

DAY IS ONLY LATEST MICHIGAN SERIAL \ KILLING SUSPECT CAUGHT IN TEXAS

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FT. STOCKTON, Tex. -- If accusations against William Scott Day hold up, he will be at least the third serial killer from Michigan to be caught in Texas in the last 12 years.

In May 1975, Houston police arrested Gary Addison Taylor for murder in the death of a barmaid. Authorities found two more of his victims buried beneath his bedroom window in Onsted, Mich., and a fourth buried near another of his former homes outside Seattle.

Seven years later, in the summer of 1982, Houston Police arrested Coral Watts of Detroit. He confessed to the murders of 13 women in Michigan and Texas.

Day has been charged with killing two men in Texas -- in Ft. Stockton on Jan. 6 and in Valentine on Jan. 12. Murder warrants were issued in the two cases after a trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety arrested Day for speeding outside Van Horn, in Culberson County, following a Jan. 12 liquor store holdup.

Richard Upchurch, the sheriff of Culberson County, said Day has admitted killing four others in Nashville, Tenn.; Marianna, Fla.; Gretna, La., and Tuscon, Ariz.

Day and Taylor escaped from the Center for Forensic Psychiatry near Ypsilanti. An employe helped skirt Day from the maximum security facility Dec. 4.

Taylor was on a work-release program and simply quit reporting to his doctors, which was one of the conditions of his release.

RECORDS SHOWED that a psychiatrist opposed Taylor's release. Asked under what conditions it would be advisable to release Taylor, the psychiatrist replied, "with a policeman handcuffed to each wrist."

Taylor once was known as the Royal Oak sniper because he wounded several women with a rifle when he was a youth. Now, he is in prison in King County, Wash., where he was convicted of murder after being extradited from Texas.

Watts is serving a 60-year prison sentence in Texas.

A Pecos County grand jury will meet Jan. 28 in Ft. Stockton to determine whether to try Day for the killing here.

Warrants have been issued charging Day with capital murder in the two Texas cases, but 12-member grand juries must determine if the evidence is sufficient to bring him to trial.

In Ft. Stockton, Pecos County Sheriff Bruce Wilson speculated Monday about the reason infamous killers get caught in Texas. "They get in these wide open spaces and think they've got it made," Wilson said. "That is a mistake."

Many towns in Texas, especially west of the Pecos River, are small and strangers stand out. Also, Wilson said, towns sometimes are 50 miles or more apart; there are only a few routes to take, making it easy for pursuing officers.

Two other people who were picked up in Texas and were either convicted of or linked to multiple killings were Henry Lucas and Charles (Tex) Watson.

Lucas claimed he killed as many as 100 people, including a fellow drifter slain in Ft. Stockton. Police suspected him in several slayings in the Ann Arbor area. Police now believe Lucas exaggerated the number of victims.

Watson was convicted with Charles Manson in the Tate- LaBianca murders and is incarcerated in California. He was arrested in December 1969 in McKinney, Tex., and was implicated in a number of slayings of boys.

DAY IS charged with beating Billie Taylor to death with a rock on Jan. 6 north of the bar she operated on a busy highway leading into Ft. Stockton.

District Attorney Phil Pollan said a man who fit Day's description left town on a Greyhound bus the night of the murder. Taylor's car, with bloodstains on the seats and floorboard, was found in the parking lot of a restaurant less than three blocks from the bus station. Pollan said Day had a six-month Greyhound bus pass and did not have to announce where he was going when he boarded a bus.

Investigators believe Taylor was abducted in the parking lot of her bar, Billie's Lounge. They found one shoe in the parking lot. They found the other on the body.

Sheriff Wilson said she ran an orderly bar.

"Nice woman," he said.

CUTLINE

Taylor

Watts

Caption: Photo

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