call, and if you need an account executive, there's Tom Graves.

"But if you need a sheriff, then I'm the man to call on," Bransom declared.

The candidates will meet in several more public forums before March 10.

dropped out of the race to keep his job, says his wife, who serves as his spokeswoman.

His name will be on the March 10 Republican primary ballot along with those of six challengers. Three more candidates are fighting for the Democratic nomination.

"He's using his time off to run and he's been very busy doing it," Weda Carpenter said.

She said her husband has been concentrating his efforts in the

northwest, northeast and southwest portions of Tarrant County, putting up signs and visiting voters.

"He hasn't heard a single negative comment about his trouble from anybody out there," she said.

Carpenter has skipped the half-dozen or more candidate forums so far. Never a fan of such debates, he has said they are not fair because the sponsors are only interested in hearing those whose viewpoints agree with theirs.

Carpenter stresses that under his administration, the county began using work release and pretrial release programs to ease jail overcrowding.

"He told me that his main goal and objective in his third term would be to bring the Tarrant County jails into compliance with Texas jail standards," his wife said. "He said he hoped he could do it this term, but construction delays in opening the new jail kept him from it."

DEMOCRATS



GLEN ALLISON

46, Tarrant County deputy sheriff. First time to run.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Administrator. "Must be concerned with working within a reasonable budget and getting the most service for the taxpayer's dollar."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Favors boot camps.

Management goals and objectives

Establish departmental policies and procedures guidelines, improve relations with other law enforcement agencies, establish specialized units for handling critical situations and create a K-9 dog team

DUB BRANSOM

54, River Oaks police chief. Ran for sheriff in 1988, defeated in Democratic primary.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Administrator. "Primary function is to provide and operate detention facilities for the county and provide primary law enforcement for unincorporated areas of the county."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Favors a jail farm system, expansion of current work-release and community service programs, and boot

camps that stress job training.

Management goals and objectives

Improve morale, establish operational policies and guidelines, and assist all other law enforcement agencies in the county.

G.C. "LUPE" CORONADO

57, retired Tarrant County deputy. First time to run.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Administrator. "He is the chief administrator/law enforcement officer of the county."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

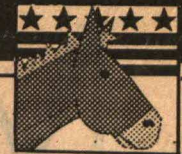
Favors electronic monitoring in connection with at-home detention and work-release programs.

Management goals and objectives

Regain departmental integrity and respect, abandon

"good ol' boy" system of pay and promotions that discriminates against all employees, including minorities.

REPUBLICANS



DON CARPENTER

60, Tarrant County sheriff. Seeking third term.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Administrator

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

"Pre-trial release and work release programs began under my administration." Also favors boot camp.

Management goals and objectives

To be in compliance with state jail standards, keep pressuring state to accept prison-ready felons and to keep the federal government from taking over Tarrant County jail operations because of non-compliance with overcrowding rulings.

TOM GRAVES

34, telephone company executive and reserve Tarrant County deputy. First time to run.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Administrator. "The tasks include providing effective law enforcement and secure confinement of prisoners."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Favors boot camps, work-release and electronic monitoring programs.

Management goals and objectives

Restore public trust and confidence in the office, be a team-builder in county government, build relationships with other law enforcement agencies, and control costs.

JIM HUNTER

48, private investigator and retired federal Drug Enforcement Administration officer. Fourth attempt at public office. Lost in the 1984 Democratic primary for sheriff; lost in the 1988 general election for sheriff; joined the GOP and lost in 1989 special election to fill Jim Wright's 12th Congressional District seat.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Both, with an emphasis on administration. "It is essential that the sheriff be a proven administrator who has a working knowledge of the criminal justice system."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Favors shock probation, boot camps, work release, community service, work farms, and house arrest for

non-violent offenders.

Management goals and objectives

Restore credibility and respectability to the department, raise morale, implement policies and procedures, and cooperate with other agencies.

REPUBLICANS

STEVE MARSHALL

30, assistant district attorney. First time to run.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Law enforcement. "The sheriff should be the leading voice of law enforcement in the county, assuming a leadership role to coordinate the efforts within the county to battle the ever-increasing crime problem."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Favors pretrial release, boot camps and work-release programs.

Management goals and objectives

Work with all the other agencies in the county, combine resources and other crime-fighting tools with smaller agencies, establish a county-wide computerized reference for protective orders and participate in the Area Fingerprint Reference System.

MIKE UTLEY

35, self-employed, former Tarrant County sheriff's investigator. First time to run.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Both. "The sheriff must be a law enforcement leader both as a law officer and an administrator."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Best method should be determined after conferences with criminal district judges.

Management goals and objectives

Establish a general procedures manual, hire a certified public accountant to oversee budget and prisoner accounts and publish an annual report of the sheriff's operations yearly in the newspaper.

O.L. WATSON

58, rancher, real estate agent. Running for eighth time. Elected Pct. 2 county commissioner in 1984 to unexpired term and re-elected in 1986; defeated in 1990; elected justice of the peace in 1960 and 1962; elected constable in 1964; defeated in race for state legislature in 1968.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Both. "He needs to be a lawman to put them in jail and a jail administrator to keep them there safely and legally."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

Would reinforce the county road gang program, which resumed in 1986 after a 20-year absence.

Management goals and objectives

Improve morale, have professional jail administrators directing all four county jail facilities, promote through merit, and modernize training.

DAVID WILLIAMS

38, Haltom City police detective. First time to run.



Sheriff's role: Law officer or administrator?

Both. "The sheriff should be an innovative administrator and a veteran police official."

Other methods of confinement than jail for non-violent offenders?

No particular favorite but would expand drug- and alcohol-abuse education activities in the county.

Management goals and objectives

Seek national accreditation for the department, improve training, and establish and follow policies and procedures.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1992

Motions are filed by sheriff's lawyers

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Attorneys for Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter have filed a series of motions asking District Judge Bill Burdock to quash six felony indictments against the sheriff because of inaccuracies and misleading wording in the charges.

Carpenter's attorneys scheduled an afternoon news conference but could not be reached for comment this morning. Carpenter, 60, who was indicted on Jan. 17, is currently on

paid leave from the sheriff's office and campaigning for re-election to a third term.

The motions were filed at 6:45 p.m. yesterday at Burdock's home and were not entered into the district clerk's office until this morning.

Burdock scheduled a hearing on the motions for 10:30 a.m. Friday.

Specifically, Carpenter's attorneys, Joe Brent Johnson, Don Gandy and J.R. Molina accuse the prosecution of trying to avoid the statute

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Sheriff

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of limitations in indictments dealing with a gun in Carpenter's office safe.

That indictment says the offense occurred July 1, which Carpenter's attorney claim was stated to avoid the statute of limitations.

"The defendant would show that this date has been conveniently selected in order to plead an indictment which, on its face, would satisfy the question of limitations," the attorneys said in the motions.

Two affidavits by sheriff's department employees say Carpenter took a gun from his safe to qualify at the shooting range in July and placed the gun back in the safe. They say

that weapon was not government property and was not included in orders that it be destroyed.

The indictment alleges the gun came from the sheriff's property room and was removed for the personal use of the sheriff.

They also attack the indictments that accuse Carpenter of tampering with a governmental record by saying no specific record is mentioned. On the property room guns, the attorneys accuse prosecutors of not identifying the weapon by serial number or name.

The motions attack prosecutors by saying the indictments failed to give Carpenter proper notice.

"The failure of the indictments to provide the requisites of the law as set out above deprive the accused of the due course of the law," the motions state.

Tuesday P.M., February 25, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Commissioners approve study of sheriff's office

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Tarrant County commissioners today voted unanimously to ask the National Association of Sheriffs in Alexandria, Va., to undertake a management study of the trouble-plagued Tarrant County sheriff's office.

The commissioners will send their request for a proposal to the organization, whose executive director, Bud Meeks, estimated the audit would cost \$12,000 to \$50,000 depending on how extensively the commissioners wanted the department studied.

Commissioner Bob Hampton called for the study last week in response to Tarrant County grand jury foreman Jerry Partlow, whose panel returned six felony indictments against Sheriff Don Carpenter last month.

Carpenter, who is seeking re-election, has taken a paid leave of absence pending the trial.

Along with the indictments, the grand jury requested a management audit of the department.

Hampton continued to stress at today's meeting that he wanted a number of county staff members included on the audit panel. But he said, "in the interest of time, let's move ahead with this request for a proposal and then we'll talk about the possibility of adding our local staff members."

Pct. 2 Commissioner Dionne Bagsby said she was concerned about "the glaring exclusions" in the study panel proposed last week by Hampton. That panel included the county auditor, budget officer, assistant district attorney, an outside police chief and others.

"I am upset that in the interests of fairness and equity to minorities in that department, no minorities were included in that panel," Bagsby said. "Those issues must be addressed in this audit and minorities must be included in that panel."

Sheriff's lawyers speak out

Indictments blamed on county commissioners

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Lawyers for embattled Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter said yesterday that the felony indictments against him are without merit and possibly were initiated by county commissioners wanting to sabotage his chances for re-election.

"We clearly believe he was targeted by the Commissioners Court and

that it was the intent and scheme of the Commissioners Court to stop him from getting elected," said Mark Richman, a Dallas attorney who specializes in defending Texas sheriffs who are in legal jams.

"The only people who stand to gain from these accusations are people on the Commissioners Court who have openly been confrontational with the sheriff and non-cooperative. This whole thing, we sub-

mit, is to wrest away control of the sheriff's office by Sheriff Carpenter so they can replace him with someone more suitable to their own likes."

County Judge Tom Vandergriff and Commissioner Bob Hampton rejected the allegations.

"That is hogwash," Hampton said. "That's so far-fetched it's laughable."

(More on SHERIFF on Page 24)

They asked for the bid after officials of the organization, based in Alexandria, Va., notified County Administrator G.K. Maenius that the six-week study will cost between \$12,000 and \$50,000, depending on the depth of information sought.

The organization does accreditation work for sheriffs' offices throughout the country.

The commissioners hope to award the contract next month and have a final report by May.

The management audit was called for by the same grand jury that on Jan. 17 named Carpenter in six felony indictments. The grand jury alleged that he falsified government documents and improperly used confiscated guns taken from the Sheriff's Department property

While acknowledging that the Commissioners Court and Carpenter have been at odds "at various times," Hampton said, "It takes a very fertile imagination to somehow concoct that the Commissioners Court hatched all of this."

Added Vandergriff: "We simply played no part in initiating that investigation [against Carpenter]. That is just totally incorrect."

Hours earlier, the commissioners voted unanimously to ask the National Sheriffs Association to bid on a management audit of the sheriff's office.

room. The sheriff has been placed on paid leave.

Late Monday, Carpenter's lawyers filed motions asking that the indictments be quashed because of what they called inaccuracies and misleading wording in the charges. A hearing has been scheduled for Friday.

Carpenter, 60, did not attend a news conference called by Richman, and the sheriff's four other attorneys. Richman said the lawyers advised Carpenter, who is seeking a third term in office, not to attend the news conference to prevent it from turning into a "political brouhaha."

Carpenter's wife said he was out of town.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

Joe Brent Johnson, an attorney for Don Carpenter, calls the indictments erroneous.

Insured inmates billed for treatment

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Prisoners in the Tarrant County jail system who have some form of medical insurance are being billed for medical treatment they receive behind bars.

Tarrant County is taking advantage of a law that took effect in August requiring insured inmates and those who are not indigent to pay for their medical costs while in jail.

The county began sending the bills to inmates this month, Tarrant County Hospital District officials said this week.

They said the bills are an attempt to recover some of the cost of providing medical help to the 4,000-plus prisoners in the county's four jail facilities.

The county pays the hospital district \$1.4 million a year to provide the service.

"We just wanted the prisoners to understand what the service was

costing the taxpayers and reclaim some of those costs from those with insurance," Joe Valdez, the jail's medical administrator, explained in a previous interview.

Valdez said the district is not charging medical costs to inmates' personal accounts, which they use to pay for purchases from the jail commissary.

"We're looking into that, but we have not done that as yet," Valdez said.

Valdez said that inmates who are indigent are not billed and that no inmate, insured or not, is ever denied treatment.

Until the hospital district took over the jail system's health care this year, the sheriff hired the jail doctors and nurses and did not bill the insured inmates for their care.

Harris County is considering similar billing of inmates for medical care. Dallas County attempts to collect only from insured inmates who

are treated at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

In Bell County, about 100 miles south of Fort Worth, the sheriff has been charging insured prisoners for medical care since 1987, said Maj. Billy Bryan, the county's jail administrator.

"I helped draft legislation that resulted in Article 104 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which said inmates in county jails are responsible for the costs of their medical care," Bryan said.

He said his staff levies charges against the inmate funds to pay those costs.

"If an inmate has \$500 in his account, gets regular deposits into it and has a wife that works, then he is not indigent and we levy on his inmate funds to pay his medical bills, if he has no insurance," Bryan said.

"But if a guy is down to his last \$40 and there's been no deposits for some time, we let him ride," he said.

Carpenter's lawyers seek dismissal

Inaccuracies cited in indictments against sheriff

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Defense attorneys for Sheriff Don Carpenter asked a judge yesterday to dismiss indictments returned against him because of improper wording and inaccuracies.

Carpenter's lawyers contend in court motions that the indictments returned Jan. 17 against the sheriff omit specific information required by law and that one indictment is beyond the statute of limitations.

District Judge Bill Burdock ordered attorneys to submit legal briefs by Thursday and said he will

rule by Friday.

Special prosecutor Galen Sumrow said he will seek the re-indictment of the sheriff if any of the six indictments is quashed.

"It's not going to go away," he said.

During the hearing, Carpenter sat at one end of the defense table, listening to the attorneys argue. When the hearing was over, he left the courtroom surrounded by TV cameras but declined to answer any questions.

A Tarrant County grand jury indicted the 60-year-old sheriff, accusing him of taking confiscated

weapons from the department property room and of falsifying property room records. All of the indictments are third-degree felonies and carry penalties of two to 10 years in prison and fines up to \$10,000.

Two of the indictments accuse Carpenter of misapplication of fiduciary property, alleging that he "recklessly" gave away two property-room guns at a 1986 picnic.

In the hearing, Don Gandy, one of the sheriff's four lawyers, argued that prosecutors did not say how Carpenter was reckless, as required

by law.

Sumrow countered that the indictment was sufficient but that he could amend it if asked to do so.

In a news conference earlier this week, Carpenter's attorneys said that those two guns were not permanently given away at the picnic but that the two deputies agreed to return them upon retirement.

Sumrow, however, said the evidence does not support the defense attorneys' version.

"The testimony of those two [to the grand jury] is just the opposite," he said.

Defense attorneys have asked for a hearing concerning a theft-by-a-public-servant indictment that deals with a gun in Carpenter's safe

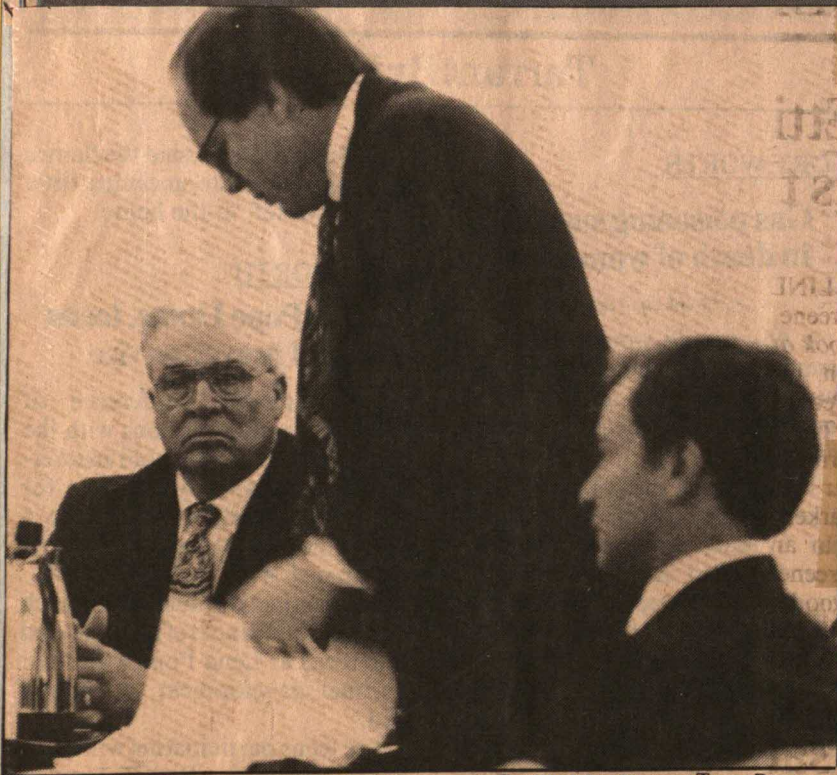
that he used to qualify on the pistol range July 1.

Carpenter's attorneys said the gun had been in the sheriff's safe for years and that prosecutors picked the July date for the indictment to bypass the statute of limitations.

But Sumrow said the statute of limitations is not a problem because the crime did not occur until the gun was taken from the safe.

Burdock has scheduled a March 9 hearing for the issue.

In addition, defense attorneys are requesting that Burdock quash three indictments concerning tampering with a governmental record, contending that prosecutors did not give enough specific information about the records or how they might have been falsified.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / TONY RECORD

Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter, left, waits as his attorneys work to have Judge Bill Burdock throw out indictments that they say have problems.

Carpenter's trial has been scheduled June 8. The sheriff is taking a paid leave of absence until his cases come to trial.

Tarrant County Sheriff

The Questions

1. Why do you believe you are qualified to hold this office?
2. What do you see as the responsibilities of this office? How do you propose to fulfill them?

The Replies



Allison

Democrat

Glen Allison

8005 Vista Del Sol

Age: 46

Occupation: Deputy sheriff

Qualifications: I have been a police officer in the State of Texas for the past 25 years. I have 8 years of police supervision during this period. I have an Associates Degree in criminal justice from TCJC and an additional 30 semester hours of under graduate study in criminal justice from TCU. I understand and can relate to the problems that our personnel experience on a daily basis and the stress which they are under. I also understand the problems of management and how the needs of the department and those of the employee must balance. I believe in fair and equal opportunity for all our employees in regard to advancement in the department without regard to race, color or creed. I believe that the employees of the department should be the most capable and qualified personnel to hold their respective positions.

Responsibilities: The responsibilities involve providing our citizens with the best qualified personnel and resources available for the protection of life and property. Looking beyond special interest groups and racial issues and looking toward the well being of all our citizens. Exploring new ideas and methods together with all the law enforcement agency's of Tarrant County, in making our streets, homes, schools a safe place to live. I will work within a sensible budget and control our tax dollars. I will take advantage of federal grants to provide the resources to accomplish our mission, and through better utilization of personnel to control our budget.



Bransom

David Bransom

933 Troy Court
Fort Worth, Texas 76114

Age: 54

Occupation: Chief of Police - River Oaks

Qualifications: I am a career law enforcement officer, having spent seventeen years with the Fort Worth Police Department, and presently Chief of Police in River Oaks. A 1966 graduate of the Fort Worth Police Academy, I served in all phases of law enforcement, including operations, supervision and administration. I served as President of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and trustee and Chairman of the Fort Worth Employee Retirement System. In 1983, I took an honorable retirement after the death of my father to continue the family business, Bransom Floor Service, Inc. My background of practical experience in both field operations and administration coupled with specialized formal education in Criminal Justice qualify me for the demanding requirements for operations of the Sheriff's office.

Responsibilities: Operation of the county jail and other confinement operations. 1. To establish professional law enforcement and administration 2. Cooperation coordination of law enforcement efforts in Tarrant County and municipal governments A. County-wide information collection/dispersal to all law enforcement agencies B. County wide communications C. Mutual assistance coordination with all 30+ law enforcement agencies in the county D. Push for state to assume obligation to house state prisoners 3. Modifications to jail operations A. Expansion of minimum detention facilities B. Court coordination C. Turn over commissary Banana Wagon to auditors and Commissioners' Court



Coronado

Guadalupe Cortez Coronado

P.O. Box 485

Ft. Worth, Texas 76110

Age: 56

Occupation: resigned to devote my time to campaign

Qualifications: 1) Extensive and continuous hands on experience within the Sheriff's Department. 5 years in Patrol, 10 years in Criminal Warrants and 10 years in Criminal Investigation, have provided me the administrative, supervisory and managerial experience that is needed for this position. 2) Associate Degree in Law Enforcement. 3) Advanced Certification in Law Enforcement from the state of Texas. 4) Possesses numerous certificates from local colleges, agencies and state universities relevant to the Criminal Justice System.

Responsibilities: 1) Enforce state law. 2) Oversee jail operations. 3) Prepare and administer the budget. 4) Supervise staff level and supervisory personnel. 5) Establish contingency plans. 6) Establish advisory committees. 7) Conduct quarterly meetings. 8) Award promotions. 9) Provide Training. 10) Utilize alternatives to incarceration. 11) Responsible to the people. 12) Network with all enforcement agencies. Due to limited wording, I will only address 4 issues. 1) Oversee jail operations: Require that jail standards be maintained, coupled with training for detention officers to maintain jail certification. 2) Prepare and administer the budget: Budget preparation needs input from the lowest level of the department to the staff level. Each line item needs prioritization with impact statement justifying each line item

of supplies, salaries, equipment maintenance up-keep, and personnel prior to submission to the commissioners court. 3) Establish contingency plans for each department of the Sheriff's Department to include the courts and county that addresses the worst scenario that might occur during a crisis or a problem situation with a counter measure to control and eliminate the crisis or problem situation. 4) Network with all law enforcement agencies:

Republican

Don Carpenter
No Reply

Tom Graves
5428 Wedgmont Cir. N.
Ft. Worth TX 76133
Age: 34

Occupation: Design Consultant

Qualifications: Recent events involving our Sheriff's Department underscore our need for a trustworthy Sheriff possessing strong administrative skills. I have 15 years of business experience and hold a B.B.A. degree with a major in management. As a commissioned peace officer and reserve lieutenant with our Sheriff's Department, I have seven years of law enforcement experience. Over the years, I have received a certificate of achievement and two letters of commendation. I am a lifelong resident of Tarrant County and a family man who understands the values and concerns of this community. I am the only candidate with a strong business background, a formal management education, and hands on experience with the department.

Responsibilities: The Sheriff of Tarrant County is responsible for providing diligent and effective law enforcement for our citizens. He must also provide efficient administration of a \$34,000,000 budget, strong leadership for 1100 employees, and secure confinement of an inmate population of 3700 and growing. He must be accountable to work in a positive manner with the Commissioners Court and a wide variety of local, state, and federal agencies. As your sheriff, I will provide forceful and aggressive law enforcement through comprehensive training, proper resource allocation, and strong teamwork with other agencies I will apply accepted administrative practices to a department where they are woefully lacking, with a specific focus on sound jail management. I will work openly with department employees, other governmental entities, and the community, seeking constructive relationships that benefit all of Tarrant County.

Jim Hunter
4800 Overton Hollow
Age: 48
Occupation: Investigations Company

Qualifications: Understanding, developing and managing an organization, within the complex environment, which an urban county Sheriff must operate, demands in-

FROM THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
EVENING EDITION, 03-02-92



Graves

sight, experience and credentials. I believe I possess these. I received my BBA in Finance with a minor in Economics from Texas Tech University. I have over ten years of experience as a public administrator and law enforcement official with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Treasury and Justice Departments. During my service I was awarded numerous honors for superior performance as administrator; and for my efforts fighting organized crime involved in illicit drug trafficking. Further, my experience using the asset forfeiture law will enable me to fund programs . . . saving tax-payer dollars.

Responsibilities: Currently there are many problems that need immediate attention: 1. Providing a professional administration and management of the budget. Thorough examination of current management philosophies determining their effectiveness is needed. Implementing new, fair and cost effective policies and procedures will allow us to more efficiently provide our services to the community as well improve the low morale within the department. 2. Develop a united working relationship with the Commissioner's Court, which will allow us to creatively and cooperatively solve the pressing problems that exist within our jails. 3. Maximize our resources and efforts by building relationships with the prosecuting attorney's, the courts and the municipal law enforcement agencies that operate within our County. 4. Eradicate criminals whose business is selling illicit drugs and spawning drug related crimes that jeopardize the safety of our neighborhoods. 5. **HARD WORK!**



Hunter

O.L. Watson

600 Parkridge Dr. N.
Mansfield, Texas 76063

Age: 58

Occupation: Rancher

Reply not printed. Not in compliance with instructions.

David Williams

Box 48206

Ft. Worth 76148

Age: 38

Occupation: Director of Police
Community Services

Qualifications: I have 13 years police service including 8 years supervisory, administrative and management experience. Served 5 years as Chief of Security and Administrative Services for and international corporation. I have written and managed over one quarter million dollars in grants and grant projects. Served as Project Director for Metro-DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). Served as Vice-chairman on the state committee that created the institute that provides DARE Officer training for all police agencies in Texas. Served as subcommittee chairman with the Citizens Crime Commission of Tarrant County Gang Task Force. Member Northeast Richland Lions Club Board of Directors. Life Member Texas Congress of PTA. Active in other boards and associations. Education from Dallas Baptist University, Criminal Justice Major. Trained in Police Supervision; Municipal Risk Management; Hostage Negotiations, Homicide Investigations, Community Oriented Policing, EEOC and Police Background Investigations, Gang Intelligence, and Numerous other schools. State Certification as Police Instructor, Crime Prevention Inspector, Peace Officer, and DARE Instructor. Numerous Awards and Commendations.

Responsibilities: The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure defines the Sheriff as the conservator of the peace. I will professionalize the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department through National Accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Will use current resources more effectively to keep the jail open; initiate a violent repeat offender program enforcement unit to track the most severe felons upon release from prison. I intend to lead this agency to become the standard of excellence for law enforcement in this county.



Williams

FROM THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM,
EVENING EDITION, 03-02-92

Steve Marshall

2901 6th Ave
Ft Worth Tx 76110

Age: 30

Occupation: Assistant Criminal
District Attorney

Qualifications: My qualifications for the job of Sheriff are my legal education and my seven years of experience as an assistant district attorney in Tarrant County. I have worked with every agency in the county, served as an instructor at numerous police academy courses, and prosecuted thousands of cases. I know what it takes to put criminals in prison and what it takes to keep them there. I have the leadership and management experience within the law enforcement profession to bring our Sheriff's office into the 21st century.

Responsibilities: The Sheriff should be the leading voice of law enforcement in our community. He should be dedicated to preserving the peace. As Sheriff, I will lead the attack on the problem of crime. First, a professionally managed jail will allow the county to hold on to violent offenders. Next, I will organize the State's law enforcement professionals to lobby our legislature to change the current parole system. There is no deterrence in a system where a defendant gets credit for a year in jail for every 22 days he serves. Finally, I will work with the citizens to insure that the people know what is happening in their own community, so that they understand the devastation of drugs, the violence of gangs, the threat of domestic violence, and the reality of not being safe in their own homes. Only then will the people of Tarrant County stand together to stop crime, and only when we stand together will we make a real impact.



Marshall



Utley

Mike Utley

1735 N. Shady Oaks
Southlake, TX 76092

Age: 35

Occupation: Former deputy sheriff

Qualifications: The sheriff's office of today needs a leader who has experience in both law enforcement and business. I am the only person seeking the Republican nomination who has worked in every enforcement division within the sheriff's office. I have eight years experience as a full-time deputy sheriff here in Tarrant County. In addition, I have over 15 years of business experience. Considering the size of the department's budget, using sound business principles is a must. I will draw from both my law enforcement experience and my business background to develop and implement a business plan that will streamline the department while addressing crime fighting needs in our community. I will be the sheriff you won't have to train.

Responsibilities: The Sheriff's office is the only county-wide law enforcement agency. It is charged, by the state constitution to 'Keep the Peace.' Today that charge is an awesome responsibility..It is time for the sheriff's office to take the lead and work with all of the local law enforcement departments to develop strategic plans for fighting crime in our county. Setting up systems for sharing resources and technology among cities big and small, providing additional training opportunities and most of all working on better communications are key to' us being able to fight crime as a united front rather than individually. I know the system and I know what needs to be changed. I have the experience to change it. I will be the sheriff you won't have to train.

Mike

• WEDGWOOD/RIDGLEA SHOPPING NEWS • March 5, 1992

UTLEY

Republican for

SHERIFF

8 years **FULL TIME** law enforcement experience,
in all enforcement divisions of the Sheriff's Department.

15 years of business management experience.

The Sheriff We Won't Have to Train

Endorsed by

- Arlington Police Association
- Tarrant County Deputy Sheriff's Association
- Tarrant County Deputy Constable's Association



#7 on the March 10th Ballot

Pol. Adv. paid for by "Friends to Elect Mike Utley, Sheriff of Tarrant County
P.O. Box 820431 Ft. Worth, TX 76182 (817)488-6096

5 Sheriff Indictments Ruled Faulty by Judge

Officials get 20 days to amend

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Ruling that five of the six felony indictments against Sheriff Don Carpenter contained faulty language, a state district judge today gave prosecutors 20 days to correct the documents or face possible dismissal of the five charges.

State District Judge Bill Burdock said in a letter that he agreed with defense contentions that the language in five indictments was "insufficient to sustain a conviction."

On Jan. 17, Carpenter was named in indictments that accused him of taking confiscated weapons from the property room and of falsifying property room records. All charges are third-degree felonies that carry a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on conviction.

Two of the indictments state that the sheriff "recklessly" gave away two property room guns at a 1986 picnic, but do not describe the reckless conduct.

The problem "may be remedied by amended indictments" that give more specific information, Burdock said.

Three of the indictments — all involving tampering with governmental records — do not give enough specific information about three property room cards that allegedly had been falsified, the judge wrote.

"The description of the card is insufficient to give adequate notice to defendant to prepare for trial," Burdock's letter said.

The problems in these three indictments are "matters of form and not of substance," Burdock said, which means they also can be amended.

Burdock overruled defense attorneys motions on a sixth indictment — theft by a public servant — that says Carpenter took a gun from his safe and used it to qualify on the pistol range July 1, 1991.

Carpenter's lawyers contend in court motions that the July 1 date was picked by special prosecutor

Galen Sumrow in order to skirt the statute of limitations.

Sumrow has said the statute of limitations is not a problem because the crime did not occur until the gun was taken from the safe.

The statute of limitations issue will be addressed at a later hearing.

Sumrow could not be reached for comment this morning, but he said last week that he would amend indictments if the judge found fault with the originals.

"It's not going to go away," he said.

Carpenter is taking a paid leave of absence.

Carpenter has been the subject of a criminal investigation since September when Sumrow, the Rockwall County district attorney, was appointed to the case. The sheriff testified twice before the grand jury panel that returned the six indictments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote for honest O.L. Watson

I have known O.L. Watson for more than 20 years and have the greatest respect for him and his abilities.

Watson's chief handicap is that he is an honest man. That is a handicap in some places.

During his service as county commissioner, he insisted that certain legal provisions should be observed, contrary to existing practices. Naturally, this was a great inconvenience to some people.

Watson has experience with law enforcement, is a good manager, would be a competent, capable, honest sheriff.

I recommend him to Republican voters on March 10.

—Betty Andujar
Fort Worth

Utley wins badge support

The Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Tarrant County Deputy Constables Association and the Arlington Police Officers Association recently endorsed Mike Utley, Republican candidate for sheriff. I would like to congratulate Utley for receiving such major endorsements from his peers.

Utley, as a deputy sheriff, worked side by side with the sheriff's department employees, thereby realizing the hardships and dangers they face. He is sincere about wanting to work with and for the officers. These officers, whether they protect and serve on the streets, in the jails or in the courthouse, have endured the ridicule brought to their uniform by the administration.

Much has been publicized about the need to restore respect and integrity to the sheriff's department. Let's begin showing our respect by favoring the associations' decision to vote for Utley on March 10.

Utley's foundation of loyalty to the badge, dedication to professional law enforcement and years of business and law-enforcement experience, combined with his compassion for people, will sustain an esteemed sheriff's department.

—Kathy Archa
Fort Worth



Sheriff

**ELECT
DUB**

BRANSOM

Sheriff of Tarrant County

Endorsed by:

"The Fort Worth Star Telegram"
A Proven Law Enforcement Leader

PAID FOR BY THE DUB BRANSOM FOR SHERIFF CAMP, COMMITTEE, JACK HOWARD, TREASURER

Prison suit settlement may aid jails

BY KAREN POTTER

Fort Worth Star-Telegram Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — Negotiators in the long-running prison overcrowding lawsuit have reached a tentative settlement that would allow packing more inmates in prisons to relieve the backup in county jails.

The tentative agreement was reached by prison system attorneys and lawyers for the inmates who filed suit 20 years ago, claiming inhumane conditions in Texas prisons.

Gov. Ann Richards is waiting for Texas Attorney General Dan Morales' legal opinion on the proposed settlement. The Texas Board of Criminal Justice could act on the compromise at meeting March 13.

"We promised the counties that we would do everything in our power to grant them some relief from this vexing and long-standing problem," Richards said in a letter to Morales yesterday. "I believe that it is time for critical decisions on the Ruiz case to be made."

As outlined by Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Selden B. Hale III, the compromise would permit the state prison system to immediately increase its capacity above a court-ordered 95 percent population limit, saving the state \$60 million to \$80 in the next 18 months.

That would mean the state could house 2,300 more inmates in existing prisons that now have a capacity of 46,000. Future prisons could be filled to 100 percent capacity under the settlement, Hale said.

Noting that jail crowding is again reaching crisis proportions in Harris County, Hale said the proposed agreement would "allow a speedy, partial draw-down of jail backlog in most Texas counties."

Hale said the state could save about \$37 million in potential payouts to counties that would otherwise have to keep state inmates during the next 18 months.

In addition, federal court supervision of the prison system by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice would end.

"The board, in tentative discussions, wants to accept this offer by the plaintiffs and return control of the prisons system to its rightful manager, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice," Hale wrote the governor.

Morales, who has been campaigning in South Texas for Texas Railroad Commissioner Lena Guerrero, has not responded to the letters, said spokesman Gray McBride.

The attorney general's office has been involved in the settlement discussions as officials continue to press toward an early summer trial date on the state's effort to formally end the prison lawsuit. Hale said the attorney general's office helped in drafting the proposed settlement, which was partially based on legislation filed last year by Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston.

McBride cautioned that previous settlements have been declared in the complex litigation only for the compromises to fall through.

In his letter to Richards, Hale said that if the state opts to take its chances in court, the process could take years and cost more state dollars. Meanwhile, the county jails would choke on prisoners.

"I think the position that everybody's at now is, which direction do we go?" Hale said today. "Do we take a compromise settlement with all its apparent advantages or do we decide to go back and litigate over several years with the cost of attorneys' fees, and attempt to get more?"

"I don't think anyone's made that decision yet."

Judge says charges need work

Prosecutors have 20 days to reword criminal indictments against Sheriff Don Carpenter.

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Prosecutors will have to amend five of the six indictments against Sheriff Don Carpenter to proceed with the criminal charges, a state judge ruled yesterday.

State District Judge Bill Burdock gave prosecutors 20 days to correct the documents or face possible dismissal of the five indictments. Burdock determined that the documents are "insufficient to sustain a conviction."

Special prosecutor Galen Sumrow could not be reached yesterday but has said he would reword the indictments if the judge ruled the indictments insufficient.

Carpenter's attorneys acknowledged yesterday afternoon that Sumrow will likely amend the indictments, but they said the vague language proves that the prosecution has trouble with its case.

"I think it's a major victory for the sheriff," attorney Joe Brent Johnson said at a news conference.

The sheriff was out of town for his mother's funeral and did not attend the news conference.

He faces stiff competition in the GOP primary Tuesday and has waged a low-key campaign, avoiding appearances at candidate forums that have attracted his six Republican and three Democratic opponents.

Carpenter is taking a paid leave of absence until his cases come to trial June 8.

On Jan. 17, Carpenter was named in indictments that accused him of taking confiscated weapons from the property room and of falsifying property-room records. All charges are third-degree felonies that carry a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on conviction.

Two of the indictments allege that the sheriff "recklessly" gave away two property-room guns at a 1986 picnic, but they do not describe the reckless conduct.

The problem "may be remedied by amended indictments" that give more specific information, Burdock said.

Three of the indictments — all involving allegations of tampering with government records — do not give enough specific information about three property-room cards that the documents say had been falsified, the judge wrote.

"The description of the card is insufficient to give adequate notice to defendant to prepare for trial," Burdock's letter said.

The problems in those three indictments are "matters of form and not of substance," Burdock said, which means they also can be amended.

Burdock overruled defense attorneys' motions on the sixth indictment, which alleges theft by a public servant and says Carpenter took a gun from his safe and used it to qualify on the pistol range July 1.

Carpenter's lawyers contend in court motions that the July 1 date was picked by Sumrow to skirt the statute of limitations. Sumrow said last week that the statute of limitations is not a problem because the crime did not occur until the gun was taken from the safe.

The statute of limitations issue will be addressed at a hearing later.

Neil McBabe, a law professor at South Texas College of Law in Houston, said indictments are often amended, although it is unusual for a judge to order it.

"I'd be surprised if it was a common occurrence," McCabe said. "I think the government is getting a break there. It's certainly better than the judge going ahead and dismissing the counts."

During the news conference after the judge issued his ruling, defense attorneys gave reporters copies of an affidavit signed by a bailiff that says the bailiff received a gun from a judge at a 1986 picnic, not from Carpenter.

The March 6 affidavit by bailiff Bob Tatum says state District Judge Charles Dickens, who is now deceased, drew the names of the winners and gave some guns away. Tatum testified before the grand jury in October.

Defense attorneys said the affidavit shows that Carpenter did not take part in giving away the guns.

Sheriff



Don Carpenter

GOP sheriff's race: Five good candidates in a seven-man field

The ballot in Tuesday's Republican primary for Tarrant County sheriff looks like this:

- O.L. Watson
- David Williams
- Steve Marshall
- Tom Graves
- Don Carpenter
- Jim Hunter
- Mike Utley

Seven candidates. More than enough.

Two more than enough, to be specific.

I've said this before but I'll say it again:

It is absolutely essential that Republican voters throw out two of the seven candidates without giving them a second glance.

The two who must be dismissed, of course, are the indicted incumbent sheriff, Don Carpenter, and the well-known-but-totally unacceptable ex-county commissioner, O.L. Watson.

Everybody knows about Carpenter. His



**Bill
Thompson**

idiotic and incompetent performance since first being elected in 1984 has made the sheriff's office a laughingstock. It is difficult to imagine a sheriff who could be a more frightful embarrassment to the people of Tarrant County.

Difficult, but not impossible.

If you can imagine O.L. Watson as sheriff, you can imagine a nightmare even more horrifying than the one created by Carpenter.

By every significant estimate, Watson was a disaster as a member of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. His mindless, self-serving intransigence and pointless, petty grandstanding confounded and frustrated his fellow commissioners as well as the taxpaying public.

In 1990, Watson was tossed out of office by voters who were completely fed up with the reckless, insulting, counterproductive behavior he displayed while occupying a crucial position of public trust.

Watson blamed his loss in the 1990 Republican primary on adverse publicity resulting from charges of sexual harassment leveled at him by a county employee. Those charges may have been a factor in his defeat.

But whether Watson wants to admit it or not, the voters rejected him because they had taken a good, long look at his notion of leadership and found it sadly lacking.

Watson was a terrible county commissioner. He would be a worse sheriff.

And there is no reason to vote for him.

Look at the other names on the ballot: Williams, Marshall, Graves, Hunter, Utley.

These are excellent candidates. Any one of them could be a fine sheriff.

The Democrats will have a strong candidate — most likely River Oaks Police Chief Dub Bransom — but sheer numbers give the Republican nominee a head start in the general election.

Because the Republican Party has dominated countywide elections in recent years, it is crucial that the Republicans nominate a qualified candidate for sheriff.

Let's look at them.

Graves is a bright, articulate businessman with experience as a reserve deputy sheriff. He would bring sound business principles and a progressive philosophy of management to a department that desperately needs such leadership.

Williams and Hunter have extensive law enforcement experience and long lists of excellent ideas for restoring pride and professionalism to the sheriff's office.

Marshall is an assistant district attorney and would bring a prosecutor's insight to the complex relationships between the sheriff's department and other elements of the criminal justice system.

Utley is an experienced sheriff's deputy who would have instant rapport with department employees who have been thoroughly demoralized over the last seven years, not only by Carpenter's ineptitude but by his degrading, high-handed management tactics.

So, listen up Republicans: Forget about that cat fight between George Bush and Pat Buchanan for a few minutes and think about those seven — no, make that five — candidates for sheriff.

Your friends and neighbors are counting on you.

Bill Thompson's column appears Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Sunday, March 8, 1992 ★

ELECT

DUB

BRANSOM

Sheriff of Tarrant County

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Incoming!

Pneumatic tubes keep jailers dodging bullets

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Sheriff's employees are looking a bit shellshocked lately because the new Tarrant County Correction Center's pneumatic tube system works a little *too* well.

The workers have developed a combat soldier's skill at keeping one ear open and then taking cover when they hear one of the paperwork-laden carriers rattling through the tube terminus in their offices.

"It's sort of like a Scud missile attack," explained jail construction supervisor Joe Davis. "Sometimes the carriers will hit the catch basket so fast they'll ricochet 20 feet across the office."

So far, the employees have been able to dodge the incoming carriers."

The computer-directed system links offices in every floor of the building, plus two stations in the Criminal Justice Building next door and the warrants office across the street in the basement of the old jail.

The tubes send paperwork from the \$47 million, 6-month-old jail whizzing through the system to various offices.

The problem lies with the aluminum bullet-shaped carriers, Davis said. "They're too light and the bullet shape is wrong," he said. "They travel too fast and sometimes come open inside the tubes, effectively jamming the system."

But relief is on the way, Davis said — in the shape of 200 blunt-ended carriers similar to those used at bank drive-up windows.

"We've spent \$8,000 to buy new carriers that are heavier and therefore will travel slower," he said. "The pneumatic system Scud attacks should end about March 15."



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON JENKINS

Jail officials say they will replace the carriers.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / BRUCE MAXWELL

Jim Hunter, center, is surrounded by supporters at the Cadillac Bar during returns in the Tarrant County sheriff's race.

GOP says no to Carpenter

Hunter, Williams in runoff



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / BRUCE MAXWELL

Jim Hunter, with supporters, ran for sheriff as a Democrat in 1988.

BY MAX BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter lost his bid for a third term yesterday, unable to overcome the controversy surrounding accusations of mismanagement and of illegally distributing confiscated weapons.

"I wasn't ready to lay it down, but it looks like I'm going to lose and I don't think I'm going to be disappointed if I do lose," Carpenter said. The white-haired, folksy sheriff

who wore a five-point star on his chest and carried a cup in his hand for a tobacco spittoon, was fifth last night in a seven-man race to represent his party on the November ballot.

Jim Hunter, a former federal Drug Enforcement Agent, won a runoff spot with Haltom City Police Detective David Williams.

In the Democratic primary, Dub Bransom, the River Oaks police chief who has been campaigning for
(More on RESULTS on Page 12)

Results

From Page 1

sheriff for two years, apparently won without a runoff over his two opponents.

In a day that saw light voting because of cold weather and what was widely considered to be displeasure with the candidates, Tarrant County voters who did cast ballots made key decisions.

Voters in west Fort Worth, many of whom for more than two decades automatically checked ballots for House Speaker Gib Lewis, picked Homer Dear, a White Settlement school administrator, to face the winner of a Republican runoff.

Yesterday it was the decision in the sheriff's race, however, that brought the most immediate and dramatic change in character to county politics.

With 99 percent of the votes counted, Carpenter had garnered 11 percent. Hunter, who was narrowly defeated by Carpenter when Hunter ran as a Democrat in 1988, led with 22 percent.

Williams came in second with 21 percent and reserve sheriff's Deputy Tom Graves came in third with 13 percent. Mike Utley got 12 percent, Steve Marshall 11 percent and former county commissioner O.L. Watson 10 percent.

Bransom, with 51.2 percent in nearly complete returns, held his lead throughout the night. Glen Allison, a deputy in the criminal warrants division of the Sheriff's Department, got 29 percent and G.C. Coronado, a retired deputy, 20 percent.

"I feel very good about it," Bransom said. "It looks like all the hard work paid off."

Carpenter was first swept into office in 1984 during the Ronald

Reagan landslide and has been a controversial figure almost since he took the oath.

He battled with commissioners over the jail commissary and was criticized for his handling of chronic jail crowding as well as what critics said was his mishandling of a fatal hostage situation at the county courthouse in 1989.

In the legislative District 89 race, Lewis, who announced his retirement in January, effectively dodged any bullets that might have been aimed at him for pleading guilty to minor ethics charges.

His departure created a wide-open race. However, Dear benefited from Lewis' political machinery.

Dear, with 72 percent of the votes counted, was walking away with the Democratic nomination with 54 percent. Defense attorney Bill Ray and sheriff's lieutenant Mike Hardy each got 23 percent.

"We didn't have a lot of money,

but we had a lot of people working for us," Dear said. "Our next step will be to get together and do the same thing come November."

The outcome of the Republican nomination in District 89 still was not clear, with 99 percent of the votes counted. Tom Davis, president of the Taxpayers Association of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, had 41 percent, and will face lawyer Paul Enlow, who got 31 percent, in an April 14 runoff. Attorney Morton Minton was third with 27 percent.

Davis was the favored Republican candidate. But he was criticized by Enlow, who remembers growing up with Lewis as his representative, for not even living in the district he was trying to represent.

In the runoff, Davis plans to point out what he isn't — a lawyer.

"The No. 1 thing we have to point out is that people don't want a personal injury attorney in Austin deal-

ing with the issues facing this state," he said.

With nearly all the votes counted in the District 95 race, Democratic incumbent Garfield Thompson also appeared to be headed for a runoff, with Martha Redd Singleton, a Democratic National Committee member. The winner will go to Austin because there isn't a Republican challenger in November.

In his predominantly African-American district on the near south and southeast sides of Fort Worth, Thompson had 43 percent to Singleton's 34 percent. Entertainment promoter Curtis Faulkner came in last with 23 percent.

Another Democratic fighting to return to Austin was Rep. Doyle Willis Sr., who successfully avoided blows from challengers Lon Burnam, a consumer-rights activist, and Mike "Paz" Hernandez, a local bail bondsman.

In complete unofficial returns in

the District 90 race, Willis, who has served that inner Fort Worth district for 27 years, won with 53 percent. Burnam got 26 percent and Hernandez 20 percent.

In the newly created, heavily Republican District 98 in northern Tarrant County, another runoff will be held, between two candidates who had gone after each other with zeal on a variety of issues.

Political newcomer Nancy Moffat had 40 percent and former Colleyville Mayor Chris Hawkins 35 percent, with 98 percent of the votes counted in the GOP race.

Moffat has questioned votes by Hawkins when he was mayor. Hawkins made an issue out of the bankruptcy of Moffat's construction company in the mid-1980's.

Eddy Parker, one of the leading opponents of Colleyville's recent election to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages, got 24 percent.

Carpenter out of sheriff runoff

River Oaks police chief is apparent Democratic winner

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Sheriff Don Carpenter's hopes for a third term vanished yesterday as the beleaguered incumbent was running fifth among seven candidates in the Republican primary.

With nearly all of the vote counted, Jim Hunter, a retired Drug Enforcement Administration agent, and David Williams, a Haltom City police detective making his first run for office, were headed for a runoff April 14 for the GOP nomination. Hunter had 22 percent of the vote and Williams had 20 percent with 98 percent of the votes counted.

In the Democratic primary, River Oaks Police Chief Dub Bransom appeared to have won the nomination with just over 51 percent. He was followed by sheriff's Deputy Glen Allison with 29 percent and retired Deputy Lupe Coronado with 20 percent, with 99 percent of the vote counted.

Carpenter, contacted at home, sounded sad but philosophical about his loss.

"I wasn't ready to step down yet, but it looks like I'm defeated and I won't be too disappointed if I lose," he said.

In the Republican primary, political newcomers making their first run for office did better than veteran vote-getter O.L. Watson, the former Pct. 2 county commissioner trying for his eighth election win since 1964.

Southwestern Bell executive Tom Graves had 13 percent; sheriff's Deputy Mike Utley had about 12 percent. Assistant District Attorney Steve Marshall and Carpenter had about 11 percent apiece. Watson was last with about 10 percent of the vote.

"Looks like a trend has set in and it's not looking very good for me," Watson said after almost three-fourths of the votes were counted. "Who'd expect Carpenter would get 11 percent of the vote? I don't know how that happened."

Hunter, now a private investigator, said he is eager to take on Williams in a runoff for the GOP nomination.

"We've been in runoffs before and we know what it takes to win them and we'll win this one as well," he said.

Williams said he is proud of his maiden political effort.

"It feels very good to do this well," he said. "I was not really surprised because we planned our work and worked our plan."

Democrat Bransom said he was ecstatic at his victory.

"It looks like all our hard work paid off," he said.

The River Oaks police chief lost his first bid for Carpenter's job in 1988, losing the Democratic primary to Hunter.

Bransom said he is sorry about Carpenter's defeat.

"I hate to see the man embarrassed," he said. "He should have stepped down when he had the chance."

Carpenter blamed his poor showing on publicity stemming from his Jan. 18 indictment on six felony counts. He is accused of taking weapons from his property room and then falsifying records to cover their absence.

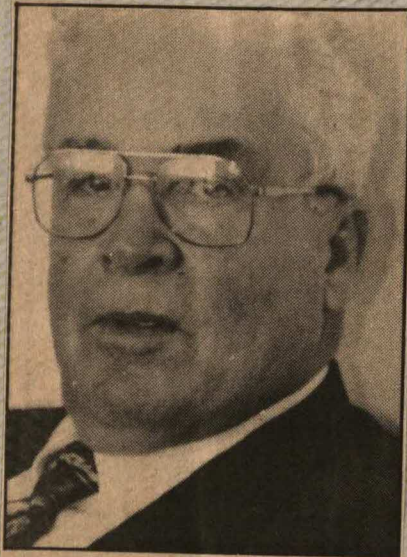
Eleven days later, he took a paid leave of absence until his June 8 trial to forestall a planned suit by county commissioners to remove him from office until his trial is over.

Last week, a state district judge ruled that five of the indictments must either be rewritten or dropped and gave prosecutors 20 days to comply.

"People read all about those things and they hurt me in the election," Carpenter said.

Carpenter has constantly proclaimed his innocence, contending that the charges were politically inspired.

"I didn't do anything wrong, but people didn't give me the benefit of the doubt" he



Don Carpenter

Carpenter defeated for sheriff

Controversy takes
toll in Tarrant race

said. "In their minds, I was guilty until proven innocent."

His campaign was extremely low-key. He never appeared at candidate forums, saying that he was running on his record and that such forums were thinly disguised political ambushes.

Carpenter's campaign effectively ended a week ago when his 84-year-old mother died at her home in Tahoka. Carpenter left the campaign trail for several days to handle the details of her funeral and settling her estate.

He was first elected in 1984, defeating Democrat A.J. Brown. He won re-election in 1988 by 672 votes, defeating Hunter, who was a Democrat at that time. Hunter later changed parties.

That switch will be a campaign issue in the runoff, Williams said.

"I think people still consider him to be a Democrat," he said of Hunter. "That could hurt him."

The race, expected to be one of the hottest in Tarrant County, never seemed to develop much heat.

Throughout the campaign, Carpenter's six Republican opponents scrupulously refrained from mentioning his legal troubles.

Democrats Bransom, Allison and Coronado also refrained from hammering on Carpenter's indictments and instead accused his administration of poor management and inefficiency.

They cited the unusual step taken by grand jury foreman Jerry Partlow, who issued a written statement urging the county to perform a management audit of Carpenter's office after the panel returned the indictments against the sheriff.

Two weeks ago, county commissioners asked the National Sheriffs Association to bid on performing such an audit. It is expected to cost between \$12,000 and \$50,000, officials said.

A new era

Sheriff's office to get welcome change

Voters demonstrated discernment in the Tarrant County sheriff's race. They overwhelmingly dumped the incumbent who disgraced the office and caused its disarray, and in the process they nominated candidates who recognize the enormous problems facing the sheriff's department and who have the potential to straighten it out and set it on a new, more appropriate course.

Democrats nominated Dub Bransom, and in so doing they have guaranteed that their party will have a candidate of substance to offer voters in the November general election. Bransom knows the full spectrum of law enforcement; he has been street cop, he has been police chief.

Republicans chose wisely, too. Their top vote getters were Jim Hunter and David Williams, who will meet in a runoff election. Each has good credentials, each understands the job to be done, each has much to offer. Hunter has a lengthy law enforcement background on the federal level, and Williams has local law enforcement experience.

So, no matter which of these candidates

goes on to become sheriff next year, citizens can be assured that the office will take an immediate turn for the better.

That is essential. The sheriff's office is the fastest-growing department in county government. It has more employees than any other county office and requires more money than any other county office. When it is dysfunctional, as it has been in recent years, county government and the criminal justice system suffer, and that is detrimental to the people.

It is necessary, too, that the office take an innovative direction. Because of the ever-increasing crime rate, law enforcement throughout Tarrant County must engage in a cooperative, collaborative effort to make the most of available personnel, equipment and funding. The sheriff should be the guiding force in pushing toward that goal.

Because Tarrant County voters cared, paid careful attention and asserted themselves at the polls, there can be every confidence that they are now well on the way to setting the sheriff's office aright.

Prisons are on verge of compliance with federal reforms, judge says

BY MICHELLE MITTELSTADT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Texas prison system, which has been under federal supervision since 1980, may be "very near" to compliance with sweeping prison reforms, the federal judge who ordered them said yesterday.

"I think in due course the Texas system is going to be in compliance. They are very near there right now," U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice told law students during a symposium on the landmark Ruiz vs. Estelle lawsuit.

The Texas Board of Criminal Justice will meet Friday to consider a proposed agreement between state officials and prisoners' attorneys that could end the 20-year struggle over prison reforms. Although obstacles remain, both sides said they could live with the agreement now being considered.

The plan could save the state \$100 million and relieve some crowding in county jails caused by a backlog of

state inmates, the chairman of the Criminal Justice Board said last week.

Justice, of Tyler, discussed with the George Washington University students the broad outlines of the Ruiz case but declined to comment on the proposed agreement or other specifics, citing pending litigation.

"I'm not going to express an opinion, because I simply don't know," he said when asked when a settlement might be reached.

If approved by the Criminal Justice Board and Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, the agreement would be forwarded to Justice for consideration.

The 1972 lawsuit filed by inmate-reformer David Ruiz, which alleged a wide array of constitutional violations in state prisons, sparked sweeping changes in the prison system.

In 1980, Justice ruled that the Texas prison system constituted cruel and unusual punishment. Prisoners were kept in cramped, under-

staffed facilities and were subjected to substandard medical care and routine brutality from inmates who were used as guards, he ruled.

Justice, who many said overstepped his authority in ordering the reforms, defended his approach yesterday. He told the students he engaged in remedial activism, though he did not repudiate the judicial activism label often used pejoratively by critics.

"I believe my remedies were activist only in the literal sense that they were not passive," he said.

To those who argue that federal courts have no business interfering in the operation of schools, prisons and other public institutions, Justice pointed to the landmark 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling, which ruled unconstitutional public school segregation.

"Critics of *Brown vs. Board of Education* made the same argument. . . and they ended up on the dung heap of history."

April 14 runoff election to pit candidates in 10 races

BY MAX BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Candidates in 10 races on Tuesday's primary ballot have been forced into runoffs, including the hotly contested race for the Republican nomination for Tarrant County sheriff.

Seven Republican and three Democratic primary races will be decided when voters go to the polls April 14 to pick from narrowed fields for everything from congress members to constable.

Well-known names such as Jim Hunter, David Williams, Tom Davis and Garfield Thompson will be vying for the right to carry their party's banner in the November general election.

Tuesday's voter turnout — about 25 percent of the county's 550,000 registered voters — was about normal for a primary election, said Robert Parten, Tarrant County election administrator.

He expects about 80,000 people, at the most, to vote in the runoffs. Early voting will be April 6-10.

"It depends on what kind of activity those candidates get out," Parten said. "If you get one race that gets hot, you can see 15 percent of the voters voting in a [runoff] election."

One of the most visible runoff races will be in the Republican Party for sheriff, where Jim Hunter is pitted against David Williams.

Hunter garnered 22 percent of the vote Tuesday compared with Williams' 21 percent. They led the seven-man field that included Sheriff Don Carpenter, who ran fifth.

Whoever wins will face Democrat Dub Bransom in November.

"I've been in a runoff before, and we'll utilize that experience," said Hunter, a private investigator and former federal drug agent. Running as a Democrat for sheriff in 1984, Hunter lost to former Fort Worth Police Chief A.J. Brown.

Hunter plans to match the \$33,000 he spent in the primary in his runoff bid against Williams.

"This is just one more step in my life to be the next sheriff. . . We've been through 20 opponents and if it

takes 21, that's all right."

But Williams said that the public is tired of professional politicians such as Hunter and that that is why he pulled in so much support.

With \$40,000 invested in the race, Williams said he is ready for a fight.

"I think this sheriff's race is going to attract a lot of attention," he said.

Another high-profile Republican runoff will be in District 89 between Tom Davis and Paul Enlow, vying for the seat vacated by House Speaker Gib Lewis. Davis got 41 percent of the vote, and Enlow received 32 percent.

Davis, as president of a local taxpayers association, said he expects to be endorsed today by Morton Minton, who ran third in the race.

Enlow, a personal injury lawyer, has made an issue out of the fact that neither Davis nor Minton lives in the district but both were allowed to run because of confusion caused by redistricting.

The winner will take on Democrat Homer Dear.

Sure to stir interest in south Fort Worth will be the race of Democratic Rep. Garfield Thompson, who is trying to return to Austin in District 95. There is no Republican opposition.

Thompson got 43 percent of the vote in a race in which opponents characterized him as ineffective in the Legislature. Martha Redd Singleton, a National Democratic Committee member, got 33 percent.

"I plan to get out there and show her that you don't challenge an incumbent that has a favorable voting record for all of his constituents," Thompson said. "And I'm going to do as I did in the primary and run on my record."

That suits Singleton just fine, because she figures that the 23 percent of the vote that went to the third candidate, Curtis Faulkner, was really an anti-Thompson vote.

In the only judicial runoff, lawyer and former judge John Street's push for the Democratic nomination for 48th District Court also might turn

into a tight race. Street got 45 percent and will be opposed by Richard Henderson, who got 34 percent.

Henderson said he will make an issue out of Street's courtroom decisions and the fact that Street was rated unqualified by 56 percent of the lawyers answering a Tarrant County Bar Association poll.

In the race for the Republican nomination to take on U.S. Rep. Martin Frost in District 24, trust administrator Steve Masterson will face entrepreneur Phil Bielamowicz. Masterson got 42 percent to his opponent's 22 percent.

"We came close to winning without a run-off but, as you well know, close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades," Masterson said.

Bielamowicz said he was successful because he is a small businessman who understands such issues as a balanced budget. His \$8,000 campaign was grassroots and run on a shoestring, he said.

In the state District 98 runoff, businesswoman Nancy Moffat will face former Colleyville Mayor Chris

Hawkins for the GOP nomination. Moffat got 40 percent to Hawkins' 36 percent.

The winner of this race will go to Austin because there isn't a Democratic foe in November.

In a runoff for Pct. 1 Constable, Republican Morris Howeth will run against Greg Harnar. Howeth got 39 percent to Harnar's 31 percent. The winner will face Democrat Robert Heaslet.

In Pct. 2, David Harris, who got 49 percent, will run against incumbent Gary Erwin, who garnered 31 percent.

In Pct. 6, Joe Kubes and Bill Hastings will be in a runoff. Kubes got 48 percent of the vote and Hastings 36 percent.

There are no Democratic candidates in the constable Pct. 2 and 6 races in November.

In the only other Democratic runoff, party activist Evelyn Parmer is seeking the party chairmanship against unknown Bob Campbell. Parmer got 41 percent to Campbell's 20 percent.

Ever wonder why we vote for county sheriff and not city police chief?

Suppose you went to the polls and got a ballot that had candidates on it for chief of police.

Some cities have elected their police chiefs. Fort Worth once did.

Then the people of Fort Worth saw the wisdom of appointing the police chief. It is the better way.

Which brings us to the matter of picking the sheriff in this urban county.

We've just gone through the exercise — exercise? — of nominating candidates for sheriff here. In November, the next sheriff will be elected.

But if this year's sheriff's elections and what has been going on in the sheriff's office in recent years do anything, maybe they should cause us to consider whether we're choosing the sheriff in the right way.

The sheriff in this urban county is mainly or should be — an administrator and a keeper of the keys. Maybe these assignments could best be carried out by hiring a professional to do them. An appointed professional, that is.

Matter of fact, we already have a jail administrator and have had for years. So a big part of the job already is in the hands of an appointed professional.

So why not get busy and change the rules of the county government ball game to let Commissioners Court appoint the sheriff — or whatever we might choose to call him or her.

That will let Commissioners Court, which has the job of setting the county tax rate and approving its budget, get a better handle on sheriff's department spending, where more and more county tax dollars — your dollars — are going.

And why stop there?

We never have really understood — and we understand them less as we approach a new century and as we move beyond the 1.2 million population mark in this urban county — the advantages of electing instead of appointing certain other county office holders.

County tax assessor-collector, county clerk and district clerk come immediately to mind.

If a city can appoint its tax collector, why can't we change the rules to let a county appoint its tax collector? Commissioners Court or district judges could do it.

Why couldn't the county clerk be appointed either by Commissioners Court or county-level judges?

Why couldn't the district clerk be appointed by district judges, who, by the way, do name the county auditor and the county purchasing agent?

Tell us quick, now, which of the above mentioned county offices were on last Tuesday's ballot? All of them? One of them? Two of them? None of them?

See the problem? It's difficult for the people to keep track of some county offices. They often don't know who the office-holders are and don't know what they do.

This doesn't make for very efficient urban county government, which could stand an enormous amount of streamlining if it is

to do the job it needs to do in these changing, demanding times.

One of the effects of what we suggest would be to make county government more vertical in structure and therefore more cohesive, efficient and manageable. The present horizontal arrangement leaves it cumbersome, unwieldy, sometimes confused and confusing and always open to criticism. We don't need that.

This improved structure also would put county government in much better position to lead the way in pursuing enhanced cooperative and collaborative ventures with the cities and other entities which, for the good of the people, must be one of its major thrusts in the years ahead.

But, having said all of this, we're not going to hold our breath until any of this happens, mainly because we don't especially like the idea of turning blue in the face.

We remember how long it took to rid this county of a useless county treasurer's office, which, by the way, also was an elective office. Before it was sent packing, the better part of a decade elapsed and there were multiple elections and court hearings on it.

So we are painfully aware that change comes to county government about as fast and as often as, say, courage and statesmanship can be spotted in Congress.

We know full well that the only way we're ever going to even come close to doing any of this is to seize the regime at the courthouse, appoint ourselves County Czar and by edict commence doing what we think should be done.

And even then, we have our doubts that any of it will ever happen.

Roger Summers is a *Star-Telegram* columnist and editorial writer.



Roger Summers

Down the road from the election

In the world of politics, 1992 seems to be the Year of the Message. So it figures that messages were sent — and received — on Super Tuesday.

In Tarrant County, the most important message was delivered by voters in the Republican primary for sheriff. The message was this:

The people of Tarrant County are unwavering in their overdue commitment to hire a competent, professional sheriff. Unqualified hacks and hangers-on need not apply.

Former County Commissioner O.L. Watson finished dead last in a seven-man race for the Republican sheriff's nomination, pulling even fewer votes than the indicted incumbent, Don Carpenter.

Watson apparently ran for sheriff under the impression that his long-if-undistinguished presence on the political scene gave him some sort of entitlement to hold elec-



**Bill
Thompson**

tive office in Tarrant County. The voters informed him otherwise.

The voters also informed fifth-place finisher Carpenter that no matter how much he tries to blame others for his problems, he has no one to blame but himself.

By choosing Jim Hunter and David Williams to compete in a runoff for the nomination, the voters declared their determination to send a qualified law enforcement professional into the November election against Democrat Dub Bransom.

Bransom's resounding victory in his party's primary symbolized a similar commit-

ment by Democratic voters.

Oftentimes, one of the major messages sent in an election is: "Incumbents, go home!"

The easiest way to get a point across in elective politics is to grab an officeholder by the collar and throw him off the train.

That's what Tarrant County voters did in the sheriff's race.

Republican candidates for sheriff mixed on ban on gay deputies

BY MAX BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Tarrant County sheriff candidate Jim Hunter says he would not ban gays as deputies, while his opponent in the upcoming Republican runoff says that because of the state sodomy law, he would decline to hire homosexuals.

Hunter said prohibiting gays from serving on the force would violate their constitutional rights under federal law.

"I'm not going to spend your tax dollars on lengthy litigation," Hunter said during a Northeast Tarrant County Republican Club forum. Hunter, now a private investigator, said he was basing his answer on his experiences as a former federal drug supervisory agent and his reading of the state's sodomy law.

However, David Williams, who is a Haltom City detective and Hunter's opponent in the April 14 runoff, said he

would have to enforce the state's sodomy law.

"It's against the law," Williams said later. "I'd be violating the oath of office" by hiring someone who admittedly commits a crime.

A state appellate court ruled Wednesday that Texas' ban on homosexual sex is unconstitutional, affirming a 1990 ruling made after the state's sodomy law was challenged by a group of gay activists from Austin, Houston and Dallas.

The 1990 ruling by state District Judge Paul Davis said that the 1974 law, whose origins can be traced back to 1878, violates constitutional protections by prohibiting "deviate sexual intercourse" between people of the same sex. The rarely enforced law carries a misdemeanor penalty of a \$200 fine.

Attorney General Dan Morales has

said he will appeal the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court.

The Dallas City Council is involved in a court fight over a prohibition it has on hiring gays as police officers. A state district judge last month ruled its ban unconstitutional.

Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham has said that applicants to his department are not rejected because of sexual orientation.

Hunter and Williams were the two top vote-getters in a crowded race on the Republican ticket for the sheriff's office. Last night the candidates stressed their management capabilities, the need for the department to become more professional and the necessity for it to better support the county's smaller police departments.

The winner of the Republican runoff will face Democrat Dub Bransom in November.

Tuesday P.M., March 24, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Audit of sheriff's office could be done by May

BY STEFANI GAMMAGE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A management audit of the Sheriff's Department could be completed by mid-to late May, according to a proposal under consideration by Tarrant County commissioners, County Administrator G.K. Maenius said yesterday.

If commissioners vote today to give the administrator's office permission to negotiate a contract with the National Sheriffs' Association, Maenius said, he would like to negotiate the agreement within the week so it could be brought back for possible action by commissioners March 31.

The cost of the audit, which Maenius called "an analysis from stem to stern of that department," would not exceed \$16,000, he said.

County Judge Tom Vandergriff said he is "favorably impressed" with the proposal.

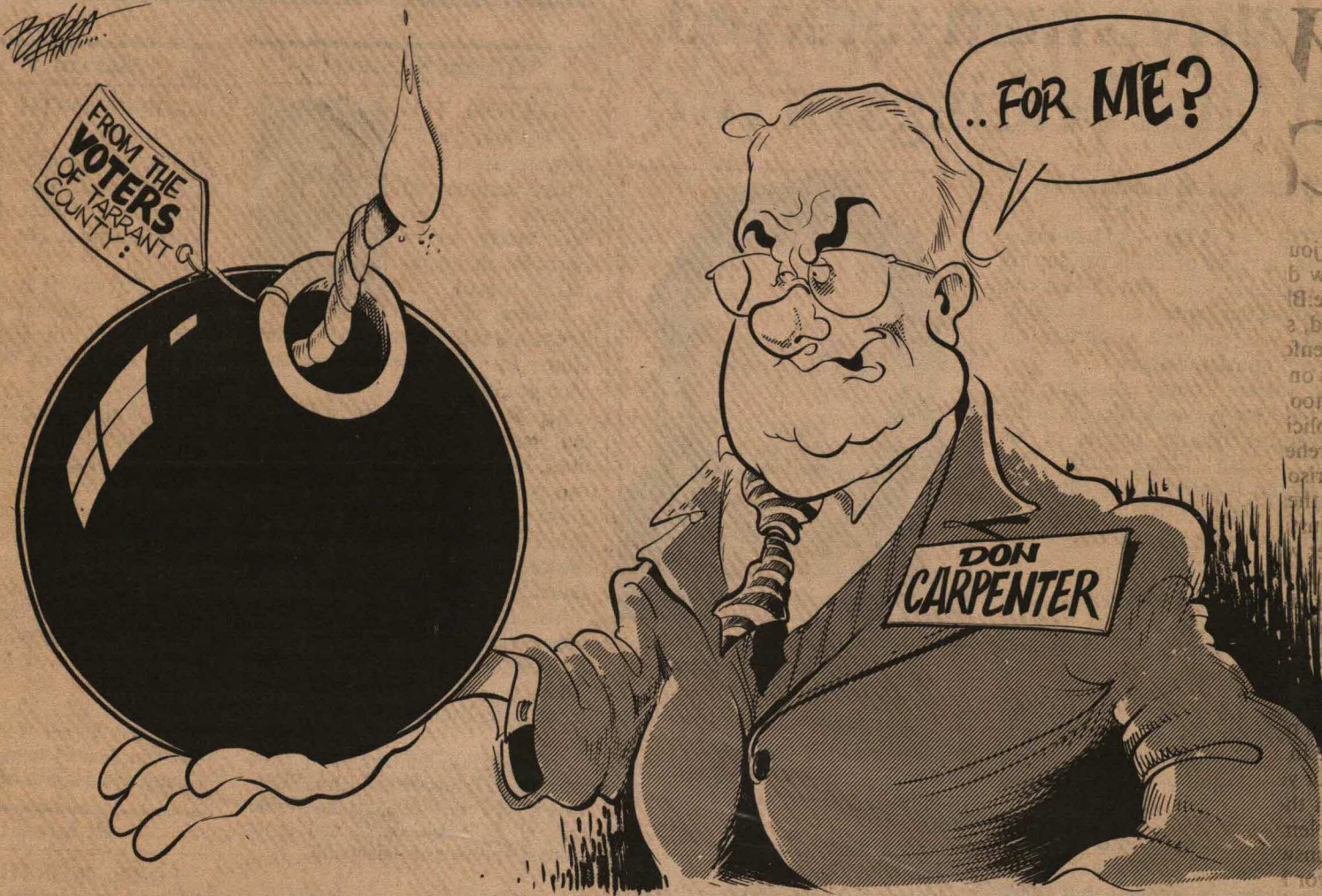
Last month the court voted unanimously to ask the Virginia-based association to undertake a management audit of the department. Commissioner Bob Hampton called for the study in response to Tarrant County grand jury foreman Jerry Partlow, whose panel returned six felony indictments against Sheriff Don Carpenter in January.

Since then, a state district judge has sent five of the six indictments back to prosecutors for rewording. Carpenter, who is accused of taking weapons from his property room and then falsifying records to cover their absence, lost his Republican primary re-election bid.

The audit will address, among other things, the department's organizational structure, delegation of authority, productivity, policies and procedures, training and all matters involving seized, stolen and other confiscated property, according to a request asking the 52-year-old association for a proposal. The group also would recommend changes and strategies.

FROM THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM:

Saturday, March 14, 1992



Special to the Star-Telegram / BUBBA FLINT

ANN LANDERS

I printed this poem several years ago and am pleased to share it with my readers once again. It was written by Edgar A. Guest and is truly one of the most comforting bits of philosophy that I've ever seen. Thank you for asking.

For All Parents

I'll lend you for a little time, a child of mine, He said.

For you to love while he lives, and mourn when he is dead.

It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three.

But will you, till I call him back, take care of him for me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and shall

his stay be brief,

You'll have his lovely memories as solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return,

But there are lessons taught down there I want this child to learn.

I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true

And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes, I have selected you.

Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labor vain,

Nor hate me when I come to call, to take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say, Dear Lord, Thy will be done.

For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run.

We'll shelter him with tenderness, we'll love him while we may;

And for the happiness we've known, will ever grateful stay.

But shall the angels call for him much sooner than we planned,

We'll brave the bitter grief that comes, and try to understand.

Joseph Singleton

SELMER, Tenn. — Joseph Steven "Joey" Singleton of Selmer, a former Fort Worth resident, died March 6 when a brick wall collapsed and fell on him. He was 7.



Funeral was March 9 in Selmer at Shackford Funeral Home. Burial was in Liberty Cemetery near Michie, Tenn.

Joey was born in Selmer. He lived in Fort Worth for one year and since spent a portion of each year in Fort Worth with his father and grandparents.

Survivors: Father, Steve Singleton of Eules; mother and stepfather, Lisa and Stanley McCullar of Michie; grandparents, Gene and Mamie Singleton of Eules, Dennis Pullen of Detroit and Bill and Peggy Risner of Michie; stepgrandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCullar of Selmer; and great-grandparents, Eula Hall of Tishomingo, Miss., Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Bryant of Michie and Carl Brown of Iuka, Miss.

TARRANT EDITION

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1992

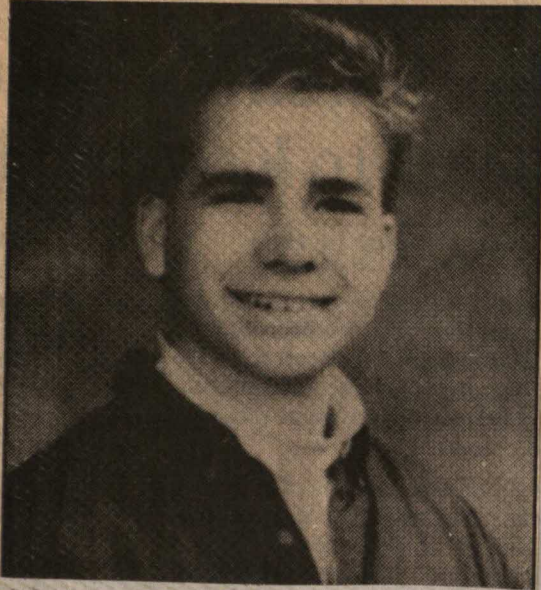
Fort Worth, Texas ☆ Where The West Begins

E Price 50¢

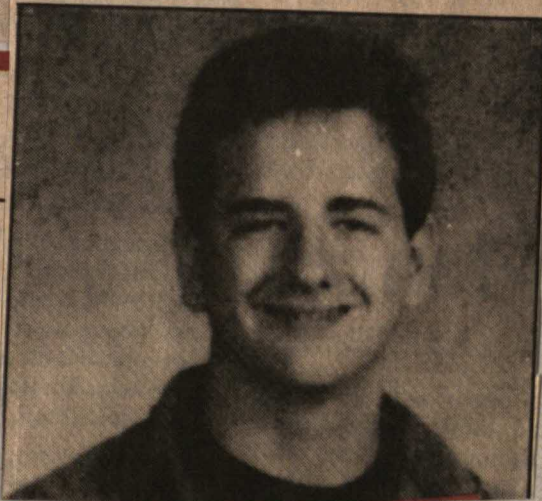
Daughter Arrested in Koslow Murder

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1992

Police say Kristi Koslow, center, planned the attack on her father and stepmother by



boyfriend Brian Slater, left, and Jeffery Dillingham, right. Photos from yearbooks.



MURDER

FOR HIRE

Joseph Singleton

SELMER, Tenn. — Joseph Steven “Joey” Singleton of Selmer, a former Fort Worth resident, died March 6 when a brick wall collapsed and fell on him. He was 7.



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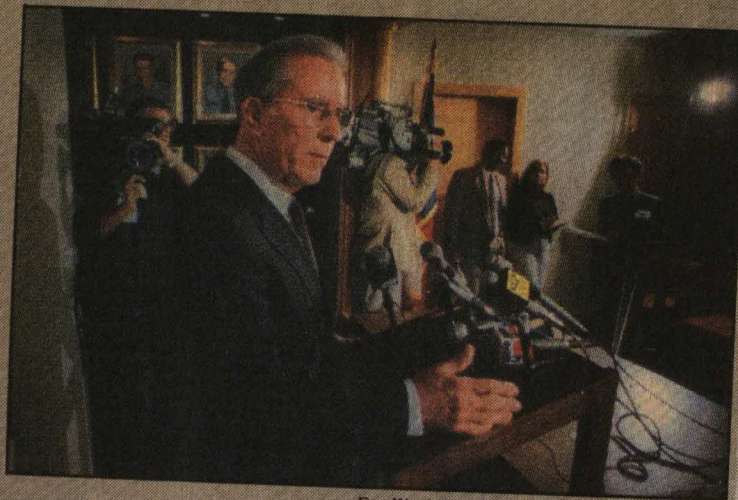
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Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham tells the media yesterday that the Koslow case is solved.

Cracking the case

Police say phone call, bloody evidence led to arrest

BY STEFANI GAMMAGE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A telephone call from a man who had a crowbar and a pair of bloody trousers provided police the information they needed to make the first arrest in the Caren Koslow slaying.

That call Tuesday led investigators to Jeffery Dillingham, who was apprehended early yesterday outside an Arlington video store where he worked. He later told police that he and a friend, Brian Salter, had planned for several weeks to kill Jack and Caren Koslow, according to

an arrest warrant affidavit.

About seven hours after Dillingham's arrest, Salter and his girlfriend, Kristi Koslow, 17, the dead woman's stepdaughter, were arrested in the March 12 slaying. Kristi Koslow was labeled the mastermind of the killing-for-hire plot, according to the affidavit.

Police had interviewed Kristi Koslow and Salter and were aware of other "people she associated with," said a source close to the investigation.

Suspect's father, teens' pals stunned

BY JOHN COUNCIL
AND WILLIAM A. SCOTT
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

R.R. Dillingham, an engineering chief at General Dynamics, heard the shocking news from a co-worker: His 19-year-old son, Jeffery Dillingham, had been arrested and charged with capital murder in the killing of Caren Koslow.

Stunned, he left work early and returned to his Aledo home about 2:30 p.m. yesterday, wanting to get there before his wife, who did not know of their son's arrest, returned from an out-of-town trip.

"That's why I came home, to try to head her off," he said quietly. "My knees are still shaking."

Just like his son's former schoolmates and neighbors and those of the accused 19-year-old accomplice, Brian Dennis Salter, R.R. Dillingham found it hard to believe that the teen-agers could be involved in the March 12 killing.

Yesterday, police arrested the younger Dillingham and Salter on accusations that Koslow's stepdaughter, Kristi Koslow, 17, had masterminded a plot for the two men to kill Caren Koslow and Kristi's father for a \$1 million payoff.

Caren Koslow was beaten to death and her husband seriously injured after attackers broke into their upscale Rivercrest home.

Jeffery Dillingham and Salter, of White Settlement, had previously been students at Brewer High School in White Settlement. School officials said Dillingham graduated last year and that Salter last attended Brewer in January 1989. Friends of the Salter family said Salter later transferred to All Saints Episcopal School in White Settlement.

Dillingham was a member of the National Honor Society at Brewer, according to the school's 1990 yearbook.

R.R. Dillingham said Jeffery lived with his parents and commuted to a job at a Blockbuster Video store on West Arkansas Lane in Arl-

ington.

He said his son was engaged to be married, and he and his girlfriend of several years had set a wedding date.

He said his son had never been in trouble with the law.

"He's always been a good kid, at least that I know of," the father said.

Salter, however, had a previous scrape with the law.

On Feb. 14, 1991, Salter was arrested on charges of burglarizing the 1990 Chevrolet Suburban owned by former Fort Worth City Councilman Garey Gilley, according to a police report.

A Minolta camera, two briefcases, a toolbox, a calculator, a flashlight and a Dictaphone were taken from the Suburban on Jan. 7, 1991, according to the report.

Gilley, when informed yesterday about Salter's arrest in the Koslow slaying, said, "Isn't that amazing?"

Gilley said police traced the theft to Salter after Gilley's camera turned up at a Camp Bowie Boulevard pawnshop.

Students who knew Salter had differing opinions of him.

James Waller, 22, who graduated from Brewer in 1988 and knew Salter when he played on the school's junior varsity tennis team, said Salter was a quiet person.

"He was so nice, he was more the type that got picked on," Waller said.

Waller, interviewed near Brewer High, said he last saw Salter a week ago at the Ridglea Bowling Center where Waller works.

"He looked like he had changed a little. His hair was slicked back and he was wearing one of those burlap shirts," Waller said.

A woman who answered the phone at Salter's home said: "We're not making any comment."

A neighbor who lives up the street from the Salters said about six policeman arrived at the Salter home yesterday and searched the family's vehicles.

Kristi Koslow's acquaintances recall her as troubled, unhappy at home

BY BARRY SHLACHTER
AND INDIRA A. R. LAKSHMANAN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The night after Caren Koslow was bludgeoned to death, her stepdaughter ran into a group of friends at a Bennigan's restaurant and reportedly told them, "I'm sad it happened. God rest her soul, but I didn't like her."

Kristi Anne Koslow said the killers "must have been professionals because they set it up perfectly for it to be blamed on my dad," said one of the friends, a 16-year-old Arlington Heights student.

But police say it was the 17-year-old Koslow who masterminded the brutal slaying of her stepmother and the botched attempt on her father's life to inherit a fortune. Arrested yesterday, she is accused of offering \$1 million to her boyfriend and another man to execute the murderous assault.

The surprising end to the murder probe shocked friends of the young woman, who was variously described, depending on the source, as troubled or caring; a loving daughter or a hateful one.

Her parents, former banker Jack Koslow and Paula Jean Koslow, divorced when Kristi was 7. Child-support issues brought the couple back to court several times through 1990.

Several years after that divorce,

Jack Koslow married Caren Courtney, a socially prominent bank colleague. His ex-wife mother remained a single parent, caring for Kristi; two dogs, Lucy and Abbey; and a horse named Lucky.

Kristi Koslow attended Country Day School her freshman year, then transferred to Arlington Heights High School for her sophomore year.

In October, after the start of her junior year, she switched to West Academy, a small, private school that specializes in teaching youngsters who do not perform well in traditional schools.

"She had problems with her whole family," said a 17-year-old friend, Kendall Ray. "She would fly off the handle when her mother asked her to do anything; she would just go into a rage. . . ."

"She mentioned her dislike for Caren, her stepmother. In some ways, it seemed like the normal hostility between a stepmother and a stepdaughter. But I never thought she'd do anything drastic.

"Kristi really didn't approve of their lifestyle," Ray said of Kristi Koslow's father and his second wife, who bought a home in the posh Rivercrest neighborhood. "She complained of their snobby attitude toward a lot of people. Kristi felt they looked down on her and her friends."

But relations were strained with her mother as well. A source close to the family said the teen-ager was made to attend sessions with a family therapist.

Two police reports dated a year ago this week said Kristi Koslow ran away twice in two days. And, Jack Koslow told officers, she had run off numerous times, did not get along with her mother and had struck her mother.

Kristi Koslow, born on Valentine's Day 1975, always had a boyfriend, said the 16-year-old Arlington Heights girl who was at Bennigan's the night after the slaying.

"Over the past year, I haven't talked to her much because she's changed," the girl said. "She parties a lot; she gets in trouble a lot. She's been hanging around with a weird crowd this year. She's always been wild. She skipped school a lot; that was the problem."

Another friend disagreed.

"I think people are trying to grasp for anything they've heard to put Kristi down as a bad person," said Leah Sealover, 18, a former Country Day classmate. "But she's not. She's a good person, a good friend. There was no one better."

Sealover and a boy who dated Kristi Koslow briefly last year said that Koslow drank moderately and didn't smoke or use drugs.

"I think people are trying to grasp for anything they've heard to put Kristi down as a bad person. But she's not."

— Leah Sealover, 18
a former classmate

"I remember she used to hate her stepmother," said the youth, who asked not to be identified. "I can remember her saying she wished her stepmother was dead. But she'd say that about her real mom."

In an interview outside the residence the day after the slaying, Kristi Koslow described her relationship with Caren Koslow as good: "We were as close as a stepdaughter and stepmother could be."

But several days after Caren Koslow's funeral, Kristi Koslow told the *Star-Telegram* that she did not attend the services.

She also rejected speculation that her father was somehow involved, that she did not think he was capable of murder.

"He really did care for Caren. . . . They seemed like your typical happy couple," she said.

Yesterday, friends were trying to sort out the Kristi Koslow they knew with the one depicted in the arrest warrant.

"I was really shocked," Ray said. "I never thought she'd be that stupid."

3 arrests shock, relieve

Koslows' neighbors

BY TIM MADIGAN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — In a Rivercrest neighborhood weary of the spotlight, most reactions to yesterday's startling turn of events were uttered anonymously through front doors opened only a crack.

"All I know is what I've heard, and I'll be happy when this is all over with," said one woman on the day Kristi Koslow and two young men were arrested in Caren Koslow's

March 12 slaying. "That's enough said."

But for another neighbor of Jack and Caren Koslow in one of Fort Worth's most exclusive neighborhoods, the feelings ran deeper. Kristi Koslow's arrest only seemed to worsen the sense of violation shared by people there, she said.

"These houses don't protect you from family tragedy, they don't protect you from money problems," the woman said, late afternoon sunlight

filtering into the parlor of the stately home. "Money can't protect you. It didn't protect Caren.

"I don't know if this is too dramatic," she continued. "But I feel like things will never be quite the same again. That's what it feels like to me. The world is closing in on all of us. None of us is safe anymore. . . . The violence, the drugs.

"That's what scary, I guess. I'm just scared for all of us and what kind of world our children are going

to have children in."

She said that to her and her neighbors, the tragedy of the Rivercrest crime seemed to be lost in the media glare and in the ubiquitous rumors and gossip.

"I even got caught up in the whodunit, trying to figure it out," said the woman, who described herself as a casual acquaintance of Jack and Caren Koslow. "Then I would remind myself that this was not a game of Clue. This was real stuff."

Drama played out as neighbors watch police make arrests

BY HOLLACE WEINER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — When a black Mercedes and a burgundy Chrysler hemmed in a third car at a stop sign yesterday and forced out the occupants, neighbors who watched the drama through their front windows dialed 911.

"I was thinking, God, isn't anybody safe in our neighborhood anymore," recalled a resident whose house was burglarized two weeks ago.

He watched, alarmed, as his 17-year-old neighbor, Kristi Koslow was hustled into a Mercedes 560 SEL that sped away from the stop sign at West Fourth Street and Dorothy Lane, only nine doors from where she lives.

"She jumped in the Mercedes, and that driver literally burned rubber and left," the neighbor said.

When he phoned authorities, "police said they had already received a call."

Only when three patrol cars pulled up, followed by a tow truck and a crime-scene van, did neighbors realize that this was no kidnapping. Rather, it was a police stakeout and a development in a mystery that has occupied the westside neighborhoods of Rivercrest and Monticello for 13 days.

Kristi Koslow and her boyfriend, Brian Dennis Salter, 19, were being arrested in connection with the slaying of her stepmother, Caren Koslow, and the stabbing of her father, Jack Koslow.

The father and stepmother lived a few blocks from the white brick house with the white wicker furniture where Kristi and her mother, Paula Koslow, had moved in September.

The unmarked Mercedes and Chrysler had been parked near the stop sign since 6 a.m. yesterday, said

an early-morning jogger, who, like her neighbors, asked not to be named because she is a friend of the Koslows.

The neighbors said they weren't being nosy when they ambled to the end of the street to investigate.

"It was a little hard to miss," one said.

"They didn't send that many police cars when my house was broken into," recalled another.

Two neighbors watched as police handcuffed Koslow's boyfriend and led him into a police car.

"He was wearing a coat and tie," said one. "He just got in very calmly."

Then Kristi Koslow's mother arrived at the arrest scene in a black Toyota convertible.

"Kristi was gone before she got there," a neighbor said.

"She appeared to be distraught," another added.

"She came flying up there and asked police, 'Where is my daughter?'" recalled a third. Then she roared away, back to the west, where she lives.

Meanwhile, police had lifted the hatchback of the suspects' white Ford Escort, which neighbors said was filled with clothing on hangers, a leather bag and a long, plastic tube.

"The policemen averted their heads, like something smelled," a neighbor said.

The Escort was towed from the street, a well-kept block where children steering Big Wheels rode up and down the sidewalk and mothers shared their sense of shock at Kristi Koslow's arrest and relief that the slaying may have been solved.

"The kids haven't slept well since all of this happened," said one mother, who said police questioned her about how well Caren and Jack Koslow got along.

Koslow

A capital murder conviction carries a sentence of either death by injection or life in prison. A conviction on conspiracy to commit capital murder carries a penalty of five to 99 years in prison and fine up to \$10,000.

In year-old police reports, Kristi Koslow is characterized as a teen who ran away from home, skipped classes and struck her mother, Paula Koslow, who was divorced from Jack Koslow in 1982.

Dillingham was arrested at 12:35 a.m. yesterday as he left work at a Flockbuster Video store in the 200 block of West Arkansas Lane in Arlington. Koslow and Salter were arrested about seven hours later as they left her mother's house in the 900 block of West Fourth Street in West Fort Worth.

"We arrested them in a car as they were leaving," police spokesman Lt. Burton Poe said. "They were scared. They were in a state of shock."

Poe said all three teen-agers made statements admitting roles in the attack and slaying.

After his arrest, Dillingham made a statement admitting "that he had in fact forcibly entered the Koslow residence . . . and he was accompanied by the suspected person, Brian Salter. Dillingham stated that he and Brian Salter had planned the offense for several weeks prior to its occurrence and that it was in fact the two of them that carried it out," the arrest affidavit concerning Dillingham says.

"This case is solved . . . We believe we have a motive established," Police Chief Thomas Windham said at a news conference, declining to elaborate.

According to a friend, Jack Koslow will not comment publicly about the case because he believes it would only enhance media coverage and be disrespectful to his wife's memory.

"It's her dignity that he's concerned about. . . . He feels that continued media coverage would continue to do damage to Caren's dignity," the friend said.

Throughout the investigation, Jack Koslow has been extremely cooperative, never requesting an attorney, police said.

For reasons not revealed by investigators yesterday, Kristi Koslow wanted her father and stepmother dead and told Salter she would pay \$1 million for their deaths, according to affidavits.

A family friend said Kristi Koslow appeared to be an "angry child" who blamed her stepmother for taking her father away from her.

However, in an interview with the *Star-Telegram* two days after the slaying, Koslow said she did not resent Caren Koslow.

"We were as close as a stepdaughter and stepmother could be," she said at the time. "I don't think anyone truly hated Caren."

Kristi Koslow spoke to reporters several times in the first few days after the attacks, telling them she was shocked by Caren Koslow's killing and her father's beating.

"It's hard not knowing what's going on. It's really scary," she said as Salter stood by her side.

A day later, when a reporter asked Kristi Koslow if she had any idea why her father and stepmother might have been attacked, she said: "I wish I could. I have my own assumptions that someone didn't like them."

The break in the high-profile case came Tuesday when a 20-year-old friend of Dillingham called police and said that Dillingham told him about the slaying and asked him to dispose of a bloody crowbar, Jack Koslow's wallet, Dillingham's bloody jacket, a pair of bloody pants, bullets and a bulletproof vest, police documents state.

"Jeffery Dillingham showed witness . . . a bloody jacket, which the suspected person Dillingham advised he was wearing and also showed [the witness] a man's wallet containing credit cards and business cards," one of the arrest affidavits says. Jack Koslow's name was on several of the credit cards, the witness told police.

Dillingham told the man, a friend for two years, that the crowbar was used to break into the residence and then to beat the couple, an affidavit says.

"Jeffery Dillingham also advised

[the witness] that there had been a large amount of blood on the crowbar and that he had tried to clean it off with no success," the affidavit said.

Dillingham also told the witness that when they entered the Koslows' bedroom, Salter's gun accidentally fired into the floor and Jack Koslow was trying to load a shotgun, the document says.

The witness gave police all the evidence except the bloody jacket and Jack Koslow's wallet, the affidavit said. Police did not say what became of the jacket and wallet.

The witness, whose identity police are guarding, will not be arrested despite holding on to the items for nearly two weeks, Poe said.

"He came forth with the information. I'm sure that he agonized over that for some time, knowing that he had the knowledge that could clear that case up," Poe said.

Police said they arrested Dillingham after talking to the witness.

In arrest warrant affidavits, police say that Dillingham told investigators he and Salter, at Kristi Koslow's behest, spent several weeks making plans to kill the couple.

Kristi Koslow gave the two young men the burglar alarm code and a diagram of the interior of the Koslow residence at 4100 Clarke Avenue, the arrest affidavit says.

"Dillingham further advised [investigators] that he had been informed by [Salter] that the \$1,000,000.00 payment would be made in two parts, \$500,000 to be paid upon the deaths of Caren and Jack Koslow and the receipt by Christy Koslow of her anticipated inheritance," an affidavit said. The records incorrectly list the spelling of the daughter's name as Christy instead of Kristi.

Dillingham told homicide Detective Curt Brannan that, after they received the rest of the money, he and Brian Salter "were to go into business together," the document read.

Police believe that Dillingham and Salter had parked their car in an alley approximately two blocks from the Koslows' home and then walked to the house, an arrest affidavit stated.

Police also found shoe prints on top of an air conditioning unit near

the home's backyard privacy fence and on the inside door that was kicked open, affidavits show.

Police also found pry marks similar to those made with a crowbar on the back door and the fence, officials said.

The Koslows' bedroom door was also forced open and a bullet hole was in the floor 2 feet inside the bedroom. The bullet was found lodged in the hardwood floor on the first level. Four bullets from a .38-caliber handgun were found near Caren Koslow's body, according to police affidavits.

Two bullets later were found in an alley behind the couple's home.

The call that led police to the gruesome scene came at 3:41 a.m., after Jack Koslow ran from the couple's home to a neighbor's house and called 911.

Police found Caren Koslow's body in the second-floor bedroom with massive head injuries and a slashed throat. An autopsy showed that the head wounds appeared to have been inflicted by fists and a hard, narrow object, the affidavit said.

At Harris Methodist Fort Worth, where he was being treated for "similar head wounds as received by [Caren Koslow]," Jack Koslow told police that two attackers broke in, kicked in the bedroom door and began the deadly assault.

Koslow told police that when he was awakened by the noise of the men crashing into his bedroom, "the alarm panel was flashing green, indicating that a door was open and that the alarm had been shut off by use of the code," the affidavit states.

Koslow told police that he ran to a gun closet and was trying to get and load a shotgun "when he was caught by one of the suspects and ordered to return to the bedroom and lie on the floor face down beside [Caren Koslow]," the record continues.

"Jack Koslow further advised that while lying on the floor that the two suspects began beating on him and his wife . . . with some unknown type of weapon. Jack Koslow stated that when he regain [sic] consciousness that the suspects had fled from the residence and that he observed his wife lying on the floor, apparently dead or dying," the affidavit says.

Staff writers Stefani Gammage and John Council contributed to this report.

BY KATHY SANDERS
AND JACK DOUGLAS JR.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The March 12 pre-dawn attack that killed Caren Koslow and wounded her husband culminated a million-dollar murder-for-hire conspiracy engineered by Jack Koslow's troubled teen-age daughter, according to arrest affidavits released yesterday.

In a plot planned for weeks, Kristi Koslow gave her 19-year-old boyfriend and another 19-year-old man the layout of her father's home and the code to disarm its alarm system, arrest affidavits say. She also promised to pay

Trio suspected
of carrying out million-dollar plot

the two men \$1 million from her inheritance if they killed her father and stepmother, the arrest affidavits say.

The two men are accused of breaking into the Koslows' Rivercrest home early March 12, beating Caren Koslow to death and Jack Koslow into unconsciousness with a crowbar.

Later that day, police say, one of the accused 19-year-olds confided in a friend and gave him the crowbar and other evidence he wanted the friend to dispose. Twelve days later, however, the friend went to police, according to police interviews and affidavits.

Police yesterday arrested Kristi A. Koslow,

17; her boyfriend, Brian Dennis Salter; and his friend, Jeffery Dillingham.

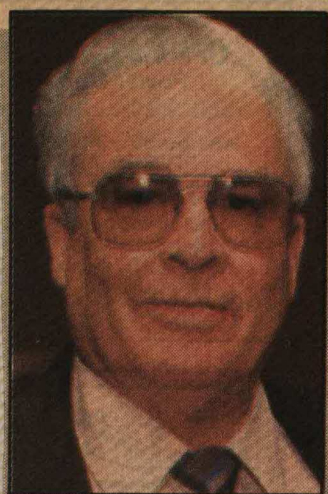
Kristi Koslow faces a charge of criminal conspiracy to commit capital murder; Salter and Dillingham face capital murder charges. All were in the Tarrant County jail today with bail set at \$500,000 each.

Because of Koslow's age and because she is considered a first offender, she is isolated in a single cell "to keep her separated from our more hardened criminal element," said Maj. James Skidmore of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

Kristi Koslow heads back to jail this morning after leaving court and talking with attorneys.



Don Carpenter: Accused of taking weapons

Carpenter indictments approved with changes

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A state district judge approved five amended indictments against Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter yesterday, clearing the way for the case against Carpenter to go to trial in June.

State District Judge Bill Bur-

dock, who declared March 6 that the indictments were "insufficient to sustain a conviction," ruled yesterday that the revised complaints are acceptable.

"We're back where we were before all of this happened," said Galen Sumrow, the special prosecutor on the case.

(More on CARPENTER on Page 18)

Carpenter

From Page 17

Don Gandy, one of Carpenter's attorneys, said he had not seen the amended indictments.

"I'll certainly want to review the amendments before I make any comment," he said.

Carpenter, 60, was named on Jan. 17 in six indictments that accused him of taking confiscated weapons from the Sheriff's Department property room and of falsifying property room records. All of the indictments are third-degree felonies and carry a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The sheriff agreed to take a paid leave of absence until his case comes to trial June 8.

In the March 10 Republican primary he tied for fifth place in a seven-man race for sheriff, with 11 percent of the vote.

In news conferences earlier this month, defense attorneys characterized the evidence against Carpenter as meager and said that prosecutors had "scraped the bottom of the barrel" to indict Carpenter.

Sumrow, however, said yesterday that his case is strong.

"I'm telling you Carpenter is the

one who put this in motion," Sumrow said.

The special prosecutor from Rockwall County said investigators have been unable to find about 80 guns that records show should be in the property room. He said that when Carpenter took office, he signed a form for the weapons in the property room, but those guns are no longer there.

In ruling the earlier indictments insufficient, Burdock ordered Sumrow to provide more specific information.

Sumrow responded by providing additional details about the weapons and property cards named in the indictments.

Two indictments that accuse Carpenter of misapplication of fiduciary property — involving two guns given away at a 1986 picnic — now include serial numbers and the caliber of weapons. In addition, the indictments accuse the sheriff of releasing the weapons to be raffled.

Three other indictments concerning tampering with a governmental record now provide the names printed on the three property cards that were supposedly falsified.

No other hearings are scheduled in the Carpenter case, although defense attorneys may still ask for one challenging the sixth indictment, which alleges theft by a public servant.

County GOP leader supports Williams

BY MAX BAKER
AND FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The Tarrant County Republican Party chairman is among a number of local party leaders endorsing sheriff's candidate David Williams in the April 14 GOP runoff.

Chairman Steve Hollern is

among 20 GOP leaders and elected officials who are supporting Williams, a Haltom City detective, against private investigator Jim Hunter in next month's election. The winner will face River Oaks Police Chief Dub Bransom in the November general election.

(More on ENDORSE on Page 18)

Section A, Page 18 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Thursday P.M., March 26, 1992

Endorse

From Page 17

"I can't tell you how proud we are to have such a blue-ribbon commission give us their support," said Tom Wilder, campaign chairman for Williams. "They don't give their endorsements lightly."

It is unusual for a party chairman to endorse a candidate in a primary or runoff. Hollern could not be reached for comment about the endorsement yesterday.

Two of Williams' opponents in the primary joined in the endorsement: Steve Marshall, an assistant district attorney, and Mike Utley, a former Sheriff's Department investigator.

"After talking to all the candidates, he seems to be the one who has the right plan for the department and if he can carry it through, it will improve the department 100 percent," Utley said.

Marshall couldn't be reached for comment.

Other prominent Republicans on the endorsement list are state Sens. Chris Harris of Arlington and Ike

Harris of Dallas, state Reps. Kim Brimer, Kent Grusendorf and Toby Goodman of Arlington, former party Chairmen Ed Palm and Frank Sears and State Republican Committee members Nick Acuff, Dr. Steve Weinberg and Karen Cameron.

Hunter said he was not concerned about the endorsements.

"The voters spoke in the March primary that I was their first choice," Hunter said.

Hunter and Williams were the two top vote getters in a seven-person race on March 10. Hunter got 13,781 votes and Williams pulled in 12,742.

Incumbent Sheriff Don Carpenter was one of the other candidates in that race.

In another campaign development yesterday, Williams confirmed that he will not attend a sheriff's candidate forum sponsored by the Tarrant County Law Enforcement Executives Association — a group of the county's 36 police chiefs and county law leaders.

The forum will be held at 8:30 a.m. April 3 at the police academy on the Tarrant County Junior College's Northwest campus.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Friday P.M., March 27, 1992

Hope with Hunter and Howeth

Major concerns in society today are children, drugs and guns.

We are fortunate to have two political candidates who are not only concerned about kids, guns and drugs, but are currently doing something about it.

Jim Hunter, a Republican candidate for sheriff, and Morris Howeth, Pct. 1 constable, are presently involved in a program that will educate elementary school children on the dangers of guns. What do you do if you find a gun? Don't touch it. Leave the area. Tell an adult.

The program includes lectures to students and parents and a video on preventing gun accidents in the home, car and playground.

Hunter has earned many national meritorious awards and superior performance awards for his fight against organized drug traffickers while serving in the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office.

Howeth has served as chief criminal investigator for the district attorney's office and has been a justice of the peace, sheriff's deputy, sheriff's investigator and constable.

I believe that education is the only hope for the safety and well being of our children. Let's all do what we can for our kids by putting people such as Hunter and Howeth into office.

—Bill Medcalf
Southlake

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Saturday, March 28, 1992

Williams gets a vote for sheriff

I am in my 15th year as a member of the Tarrant County law enforcement community. In the first decade of my career, I served as a police patrol officer, juvenile officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and Haltom City assistant chief of police.

I would like to share my knowledge of the character and qualifications of David Williams, Republican candidate for Tarrant County sheriff. I hired him for the Haltom City Police Department.

Williams had an impeccable service record as a military police officer. I found nothing short of praise from each of the police agencies with which Williams worked in Oklahoma.

As a security administrator in private business, Williams' program and innovations are model in their goals and results.

Williams constantly goes over and beyond the highest police community service standards. While off duty, he apprehended suspects wanted in a series of aggravated robberies. Showing that he cares for others and is sensitive, he devoted time and attention to a teen-age girl who was a victim of a brutal rape. He also was instrumental in the pursuit of a felon driving a stolen semi-tractor truck through five different police jurisdictions.

I have answered calls with Williams under an array of dangerous and stressful circumstances. He stayed constantly attentive to detail and the needs of the people he served.

Williams also makes time for his family, church and friends.

As a DARE officer, Williams has lived the program he has taught in schools and has had high visibility as a role model to thousands of our children.

When you cast your vote in the Republican runoff election, let truth and your heart show the way. Williams is the man with the morals, character and insight to shape the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department of the future, the central law enforcement entity this county deserves.

—Hank Pope
Haltom City

Koslow Suspects' Bail Set at \$1 Million Each

Daughter appears haggard

BY KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Bail for Kristi Ann Koslow and the two men she is accused of hiring to kill her stepmother was increased to \$1 million each after they were arraigned on conspiracy and attempted capital murder charges.

The additional charges, the formal paper work for which was to be filed this afternoon, stem from the attack on Kristi's father, Jack Koslow, who was beaten unconscious by intruders who broke into the couple's Rivercrest home March 12 and killed his wife, Caren Koslow.

The three were arrested and charged last week with capital murder in Caren Koslow's death. Bail on that charge was set at \$500,000 and each new charge carries additional bail of \$250,000, increasing the total to \$1 million.

Kristi Koslow, 17, appeared haggard and apprehensive as she rushed through a courtroom this morning to talk with her attorney out of the presence of her boyfriend, Brian Salter.

She is accused of plotting the attack on her father and stepmother, promising to pay Salter and his friend, Jeffery Dillingham, \$1 million in inheritance money to kill the couple, records show. The 19-year-

(More on KOSLOW on Page 2)

Koslow / From Page 1

old men are accused of beating the couple with a crowbar.

The teen-agers were taken before a judge yesterday and informed of their rights on the additional charges, homicide Sgt. Paul Kratz said.

A bond reduction hearing on the capital murder charges was postponed this morning in light of the additional charges and increased bonds.

"Everybody needs a little bit more time," said Danny Burns, Salter's attorney.

Burns also said prosecutors have agreed to give defense attorneys access to much of the evidence against the three.

It is also possible that the suspects may not be able to afford their own attorneys to defend against the capital murder charge, in which case court-appointed attorneys would be assigned to represent them, Burns said.

"We have to see who's going to stay on the cases and who is going to withdraw from the cases," Burns said this morning outside the 213th District Court.

James Stanley, Kristi Koslow's attorney, said it was premature to say whether she intends to plead indigency and request a court-appointed attorney.

He described his client — who appeared in court wearing a light blue jail-issued smock dress, white ankle socks and flip-flops — as scared and "holding up as well as can be expected under the circumstances . . . It's a shocking experience for everyone who has never been to jail."

Although he refused comment on the statement Kristi Koslow has given police, he said there was a difference in giving a confession and giving a statement.

Last week, police said all three teen-agers implicated in the killing had admitted their roles in plotting the attack and carrying it out.

Citing the extensive news coverage generated by the case, Burns and Stanley said they also anticipate that the case will be moved out of Fort Worth on a change of venue.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Monday P.M., March 30, 1992

Keep sheriff's runoff clean

The Republican Party runoff for sheriff requires Republican voters to choose between two good men, Jim Hunter and David Williams. Hunter and Williams both possess the requisite qualifications.

In the November general election, I could vote for whoever wins the runoff. However, in the runoff election, I choose to support Williams.

Williams is a newcomer as a candidate, but a veteran of Republican Party involvement. It is on this basis I make my decision because their qualifications are relatively equal.

As a former chairman of the Tarrant County Republican Party I have some gratuitous advice for both candidates: Gentlemen, when you start your engines for this race, don't pollute the air with negative campaigning. We, the voters, are sick of mudslinging that has become popular in our political process. The voters want to know why we should vote for you rather than why we should vote against your opponent.

—Franklin R. Sears
Fort Worth

Lawmen courted by candidates

Two of three Tarrant
County sheriff
hopefuls meet with
police officials and
stress cooperation.

★ ELECTION ★
1992

BY MAX BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Two candidates for Tarrant County sheriff yesterday pledged to improve relations and provide expanded technical services to police departments in the county, particularly the smaller ones.

Democrat Dub Bransom and Republican Jim Hunter told a gathering of county law officers that they understand the frustrations those departments felt with Sheriff Don Carpenter and vowed to do what they could to make amends.

Republican Tom Williams, who is in a runoff with Hunter on April 14 for the GOP nomination, didn't attend, which was not lost on the Tarrant County Law Enforcement Association meeting at the Tarrant County Junior College northwest campus.

Some police chiefs at the meeting said Williams' absence may reveal an unwillingness to cooperate with the more than 30 police departments in the county.

Hunter, a former supervisory federal drug and Treasury agent, said:

(More on SHERIFF on Page 24)

Sheriff

From Page 21

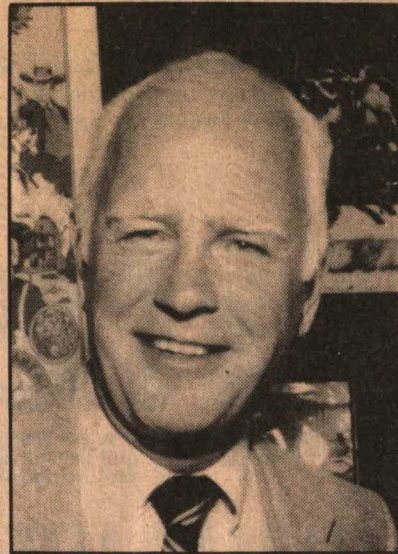
"I've learned the value of working collectively with each and every law enforcement agency."

Bransom, police chief of River Oaks, said: "As a small-town police chief, I know your problems. We need to reduce duplication. We need to pull together."

In an April 2 letter, Williams said that he had prior commitments and that his first priority at this point was to raise money for his campaign.

The group offered to reschedule, but Williams declined, saying he didn't want to reveal any campaign strategy he might use in November against Bransom, said Roger Rountree, Burleson police chief and chairman of the group.

Bransom won the Democratic nomination in the March 10 primary and will face the winner of the Hunter-Williams runoff. Early voting in the runoff begins Monday.



Jim Hunter: Stresses countywide teamwork.

Many of the police chiefs yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with Carpenter's eight years in office. They said he was hard to reach and uncooperative and provided little support.

Bransom and Hunter both promised to be more accountable



Dub Bransom: Will face the winner of the GOP runoff.

and to listen to the chiefs' ideas and problems.

In particular for the smaller communities, they thought the county should take more responsibility for providing technical support at crime scenes and offer such things as a county SWAT team or specialized

crime units.

Too often the burden of providing those services to smaller communities has fallen to Fort Worth, Arlington and North Richland Hills, and that is unfair, Bransom said.

They also said they would have deputies pick up prisoners at the city jails and would never close the county jail. Officials in the smaller departments say that ferrying and guarding prisoners pulls too many of their officers off the streets.

Bransom continually conjured up images of the big-city officer who became a small-town cop. He told the chiefs of Lake Worth, Watauga and Mansfield that he knows what it is like to fight for another 500 gallons of gas for their patrol cars.

"I've worked the streets; I know what you people are talking about," he said.

Hunter, now a private investigator, drew upon his experiences as an former federal agent and his work with small agencies on common goals.

"We all wear the same badge," Hunter said.

J. Koslow saved by a gunshot

The two assailants
scared themselves out
of the victims' house,
sources say.

BY BILL HANNA
AND JACK DOUGLAS JR.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Jack Koslow's life may have been saved when one of the two men who broke into his Rivercrest home last month accidentally fired a gun he carried, startling the assailants into running away, sources said yesterday.

Behind them the two left Caren Koslow, dead from a crushing blow to the throat administered, police believe, by a tire tool recovered weeks later.

A beaten Jack Koslow, 48, slumped into unconsciousness, police said. He called them about 3:40 a.m. March 12 after regaining his wits and making his way to a neighbor's house.

Koslow's 17-year-old daughter, Kristi; and two 19-year-old men, Brian Salter, Kristi Koslow's boyfriend, and Jeffery Dillingham, another friend, are in the Tarrant County jail. Each faces \$1 million bail on charges of capital murder, attempted capital murder and conspiracy to commit capital murder.

The two men are accused of breaking into the Koslows' home in the 4100 block of Clarke Avenue sometime in the night, confronting the Koslows in their bedroom.

Kristi Koslow is accused of offering them \$1 million to kill her father and stepmother and of giving the men floor plans to the house and the alarm system code.

Koslow

From Page 1

rested says a gun "accidentally discharged into the floor" as the suspects broke into the Koslow's bedroom.

However, sources said, further investigation showed the gun was apparently fired after Caren Koslow, 40, had been fatally beaten and while her husband was being attacked.

In arrest affidavits, Salter is accused of carrying a handgun into the bedroom and accidentally firing it into the floor. A bullet from a .320-caliber automatic pistol was found in the first floor of the home, police have said.

That type of pistol was recovered from Salter's parents' home on Suttonwood Drive shortly after the arrest, according to search warrant affidavits.

Neither homicide Sgt. Paul Kratz nor Police Chief Thomas Windham would comment on whether they believe that Jack Koslow's life was spared by the gun's discharging accidentally.

"I'm not going to comment on what may or may not have occurred in that house," Windham said.

Assistant District Attorney Alan Levy could not be reached for comment.

According to a family friend, it "makes sense" that the misfired gun frightened the assailants enough to cause them to flee before causing further injury to Jack Koslow. He added, however, that there were other fortunate factors in Koslow's being spared.

If a slash wound to Koslow's neck had been deeper and had severed a major artery, the chances of his recovering would have been bleak, said the friend, who did not want to be identified.

"He's a large, strong guy, [but] if they had gotten to the carotid artery he would be dead," the friend said.

While not fatal, he said, Koslow's injuries were severe. Koslow lost a third of his blood and had an open skull fracture, causing doctors to worry for several days that he would develop a brain infection, according to the friend.

Tarrant County Medical Examiner Nizam Peerwani said last week that "there was a tremendous amount of beating that went on."

Autopsy results suggest that Caren Koslow died before midnight. Peerwani added that she likely lived only 10 to 20 minutes after the attack.

Police recovered the tire tool believed to have been used in the attacks on March 25 when a friend of Dillingham's turned it and other items over to authorities. The friend told police that Dillingham had told him to get rid of the items.

Meanwhile, a grand jury hearing evidence in the case met for nearly four hours yesterday, but no witnesses appeared before the panel. However, the grand jury apparently used television, video player and

videotapes.

A courthouse source said the grand jury was shown videotapes of what the Koslow home looked like after the attack.

The panel, which was granted a 30-day extension Wednesday, is expected to meet again next week.

Salter's lawyer, Danny Burns, asked yesterday to be appointed to the case because the suspect's parents cannot afford the legal fees.

District Judge Pete Perez told Burns that he will consider the request but made no immediate decision.

Kristi Koslow's attorney, James Stanley, has not made a request to

withdraw from the case or to be appointed by the court.

Dillingham's court-appointed lawyer filed three motions yesterday, including a request to try to diminish publicity before the case goes to trial.

Jack Strickland, who was hired Monday, is asking Perez to order prosecutors to limit their comments about the case.

The other motions ask that law officers maintain their personal notes and that prosecutors show evidence supporting a request for a psychiatric exam of Dillingham.

No hearings have been scheduled on the motions.

Abortion at heart of GOP runoff in Tarrant sheriff's race

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Positions on abortion — an issue that both candidates say has nothing to do with the office — are driving the April 14 Republican runoff campaign for sheriff.

Many Tarrant County Republicans are rallying behind either David Williams, the champion of the strict state GOP stance against abortion, or Jim Hunter, who represents a somewhat less restrictive view.

Williams, 38, a Haltom City detective, supports the GOP state platform plank on abortion, which opposes the procedure except to save the life of the mother.

Hunter, 48, a private investigator and retired federal agent, said he does not support abortion as a birth control measure but has said it should be a matter of choice in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest.

The candidates say they have never made abortion part of their campaigns, but both admit it is in the minds of local Republicans and must be dealt with.

Hunter's detractors say that his view shows he is not a true Republican. Once a Democratic precinct chairman, he switched to the GOP in 1989 to run for the congressional seat vacated by former U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright. Hunter lost that race, along with bids for sheriff in 1984 and 1988 as a Democrat.

Williams became active in GOP politics as a teen-ager in 1970. He is a member of the Pro-Life Republican Organization in Northeast Tarrant County and is making his first run for public office.

At the club's January candidates' forum, which Hunter did not attend, Williams was applauded for his anti-abortion views and his position against hiring homosexuals and lesbians as deputies.

Williams said he has not made his views on abortion and other such issues a factor in his race.

"My position on abortion, which I have not articulated as an issue in



this race, but simply responded to at candidate forums, has nothing to do with the job of being a sheriff," Williams said Wednesday.

"The job of the sheriff is to be the conservator of the peace, to enforce all the laws of the state of Texas and commit to jail all offenders of those laws in his view or hearing, according to the state's code of criminal procedure," he said.

Hunter said his party-switching and his more moderate position on abortion are making his race tougher.

"This is the toughest race I've ever been in because the right-to-life issues has been made its central point," Hunter said.

"Certain portions of the voting population will vote on the abortion question, [on] how long I have been a party member and not [on] the much more important one of law enforcement and management qualifications, and that is a shame.

"That leaves me having to counter something that has nothing to do with the office," he said.

Hunter said he was depending on those voters who put him in the runoff in the seven-man primary race to return to the polls for him April 14.

Both candidates say they are running for sheriff to make the department the best it can be, not to advance the colors of either abortion faction.

"I am my own man," Williams said. "I am not a creature of any group."

Said Hunter: "I want to serve all the people of Tarrant County, not just this faction or that."

Where did the focus on abortion come from in the campaign?

"David Williams himself interjected it," said George Dutton, chairman of Texas Federation of Traditional Republicans, a group supporting traditional Republican

Party values such as fiscal conservatism and the separation of church and state.

"When he appeared before the party's candidate recruitment committee before the primary, he introduced himself as 'I'm David Williams. I'm a Christian and I'm pro-life.'"

"That really bothered me because I think it violates the separation of church and state," Dutton said.

"I personally am offended at the inclusion of side issues such as religion and right-to-life by the party's Religious Right in this race."

Williams said last week that he did not remember making the comments Dutton recalled but that he may have said that in answer to a question. "They were not a part of my prepared remarks," he said.

Estelle Teague, program vice president for the 13,000-member Texas Federation of Republican Women, which supports the GOP plank on abortion, said that while the race between Williams and Hunter is shaping up along abortion lines in the northeast and northwest portions of the county, where there are growing Republican constituencies, she expects the real issue in the runoff to be who can win in November.

"Some voters will vote for a candidate on those issues," she said. "But the majority of those who will turn out April 14 are hard-core Republican voters, and they will be voting on the basis of which one can defeat Democrat Dub Bransom in November."

County GOP Chairman Steve Hollern agrees with that assessment.

"I do expect party members, in particular the leadership, to work as hard as they can to get the winner elected in November," he said.

Hollern caused Republican tongues to wag last week when he endorsed Williams, an unusual but not unprecedented move for a county chairman. His endorsement carried only his name and not his party title, but it still created controversy among Republicans who felt he

should have remained neutral.

"I endorsed Williams because I felt he was the closest candidate to the GOP platform and who could win in November," Hollern said Wednesday.

Hollern did not see the abortion undercurrent in the campaign as a threat to party unity.

"I don't see these right-to-life questions as any sort of a split in the party," Hollern said. "Approximately 65 percent of the Tarrant County GOP is pro-life, and Williams' support seems to be pretty broad-based among that majority, not just among the Religious Right.

"I don't think right-to-life is a premier issue in the race, but it is more important to some voters than to others," he said.

Tom Wilder, Williams' campaign manager, said he resents the perception by some Republicans that Williams is a tool of the Religious Right.

"We are not a member of the Religious Right. We hold certain views, including the national party's position on abortion," Wilder said.

"People such as the so-called 'traditional Republicans' look at us as if we were interlopers attempting to take over the party. We're not."

Contributing to Williams' perceived connection to the Religious Right is his work from 1980 to 1986 for the conservative Kenneth Copeland ministries in northwest Tarrant County.

Williams said he worked behind the scenes, handling the organization's security and helping establish a risk-management plan.

"I left the ministry to join the Haltom City Police Department and I took a pay cut to do so," he said in a recent interview.

Republican voters have also raised questions about Hunter's retirement at age 33 from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"We understand the retirement was for medical reasons and we feel that he needs to come clean and tell the voters what that retirement was about," Wilder said. "His health or lack of it is a real issue."

Hunter said his retirement was forced by high blood pressure, a fact that has been public since his 1989 congressional campaign.

"There is no secret about it," he said in a recent interview. "I had high blood pressure, which I now control through diet and by quitting smoking."

James Carey, a retired special agent in charge of the Dallas office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, confirmed Hunter's statement.

"I was his supervisor when he retired," Carey said. "His retirement strictly was due to high blood pressure, which Jim's doctor could not control at the time."

Both candidates have exemplary

credentials from their past law enforcement duties.

Williams is remembered as "an outstanding officer and fine man" by his fellow officers from three small police departments in Oklahoma, where he began his career in the late 1970s. He later worked for the Haltom City department, from which he took a leave of absence to run for sheriff.

Hunter also drew praise from Carey for his street savvy and his administrative and leadership skills with the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration and the bureau.

"He was an exemplary officer and his personnel file is filled with awards and letters of commendation to prove it," Carey said.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Saturday, April 11, 1992

DAVID WILLIAMS REPUBLICAN FOR SHERIFF

Vote

April 14
Run Off
Election



✓ You the voters have the **RIGHT** to live in your homes and neighborhoods without fear of crime. You can begin to "Take Back the Streets" by voting for David Williams for Sheriff on April 14.

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Spending is even in GOP race

Sheriff hopefuls each use up about \$50,000

BY MAX BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The two remaining Republican Party candidates for Tarrant County sheriff have spent about \$50,000 each in their effort to keep the county's top cop job within the GOP's grasp.

Private investigator Jim Hunter has spent \$48,880 and Haltom City detective David Wil-



liams \$46,041, according to state election-campaign reports that cover the period from July to April 4.

Hunter and Williams will face off for the last time in a runoff Tuesday in which voter turnout is expected to be minuscule. Many Republican insiders say the race is too close to call.

Nine other Tarrant County runoffs are on Tuesday's ballot, including three races for state representative, one for a state district court judgeship and one for the county Democratic Party chairmanship.

Late Friday, the Tarrant County elections office reported that 5,339 early votes had been cast. Officials expect fewer than 50,000 people to vote Tuesday, or about 10 percent of the the county's registered voters.

The small voter turnout could make a difference in the sheriff's race, said Tom Wilder, Williams' campaign chairman.

He predicted that as little 3 percentage points may separate the winner from the loser Tuesday.

Hunter and Williams were the two top vote-getters in a seven-man race for the GOP nomination in the March 10 primary that included two-term Sheriff Don Carpenter.

Hunter got 13,781 votes or 22 percent to Williams' 12,742 votes or 21 percent in the first race.

Their contributions and expenditures have been equally close. Both candidates are finding it hard to drum up financial support in a county where the economy is in a slump. Also, because there were so many candidates in the first primary, campaign dollars were spread thin.

Hunter spent about \$49,000, and his contributions total about \$43,500, according to the reports. He lists a \$2,500 loan he recently made to himself for this campaign and \$22,500 in loans carried over from his previous campaigns for sheriff, he said.

Hunter also reports he got more than \$12,600 in advertising, yard signs, freeway billboards and reception space and food donated to his campaign.

Williams has received two-thirds of his campaign money from a family that operates a company that rebuilds vehicle axles, driveshafts and air-conditioning compressors.

Williams has spent about \$46,000 and received contributions of \$48,585, according to the reports.

Ed Max, his family and one of his partners contributed about \$32,000 to the Williams campaign. Max owns a number of companies in Fort Worth, Arlington, San Antonio and Houston, including Fort Worth Drive Axle Replacement Co. and Axles Plus of Fort Worth.

Among the other races on the Tuesday ballot is the Democratic runoff for District 95 state representative. Incumbent Garfield Thompson is in a close race with Martha Redd Singleton. There is no Republican opponent in the November election.

In District 98, a new district drawn after the 1990 Census, Republican voters will pick a new representative: businesswoman Nancy Moffat or former Colleyville Mayor Chris Hawkins.

In District 89, Republican Tom Davis is the only viable candidate for the nomination for state representative. His runoff opponent, Paul Enlow, dropped out of the race for family reasons.

In one of two other countywide runoffs, lawyer and former Judge John Street and lawyer Richard Henderson are vying for the Democratic nomination for the 48th District Court. The GOP candidate in November is lawyer Dixon Holman.

In the other countywide runoff, party regular Evelyn Parmer is running against political unknown Bob Campbell for the chairmanship of the Tarrant County Democratic Party.

In the only local congressional runoff, trust administrator Steve Masterson is facing entrepreneur Phil Bielamowicz for the GOP nomination in District 24.

There are three Republican runoffs in constable races.

In Pct. 1, Morris Howeth is running against Greg Harnar. In Pct. 2, David Harris faces Gary Erwin. In Pct. 6, Joe Kubes and Bill Hastings are in a runoff. The winner in Pct. 1 will face Democrat Robert Heaslet in the fall. There are no Democratic candidates in Pct. 2 and Pct. 6.

Sample runoff ballot

Republican

INSTRUCTION NOTE:

Vote for the candidate of your choice in each race by darkening in the oval provided to the left of the name of that candidate. "I am a Republican and understand that I am ineligible to vote or participate in another political party's primary election or convention during this voting year."

(NOTA DE INSTRUCCION:

Vote por el candidato de su preferencia en cada carrera llenando completamente el espacio ovalado a la izquierda del nombre de ese candidato. "Yo soy Republicano y comprendo que no estoy elegible para votar o participar en la eleccion primaria o la convencion de algun otro partido politico durante este año electoral.")

United States Representative, District 24
(Representante de los Estados Unidos,
Distrito Num. 24)

- STEVE MASTERSON
- PHILLIP BIELAMOWICZ

Sheriff
(Sherife)

- DAVID WILLIAMS
- JIM HUNTER

Constable, Precinct 2
(Condestable, Precinto Num. 2)

- GARY ERWIN
- DAVID HARRIS

State Representative, District 89
(Representante Estatal, Distrito Num. 89)

- TOM DAVIS
- PAUL ENLOW

Sheriff
(Sherife)

- DAVID WILLIAMS
- JIM HUNTER

Constable, Precinct 6
(Condestable, Precinto Num. 6)

- BILL HASTINGS
- JOE KUBES

State Representative, District 98
(Representante Estatal, Distrito Num. 98)

- NANCY MOFFAT
- CHRIS HAWKINS

Sheriff
(Sherife)

- DAVID WILLIAMS
- JIM HUNTER

Constable, Precinct 1
(Condestable, Precinto Num. 1)

- MORRIS HOWETH
- GREG W. HARNAR

Democrat

State Representative, District 95
(Representante Estatal, Distrito Num. 95)

- GARFIELD W. THOMPSON
- MARTHA REDD SINGLETON

District Judge, 48th Judicial District
(Juez del Distrito, Distrito Judicial Num. 48)

- RICHARD A. HENDERSON
- JOHN STREET

Democratic County Chairman
(Presidente del Condado Democraia)

- EVELYN PARMER
- BOB CAMPBELL

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Here are samples of ballots for Tuesday's Democratic and Republican runoff elections. Different ballots will appear in different districts in Tarrant County. In some areas, the ballots will contain only one race.

Williams defeats Hunter in GOP sheriff's runoff

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — David Williams, making his first run for public office, soundly defeated veteran campaigner Jim Hunter yesterday to win the GOP nomination for sheriff.

In final but unofficial returns, Williams had 59 percent to Hunter's 41 percent. He will face Democrat Dub Branson in November for the right to succeed Sheriff Don Carpenter.

Williams, 38, a detective with the Haltom City Police Department, said he thought Hunter's campaign style turned off voters.

"I think it shows that people do not appreciate the negative campaigning that is Mr. Hunter's style," Williams said last night.

Hunter, a former U.S. Treasury agent and now a private investigator, said in a recent campaign mailer that Williams is unqualified for the \$74,000-a-year job because six of the 13 years of law enforcement service Williams listed as his qualifications were spent as a security coordinator for the Kenneth Copeland ministries, not on the street fighting crime.

Williams counterpunched by saying that the state of Texas does not recognize Hunter's 13 years in federal law enforcement service for purposes of peace officer certification.

"I've been down this road before. It's sad," Hunter said. "The low voter turnout probably hurt me."

Hunter said last night that he is through with politics. "It's been a long 8½ years of getting beat up, and apparently the good Lord meant for me not to be sheriff," he said. "I'll accept that and go on down the road with my life."

Hunter was making his fourth attempt at public office. As a Democrat, he lost the 1984 sheriff's primary to former Fort Worth Police Chief A.J. Brown. He later defeated River Oaks Police Chief Bransom in the 1988 Democratic primary, but lost to Republican Sheriff Don Carpenter by 672 votes.

★ ELECTION ★
1992

In 1989, Hunter switched to the Republican Party and ran unsuccessfully for former U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright's congressional seat.

"It looks like that I will run against Mr. Williams and that's fine with me," Bransom said last night. "I respect him as a police officer, and I expect to have a clean, issue-filled, hard-fought campaign with him. He is a fine man and a fine police officer."

Hunter and Williams wound up in a runoff after each cornered a little more than 20 percent of the votes in the seven-man March 10 Republican primary.

Among the seven were Carpenter, seeking his third term while under indictment, and former Pct. 2 County Commissioner O.L. Watson. Carpenter finished sixth with 11 percent of the vote, and Watson finished last with 10 percent, running behind first-time candidates Tom Graves, a telephone company executive; Mike Utley, a former sheriff's investigator; and Steve Marshall, an assistant district attorney.

Carpenter offered his congratulations to Williams last night.

"He's the better man, a man just like I was, a man nobody can push around or buy," Carpenter said. "I plan to support him 100 percent."

The primary campaign was marked by a series of forums with the six men who appeared being grilled on everything from promotion policies for deputies to their stand on abortion. Carpenter did not participate in any of the forums.

The exchanges were polite and campaign mailings were restrained.

But during the final weeks of the runoff race between Williams and Hunter, the gloves came off.

Each candidate sniped at the other's work history, law enforcement experience and management background.

Hunter's health also became an issue in the campaign. He was medically retired from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for

high blood pressure in 1977. He said he has conquered the condition and no longer draws a disability pension.

Interest in the race really picked up late in January when a Tarrant County grand jury returned six felony indictments against Carpenter, charging him with removing guns from the county property room and falsifying records to cover their absence.

Carpenter took a paid leave of absence in early February to forestall a civil suit by county commissioners to remove him from office until his trial's conclusion.

Williams takes runoff for sheriff

BY MAX BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Haltom City police Detective David Williams came out of political nowhere and overcame weeks of bitter allegations concerning his qualifications and his associations to nab the Republican nomination for Tarrant County sheriff yesterday.

In unofficial returns, Williams won



■ Results PAGE 4A

59 percent of the votes compared with private detective Jim Hunter's 41 percent in a runoff election that found voters apparently so uninterested that a

record number stayed away.

Williams will face Democrat Dub Bransom in November.

In other races, Tarrant County voters who did take the time to step into the polling booth chose candidates for everything from Congress to constables.

Democratic voters returned state Rep. Garfield Thompson to the Legisla-

(More on ELECTION on Page 2)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / MARK GAIL

David Williams, right, talks with his campaign manager, Tom Wilder.

Seized mirror is given back to dying woman

BY RICHARD DOTSON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Officials with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department have returned a terminally ill woman's keepsake mirror that had been accidentally confiscated from her hospital room.

Peggy Patterson, 46, lost the mirror three days ago after she left the mirror on her roommate's side of their room at John Peter Smith Hospital. Her roommate was a Tarrant County Jail prisoner.

The prisoner has been hospitalized for at least a month under the watchful eye of a Sheriff's Department guard.

Patterson's nephew, James Morgan, 33, said his aunt treasures the mirror because it is part of a cosmetics set given to her by a relative.

"I think she figures it may be the last gift she ever gets," Morgan said Wednesday night after explaining that he had repeatedly tried to get the mirror back from the Tarrant County Jail, where it had been stored with the prisoner's belongings.

Morgan got the mirror back for his aunt yesterday morning, when a sheriff's deputy made a special trip to the hospital to return it to its rightful owner.

Sheriff's Maj. James Skidmore said the mirror had been mistakenly confiscated after the prisoner's guard discovered that someone had given the prisoner several items during a visit.

Inmate dies after hanging

Official says man didn't seem unstable

BY JOHN COUNCIL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — More than a week after he was found hanging by his own shoelaces in a holding cell at the Tarrant County Jail, a 32-year old man died yesterday at John Peter Smith Hospital.

Sheriff's Department officials said they found Don Lindsey White hanging from an air duct about 4:10 a.m. April 7 in a private cell on the second floor booking wing of the jail. White had arrived at the jail about 9 p.m. April 6 after he being arrested on suspicion of public intoxication and on a speeding warrant.

White was moved to a private cell after he began arguing with other inmates in a communal cell, said John Pempsell, acting jail administrator.

"We take every means to make sure they don't harm themselves or anyone else," Pempsell said. "We had no reason to believe that he was going to do something."

Pempsell said items that can be used for hanging are taken away from a prisoner only if the person is determined to be suicidal or mentally unstable.

Pempsell said that White had been in the county jail several times dating back to 1983 and that there was no record that he had displayed suicidal tendencies.

Jailers routinely check prisoners in holding cells, recording the check on a log sheet hanging outside the cell door. Pempsell said it had been 33 minutes since White's cell was last checked, according to the log.

However, Pempsell said a jailer told him that White had actually been checked about 15 minutes before his body was found, because he had banged on the cell door and requested a blanket. State law requires that prisoners be checked at

least every hour.

White's feet were touching the cell's bench when he was found hanging, Pempsell said. He regained a pulse aboard an ambulance en route to JPS but had remained comatose until his death at 7:40 a.m. yesterday.

White's father, James White, 56, questions the accounts of his son's death.

"I think it was foul play," the father said. "I just don't think a man weighing 200 pounds will hang on no shoestring."

James White said he has contacted a lawyer concerning his son's death and has requested an independent autopsy.

A preliminary autopsy by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death a suicide by hanging, said Jo Ann Houts, a medical investigator.

If that ruling stands, Don White will be the first prisoner to commit suicide in the new jail, which has been open for six months.

Pempsell said he showed White the area of the jail where his son was hanged, explaining what happened. He said there was no foul play involved in White's death.

"He came down telling me he was going to get an attorney, and he left very passive," Pempsell said. "He

didn't seem to have any problem when he left."

Pempsell said that JPS officials and officials from the County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services stationed at the jail routinely screen prisoners for suicidal tendencies.

Emergency medical personnel from JPS are also stationed at the jail on a 24-hour basis.

Pempsell said he believes that White was screened because he had been at the jail for several hours. He said the records showing the screening were sent to JPS.

"He didn't fit the profile," Pempsell said, added that most suicide attempts are made by younger prisoners.

Policies of jails similar

Tarrant not alone in not taking laces

BY JOHN COUNCIL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County's practice of not taking shoelaces from every person being booked into the county jail is not different from that of most major county jails in the state, jail officials said yesterday.

Jail officials in Dallas, Bexar and Harris counties all said their policies are similar to Tarrant's.

Attention was drawn to the practice Friday with the death of an inmate who jail officials said used his shoelaces to hang himself in his private cell April 7.

Don Lindsey White, 32, died at John Peter Smith Hospital. Jail officials said they found White hanging in his cell about seven hours after he was jailed in connection with public intoxication and a speeding warrant on April 6.

John Pempsell, acting Tarrant County Jail administrator, said it is not jail policy to take shoes from prisoners during the booking procedure unless they are determined to be suicidal or mentally unstable. White was not determined to be either, Pempsell said.

A Bexar official said that county has a similar policy.

"Not unless we have information as such that they are very dangerous," said George Valdillic, booking sergeant at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. Boots, however, are normally taken away from Bexar county prisoners so they cannot be used to kick other prisoners, he said.

Booking procedures vary in other county jails.

Officials in Travis County say they take prisoner's shoes away during booking procedures.

In the El Paso County Jail, belts are normally taken away from all prisoners during booking but usually not their shoes, jail officials say. Tarrant County does the same, a jail official said.

Also, in Tarrant County — as in other major county jails — people being booked are screened. Case-workers from JPS and the county's mental health department do the screening.

Pempsell said he believed that White was screened, but he could not locate the records of the screening.

Pempsell said records of prisoners who have been in jail previously will indicate if the prisoner has threatened suicide before. White had been in jail in Tarrant County several times since 1983, officials said. Pempsell said records did not indicate that White had threatened suicide before.

After a prisoner is booked, most county jails — including Tarrant —

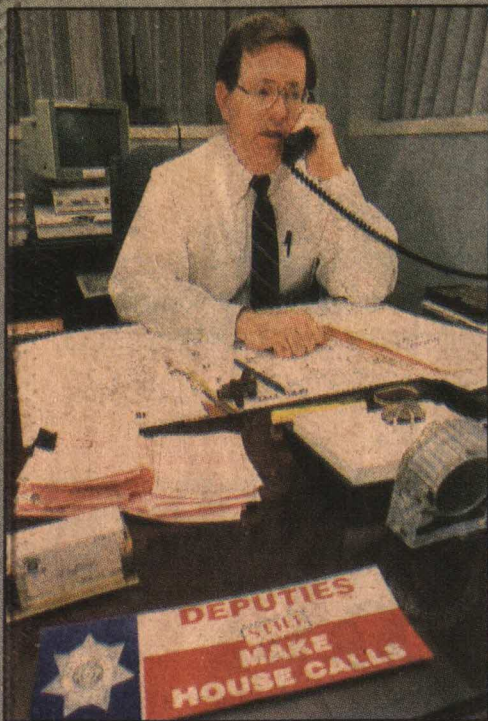
provide prisoners with uniforms and footwear.

White was still in a private booking cell when he was found, jail officials said.

Bob Hasty, a Fort Worth attorney who represents the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said usually each county jail determines what should be taken away from a prisoner during booking.

While a preliminary autopsy performed by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office ruled White's death a suicide by hanging, his father, James White, 56, disputes that. He thinks his son was the victim of foul play. He has consulted an attorney and has called for an independent autopsy of his son's body.

But Pempsell said that White was alone in a private cell after getting into an argument with another prisoner in a communal cell.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / ALLEN ROSE

Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter says he has no interest in becoming sheriff.

The Sheriff's Department gives its acting chief deputy's efforts a

Gold star

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Sheriff Don Carpenter once made headlines by flipping coins to decide promotions, but the only coin-flipping going on at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department these days is to determine who buys the soft drinks, not who gets to sew on sergeant's stripes.

That is one change among many made by acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter since February, when he was appointed to run the department in the absence of the indicted sheriff, who is on leave awaiting trial.

Since then, major changes in the leadership's attitudes, policies and procedures have created a new sense of cooperation and have begun to cure some ills such as snap promotions, low employee morale and an us-vs.-them mentality toward other county and state officials.

For example, Minter has set aside Carpenter's 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. hours for people to make deposits into inmates' jail bank accounts, ending the long lines that had filled the jail lobby

(More on MINTER on Page 35)

every evening.

And he has begun sending out copies of the department's monthly operations to other county officials, including the county commissioners.

"All of a sudden, we now have a wealth of information where before there was nothing but a void," said Pct. 2 Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay.

Minter, 47, a River Oaks native, took over the reins of the Sheriff's Department amid a volatile political campaign in which nine candidates challenged Carpenter and his way of doing things. After a runoff this month, the race is down to two: Republican David Williams and Democrat Dub Bransom.

Minter, the county's jail administrator under Carpenter, says he has no interest in being sheriff, and he has worked to make many of the campaign promises obsolete by November's Election Day. But he said the candidates will still have a few problems to chew on.

"There are still plenty of things here to be fixed or addressed by the new sheriff," Minter said recently.

"One of the major ones is staffing. "Patrol staffing has not been increased in 12 years and criminal investigation in 19. Also, we are staffed to guard and support about 3,200 prisoners and we currently have over 4,000 in custody."

He has thrown open the department to a team of management auditors from the National Sheriffs Association in Virginia.

The team recently finished a management audit of the department, ordered by county commissioners at the urging of the grand jury that indicted Carpenter. Minter promised to put the audit's findings into effect as soon as he receives them early next month.

"They gave me a briefing when they left and told me that we were understaffed," Minter said. "They also told me we were to be commended for doing as well as we have with the amount of staff on hand."

A Tarrant County grand jury indicted Carpenter in January on six felony indictments charging him with taking weapons from his property room and falsifying records to cover their absence. He stepped down two weeks later to avoid a civil suit threatened by county commissioners to remove him from office until his case was settled. His trial is scheduled for June.

He ran sixth in a field of seven Republican candidates in the March 10 primary, sinking his hopes for a third term.

Minter's first accomplishment was to forge a workable chain of command and to fine-tune the department's jumbled promotion procedures that had kept personnel in turmoil during the last four years, his supporters said.

His reliance on orders and ideas moving both up and down the chain of command has drawn praise from supervisors within the department.

"Minter's chain of command works both ways," said Chief Deputy Hamp Scruggs, who commands the operations division. "We have lots of input and feedback up and down that chain. It is not one-sided from the top down, as it once was."

John Pempsell, a chief deputy under Carpenter and now the jail administrator, said of Minter's leadership style: "He doesn't make snap decisions. He likes to talk things out before making changes, and that's refreshing."

Chief Deputy George Campbell, who heads patrol and investigations, said Carpenter had a similar chain in place.

"It was there, but sometimes it just wasn't used fully," Campbell said.

Minter

From Page 25

Carpenter defended his promotion policy last week. He said it drew fire because he would not "bow to the good ol' boys. I wasn't a kingpin or a good ol' boy; I was just one of the men.

"I tried to be as fair as I could about it. I even flipped a coin to decide between a black man and a white man for a promotion and the black man won."

Sgt. Mack West, president of the 700-member Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, praised Minter's efforts. The organization was formed three years ago over frustration with promotion and staffing policies.

"We feel like he's doing his utmost to take care of these problems," West said. "Morale definitely is on an upward trend because of his efforts."

Carpenter said the criticism of his two administrations was not unexpected.

"Everybody wants to be sheriff," he said. "And everybody wants to criticize the sheriff who's in up there; that just goes with the territory."

"If I was elected again, I'd do everything I did in eight years up there exactly the same way," Carpenter said.

Minter, an avid arrowhead collector who wears cowboy boots with his suits, feels a strong kinship with his deputies because he has spent his adult life among them.

He joined the force after receiving a degree in government and history from Texas Christian University.

"I was 21 at the time, the youngest deputy ever hired by former Sheriff Lon Evans," Minter said recently.

He has spent time in every department, from patrol to criminal investigation to special weapons and tactics to internal affairs to jail administration.

It was during those days of working as a criminal investigator that Minter took to heart the need for cooperation between police agencies and governmental bodies.

"I said when I took over the department that we will redouble our efforts of cooperation to every agency within the county, and I will see that through," he said.

Minter requires supervisors at every level to review the promotion eligibility list in their commands, recommend the top three candidates for promotion and rate them from one to three.

"When those recommendations hit my desk, I usually will go with number one, unless there is a very good reason to pick number two or three," Minter said. "There won't be any snap promotions outside the chain of command or coin flips such as in the past."

Carpenter made headlines last year when he revealed that he sometimes reverted to flipping a coin to decide promotions between two candidates with seemingly equal qualifications.

He has kept that promise, according to Lt. Burton Poe of the Fort Worth Police Department, an agency that has had a very cool relationship with the Carpenter administration since 1988, when Carpenter closed the overcrowded county jail to new prisoners.

The move led Fort Worth to erect a wire enclosure in its downtown headquarters to hold city prisoners until jail space was available.

"There is a real sense of cooperation over there now," said Poe, the police media spokesman. "They gave some of our civilian Code: Blue crime program participants a tour of the jail recently. That tour would never have taken place under the old sheriff, I can tell you."

Minter's main job these days is administering a force of 1,100 people and handling a \$35 million budget, but his police instincts are still active.

A pair of brown accordion files on a table behind his desk contain his investigation into two of Tarrant County's most famous unsolved slayings: the 1973 killing of 21-year-old Becky Martin, abducted from the parking lot of Tarrant County Junior College South Campus, and the similar strangulation of 17-year-old Carla Walker almost a year later to the day.

Walker was pulled from the car in which she was sitting with her boyfriend after attending a high school dance. The assailant battered the boyfriend unconscious with a gun and then fled with Walker.

Her body was found three days later in a culvert near Benbrook Lake.

Minter was the officer who crawled into the culvert to confirm that a body was in there.

"I think about that case every day of my life," he said. "You just don't forget crawling into a culvert with the body of a 17-year-old girl in a prom dress, particularly when you have a daughter of your own as I do."

Minter said that even after a taste of the sheriff's job, he has no plans to seek the office on his own. He expects to remain in the department when the new sheriff takes office in January.

"I am a policeman and a police administrator. This job is a job for a politician," he said. "I make decisions without politics in mind, although I always have the public in mind when I make them. I make decisions that I think are right."

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1992

D MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / ALLEN ROSE

Ruth Brigham provides an open ear and some words of wisdom to jail inmates in her volunteer work.

Volunteer

Volunteer goes behind bars to open hearts, ears

BY ANITA BAKER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Heartbreaking stories aren't anything new to Ruth Brigham. She has heard a lot of them in her 27 years of volunteer work for chaplains at the county jail.

But one young prisoner's story recently stirred the 82-year-old heart of the volunteer affectionately known as "Miss Ruth" to jail staff and inmates.

This drug-addict inmate was the mother of several

children, was pregnant with another and the only time she stayed free of heroin was when she was in jail.

"She told me she appreciated my helping her this morning, but I'm afraid she is not coping with it," Brigham said after leaving the Tarrant County jail last week.

"It's about as frustrating [a situation] as I have been through."

(More on VOLUNTEER on Page 2)

Brigham has been going to the jail almost weekly since 1965, when she searched for something to fill the emptiness left by the death of her husband, John W. Brigham.

"I was so devastated at his death. I was praying, 'Good Lord, take me, too.'"

But 10 days later at University Christian Church, she heard a minister plead for volunteers for a new chaplain program at the jail.

"He said some of them [prisoners] would be hardhearted and they would not be touched, but some have just not had the opportunity. . . . I've been coming ever since."

She was among about 25 original volunteers who worked with an estimated 500 inmates. Today, the program has about 120 volunteers trying to reach out to 4,500 prisoners.

At first the visits weren't easy for a quiet, private person like Brigham, although volunteering had been part of her life since she worked with the Red Cross Motor Corps in World War II.

She has given time to Loaves and Fishes, Carter Blood Center and Fort Worth Zoo since retiring after 49 years at what is now TU Electric.

But when heart problems hospitalized her three years ago, she cut back and limits her volunteering to her church and the jail.

Despite her doctor's warnings to slow down, she goes to the jail each Wednesday morning to talk to female prisoners, provide them with

reading material or listen to their problems.

"I cannot give it up yet, as long as the Good Lord gives me strength," she said.

She believes her rewards are many, among them the treasured drawings and writings done by prisoners from time to time.

On her 82nd birthday in January, inmates made her a birthday card of drawings and poems.

"They love her to death," said Pam Smith, a secretary for the jail chaplains and volunteers.

On her 27th anniversary in February, she was made an honorary sheriff's deputy.

Not all her jail visits are successful. Sometimes inmates ignore her.

"I'd think when I'd leave, 'Oh, what a failure.'"

But then there are the success stories, too.

She remembers a former inmate spotting her at a nursing home where she was visiting a sick friend. The woman hugged her and told Brigham that the jail visits had changed her life.

She recalls another former inmate named Slim, a jail trusty who was allowed to serve coffee to volunteers meeting to talk about problems and how they could help.

Several weeks after he was released, Slim came back and asked to volunteer. This, Brigham said, was a man who hated the world and had stolen, pushed drugs and even murdered.

He told the group he and other inmates often cursed the volunteers and called them hypocrites. But after overhearing conversations at volunteer meetings, he began to take

them seriously.

Several years later, he called to tell the volunteers he was working, had married and had helped build a church in the West Texas community where he lived.

"I did not know life could be like this," he told the group.

"If none other than Slim [was helped], it was worth it," Brigham said. "I don't get burned out."

Instead, she finds each day at the jail exciting.

"When I leave I am usually on Cloud 9."

To volunteer

Volunteers are carefully screened before being allowed in the chaplain program at the Tarrant County jail. For more information call 884-3088.

Good work

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

29 APRIL 1992

Minter is top-notch as interim sheriff

When Jim Minter was placed in temporary charge of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in the absence of the indicted sheriff, county officials felt sure he was the right person for the assignment. Now they know he is. His exceptional performance proves it.

Only months into the job, he has:

- Improved promotion and staffing policies.
- Taken steps that have boosted morale.
- Increased the flow of information to the Commissioners Court and county departments.
- Worked toward better cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.
- Assisted those from the National Sheriffs Association who are making a management audit of the Sheriff's Department.
- Forged a workable chain of command and made other improvements.

Had Minter — who has experience in every office in the Sheriff's Department — simply kept the office functioning until a permanent sheriff takes over, no one would have blamed him. It is, after all, tough enough simply having to take command hurriedly — and under unusual circumstances — of an operation that has 1,100 employees, a budget of about \$35 million and responsibility for incarcerating some 4,000 jail inmates.

But, because Minter has decades of experience in the department and obviously has excellent administrative and leadership abilities, he has managed to upgrade the office's operations in an expert fashion and do it in a short time.

The Sheriff's Department is not the major headache that it has been. Indeed, in some ways it now is a pacesetter in county government. Tarrant County citizens can give Minter much of the credit for making it so.

Gripes lining up at county's new downtown parking garage

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The opening next month of the new 781-space, \$4.8 million Tarrant County parking garage downtown will be one of those good news-bad news events.

The good news is that the garage will house some 500 cars driven by county workers who now park in other lots or on the streets around the courthouse complex. That will open those spaces to the public.

The bad news is that when the eight-level garage opens, six decades of free parking perks will end for county officials and employees using downtown lots.

And more bad news is that — as of now — the public will not be allowed to park in a garage built with tax dollars from a bond issue approved in 1987.

The facility is a block north of West Belknap Street, off Taylor Street behind the old County Criminal Courts Building. It is designed for computer-card entry and there is no provision for hiring personnel necessary to handle public in-and-out parking, officials said Thursday.

"It is my understanding that the garage was intended to serve county employees from its inception," explained County Judge Tom Vandergriff. "Public parking in and in the lots in that area.

"Right now, parking in the courthouse area of downtown is barely adequate and it was getting tighter," Devero said. "The new facility will help a little in that it makes room for those who now park on the street or in the Tandy Center lot to absorb those spaces opened closer to town."

Because it is not open to the public, the new garage won't be much help to the Central Library at Third and Taylor streets. The library draws an average of 500,000 users a fiscal year.

"We are badly hurting for parking, since we are one of the premier downtown draws," said library director Linda Allmand.

Devero said the weekday parking crunch in the north end of downtown ends in the late afternoon, leaving plenty of spaces for the crowds drawn to the Sundance movie theater and other attractions in the area.

Howls of outrage echoed up and down the courthouse corridors last week after county commissioners voted 3-2 to charge employees and elected officials \$25 a month for the covered spaces and \$15 a month for the uncovered spaces they and their predecessors have used free for at least 60 years.

Commissioners Dionne Bagsby and J.D. Johnson, the only Democrats on the court, voted against the proposal. They have fought against charging employees for downtown parking since the issue raised its head this year.

Bagsby joined County Judge Tom Vandergriff and Commissioners Marti VanRavenswaay and Bob Hampton in applying for one of the paid spaces.

Johnson has applied for a free messenger space set aside for subcourthouse workers who must travel downtown on county business.

"I am only downtown five or six hours a week," Johnson said. "I don't need a reserved space."

Those who work at subcourthouses and other county buildings will not have to pay to park at those facilities. That also upset downtown parkers.

"Making one set of employees pay and not making another pay is not right," Pct. 5 Constable Jim Palmer complained recently when he appeared before the commissioners to protest the plan.

Mack West, president of the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, said his group opposed the plan because it amounted to a pay cut.

"Twenty-five dollars a month is the same as a \$300-a-year pay cut," he said.

it really wasn't a consideration from early on in its planning."

That concerned Ken Devero, president of Downtown Fort Worth Inc., an organization devoted to increasing business and tourist activities downtown.

"I hope they ultimately make some space available for the public," he said. "It only

County officials and employees are upset by parking fees.



seems right that the people who paid for the facility have an opportunity to use it."

The garage could open to the public once all the county employees who wish to pay for their parking in county lots are accommodated, county officials said.

The garage's opening will ease a bit of the parking crunch north of Sundance Square

3 deputies are suing Tarrant

Injured men seek full pay, benefits

BY FRANK PERKINS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Three Tarrant County deputy sheriffs filed a suit against the county yesterday because they said they are tired of being treated "like stepchildren."

At issue is the county's policy of forcing deputies injured in the line of duty to rely on workers' compensation payments rather than receiving their full county salaries and benefits while they recover.

The deputies want back pay, interest on that pay and attorney fees.

Workers' compensation laws are intended to compensate an injured worker for loss of earning capacity, not loss of salary, according to county personnel Director Gerald Wright.

"The payments are not intended to replace salaries," Wright said.

The three deputies — Michael Bauer, James Horn and Kenneth Witt — are all jailers and were injured in fights with jail inmates while on duty. All are members of the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association, a chapter of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, or CLEAT.

Bauer has not worked since July. Horn was injured four times since December 1989 and Witt was injured twice last year. The total amount of their claims has not been calculated.

CLEAT has hired attorney Leland Reinhard, an expert in workers' compensation law, to represent the trio.

"We're trying to force Tarrant County to do what it has not done for 25 years," Reinhard said yesterday during a news conference at CLEAT's Fort Worth headquarters. "We're trying to get the county to pay these men their full pay and benefits provided them under a 1967 constitutional amendment."

Thursday P.M., May 14, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The amendment requires counties to pay hospital bills and "maximum salaries" of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables, deputy constables and "other county and precinct law enforcement officials who are injured in the course of their official duties."

Reinhard said, "It is amazing to me the county would shrug its shoulder over something so clear."

He also referred to a 1985 trial in El Paso in which the appellate court held that the Texas Constitution requires maximum salaries for deputy sheriffs injured in the line of duty.

But Assistant District Attorney Ann Diamond of the district attorney's civil division said the language of the constitutional amendment and the finding of the appeals court are not as clear-cut as Reinhard indicated.

"Neither answers the question of what is a law enforcement official and what constitutes maximum pay," Diamond said. "There have been no law cases to define those issues."

Diamond said there is a question as to whether confinement officers are law enforcement officers.

"Their standing is not as clear-cut as, say, a patrol officer," she said. "One reason is you do not have to be a certified peace officer to be a jailer, although many of the county's confinement officers are certified officers."

Witt said he was out eight weeks with a broken little finger after a scuffle last year with a jail inmate.

"During that time, I had to rely on workers' comp, which paid only 66 and two thirds [percent] of my salary," Witt said. "In addition, my retirement stopped, my vacation time stopped and my hospitalization benefits ended because I was no longer on the county payroll."

Sheriff indicted on 2 new counts of perjury, theft

BY BILL HANNA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter, already awaiting trial on accusations that he gave away guns from the Sheriff's Department property room, was indicted yesterday on charges of perjury and theft by a public servant.

The two indictments pertain to Carpenter's grand jury testimony about a gun given to Tarrant County Commissioner J.D. Johnson in 1987.

The aggravated-perjury indict-

Sheriff

From Page 1

ment quotes Carpenter as telling the grand jury on Oct. 30: "I never loaned any guns out to anybody, except law-enforcement officers.

The indictment says Carpenter's statement was false because he had given Johnson a gun from the sheriff's property room.

Both charges are third-degree felonies punishable by two to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$10,000 on conviction.

The sheriff's attorney, Joe Brent Johnson, said he wouldn't comment about the indictments until he reviews them. But he said he wasn't caught off guard by special prosecutor Galen Sumrow going back to the grand jury.

"Nothing that man does surprises me — nothing," Joe Brent Johnson said.

The sheriff could not be reached for comment.

Sumrow said more indictments might be returned against Carpenter before June 8, when the sheriff is scheduled to go to trial on the earlier indictments.

"Anything's possible," Sumrow said. "We still have investigators checking out leads."

In a Dec. 5 article in the *Star-Telegram*, Carpenter said he believed he had given Commissioner Johnson a gun early in his first term.

Johnson declined to comment yesterday, citing his own testimony before a grand jury as a reason. But in the Dec. 5 article, Johnson said he had already turned over a .38-caliber gun to the Texas Rangers.



Don Carpenter: Scheduled for trial next month

Carpenter, 60, has been on a paid leave of absence since January. Six indictments returned Jan. 17 accuse him of taking confiscated weapons from the property room and falsifying property room records.

Carpenter's attorneys challenged the wording of these indictments as being insufficient, and a judge agreed that five should be reworded. The amended indictments were later approved by Judge Bill Burdock.

It is too soon, Joe Brent Johnson said, to know if defense attorneys will challenge the latest indictments.

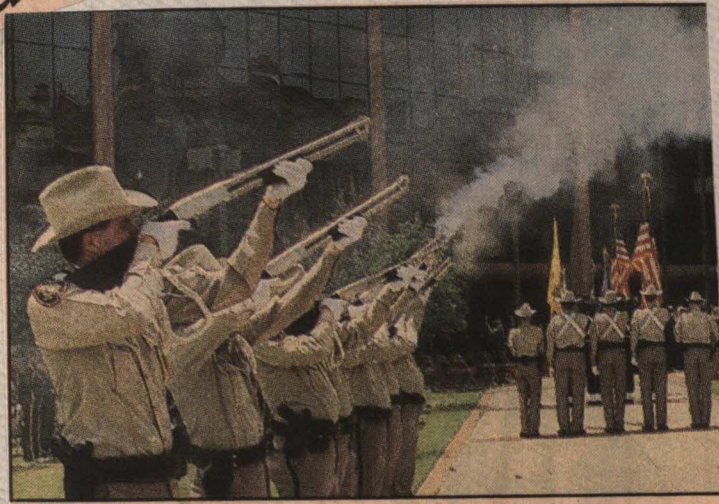
A pretrial hearing on Carpenter's case is scheduled for May 29. But that hearing and the June trial 8 could be delayed if Sumrow doesn't recover quickly enough from injuries suffered in an auto accident several weeks ago, he said.

Carpenter, who was in his second term as sheriff, finished fifth in a seven-candidate race for the Republican nomination in March.



Above, Arlington police officer Rex Gomillion plays *The Lord's Prayer*. At right, an honor guard from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department fires a 21-gun salute to fallen officers.

Officers killed on job saluted



Officers salute their fallen comrades at a service on the lawn of the Tarrant County Administration Building

BY KATHY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Billy Poe remembers Dec. 23, 1925, well. It was the day that his father was gunned down trying to make an arrest in Fort Worth's Riverside area.

But it wasn't until yesterday, Poe said, that he thought his father, Bob Poe, a constable for Tarrant County, was properly remembered along with 38 other Tarrant County officers killed since 1913 doing their jobs.

"I've been some time trying to get his name in here," the 73-year-old Poe said, tapping his finger on a pamphlet bearing a roll of those killed.

"After all these years, we finally got him

recognized," he said, pausing and then apologizing for becoming emotional as he recalled his father's death two days before Christmas and the subsequent trauma of his childhood.

Hearing and seeing his father's name included during a memorial service to honor the fallen officers, Poe said, helped soothe the wounds still present.

When Billy Poe was 7, the baby of the family with two older brothers ages 16 and 19, Bob Poe was Pct. 1 constable and went to serve an arrest warrant on Manual Carson, Billy Poe said.

Poe was shot twice by Carson, but a deputy constable was able to take the gun away from Carson and shot and killed him, said Billy

Poe of Fort Worth.

The Peace Officers Memorial Service — honoring officers slain or killed in accidents while on duty — took place under a sunny sky at noon on the lawn of the Tarrant County Administration Building, 100 E. Weatherford St., after a short march up Main Street.

County Judge Tom Vandergriff lauded law enforcement officers, saying how awesome, yet sometimes seemingly thankless, their tasks are. He proclaimed the county's "heartfelt gratitude for those who made that supreme sacrifice."

The sounds of downtown life encircling the group were momentarily tuned out with the

poignant sounds of *The Lord's Prayer* from the trumpet of Arlington police Sgt. Rex Gomillion.

Then came the roll call of the dead, with an officer coming forward to represent the fallen officers.

"John A. Ogletree. G. Frank Coffey. George G. Gresham. J.C. Couch," read Fort Worth police chaplain Terry Constant.

The officers walked forward, encircling a memorial wreath in the shape of a shield.

"Bob Poe. Frank Maco. George Turner. Evans Johnson. Walton Odell Whatley," Constant continued. The static from a police radio sounded. Young people hammed for the TV cameras.

"Henry E. Cleveland. Charles Wayne Hoffman. Namon L. Cox.



Service

From Page 21

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"Henry E. Cleveland. Charles Wayne Hoffman. Namon L. Cox.

James Lee Dowdy. Claude Henry Harmon Jr.," the chaplain read. An officer adjusted his hat in the heat. A woman dabbed at her eyes. Tires squealed on the street.

"Loy Howard Walton. Hal Clovis Stephenson. Edward Martin Belcher. Joseph S. Scottino. William Vernon Webb. Earl 'Andy' Andrews." Workers returning from lunch stopped and watched. Officers directed traffic. A baby laughed.

"Gary D. Harl. Henry Paul Mailoux. Ludwig Bruno. Randall Lynn Fletcher. Jesse Ray Parris. Bob Doherty. Jimmie Franklin Chadwell," he read. Flags waved. Honor guards stood at attention.

"James Curtis Gaul. James Carpenter. Kenneth Wayne Pendergraf. Darrell Gene Moon. Michael Ray Williamson. Clark M. Rosenbalm. Robert F. Camfield. Danny F. Cordes. Frank D. Howell. Janice Vanderveer. Walter Stephens Taylor."

The list was done. Twenty-one blasts from the salute echoed as the strains of taps began.

Afterwards, Billy Poe sat in the shade, looking at a pamphlet prepared for the ceremony. He said that 15 to 20 years ago, he contacted officials to try to have a plaque dedicated to his father and others killed in the line of duty, but the effort went nowhere.

Then a couple of years ago, still trying to have his father recognized as one of the fallen officers, he wrote a newspaper columnist asking what he would have to do.

The answer from unknown officials came: Prove that his father was a law enforcement officer and prove that he was killed in the line of duty.

"I had to come up with proof, and I tracked down newspaper clippings from Dec. 23, 1925, and about a week after when they wrote about it," he said. "Then I mailed them off."

Suspect in child sex case cut wrist, jail officials say

BY STEVE SMITH
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Tarrant County Jail officials confirmed that an Arlington man indicted on 15 child sex offense charges slashed his wrist with his razor last month and that he was placed in a mental health wing at the jail yesterday.

James Russell "Rusty" Wilton, 24, a former volunteer basketball coach at the Arlington YMCA, cut his left wrist with a razor April 8 and was put in a suicide-prevention cell. But mental health officials examined Wilton and determined that he was not suicidal, said acting Jail Administrator John Pempsell.

Wilton was returned to a regular cell after his first evaluation but was placed in a special mental health wing at the jail yesterday for further evaluation after media inquiries about the incident, jail officials said.

"Whether it was an attention-getting move or whether he tried to commit suicide, we really don't know," Pempsell said. "But at this point, the mental health people have decided he is not suicidal. We are having mental health re-evaluate

him again."

Jail Maj. Savala Swanson said yesterday that Wilton was in a regular cell with other inmates when he cut his wrist. An emergency response team took him to John Peter Smith Hospital, where he was kept overnight. His injury was minor.

Wilton's lawyer, James McEntire, said that he talked to Wilton this week and found his client "in relatively good spirits."

"His despondency back then about what those kids are having to go through was overwhelming," McEntire said.

Wilton was indicted earlier this month on 15 charges ranging from possession of child pornography to aggravated sexual assault of a child. Arlington police arrested him March 12 after his roommate said he found two videotapes in Wilton's closet depicting teen-age boys engaged in sex acts.

Police say the seven victims are 12 to 15 and met Wilton while he was coaching basketball at the Arlington YMCA on South Davis Street.

