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## Author says DA is victim of frame

WACO — The author of a soon-to-be-released book on the most sensational murder case in Waco, Texas, history has closely followed the federal investigation of McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell and says he has "real problems" with the manner in which the highly publicized 12-count indictment against Feazell was reached.

"If, in fact, Feazell is guilty of everything he is charged with," says Carlton Stowers, Dallas-based investigative reporter/author of *Careless Whispers*, the story of the murders of three teenagers in Waco in the summer of 1982, "the manner in which the investigation has been carried out is cause for serious concern."

On September 17th, Feazell was arrested by agents of the FBI and Texas Department of Public Safety and charged with violation of the Racketeering Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act and mail fraud. In the indictments, Feazell is accused of taking bribes from defense attorneys in exchange for dropping DWI cases against their clients.

The chief prosecutor in the trials of David Spence and Muneer Deeb, two of the four defendants in the triple murder case which came to be known as the Lake Waco Murders, the 35-year-old Feazell admits he has made enemies during his four-year term with his highly visible, outspoken manner. It was Feazell and Texas Attorney General Jim Maddox who spearheaded a McLennan County Grand Jury investigation of several confessions of Henry Lee Lucas, the one-eyed drifter who once claimed to have killed over 350 people during his nationwide travels.

While Lucas was in custody in Waco and away from the Texas Rangers Task Force, he recanted his confessions and insisted investigating officers had fed him information on cases so that he might confess to them and clear the books. Since that time many of the cases against Lucas have been dropped throughout the nation.

"During the Waco grand jury investigation," Stowers points out, "one member of the Task Force privately told a friend that 'we'll make Vic Feazell wish he'd never been born.' It looks as if that's what they've been working toward for the last year and a half."

CBS's highly acclaimed "60 Minutes" aired a segment last December which raised questions about the investigation of Feazell, pointing out the links to the Lucas probe.

In a recent telephone conversation from his jail cell in El Paso, where he's being held during preliminary hearings for a trial on a murder case there, Lucas told Stowers, "All of this that is happening to Vic Feazell is my fault. If he hadn't gotten involved in my situation this would never have happened to him."

Lucas also told Stowers that Texas Rangers and an attorney for David Spence, who currently resides on death row in Texas awaiting appeals of his two capital murder convictions, tried to get him to "take the Lake (Waco) murders" on several occasions. "I never would confess to them," Lucas says, "but I think Ottis Toole (Lucas's longtime companion who is currently jailed in Florida) did for a while."

Feazell has long insisted the 18-month investigation of him was begun in retaliation for his "stepping on the wrong toes": embarrassing the Texas Rangers and angering Col. Jim Adams, head of the Department of Public Safety who oversees the Rangers. Adams, meanwhile, insists the investigation of Feazell was underway long before the Lucas matter became an issue.

"Even the Attorney General has publicly stated that the investigation appeared retaliatory in nature," Stowers says.

Stowers agrees that Feazell has, during his term in office, stepped on toes. "His ongoing feud with Police Chief Larry Scott is well documented.