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*Suburban News
11/20/86*

MAY 15 1986

Lucas says confessions were lies

From staff and wire reports

Convicted killer Henry Lee Lucas said in Huntsville Wednesday he agreed with a report from the Texas attorney general that law enforcement officers accepted dozens of bogus confessions from him to clear unsolved murder cases.

"I was tired of being pushed," Lucas said in an Associated Press interview outside Texas death row. "I'm willing to go along with anything."

"I enjoyed it for a while. I don't enjoy it now. I didn't think about how I could hurt the families involved and the law enforcement officers."

Lucas said he believed more than 600 murderers are walking the streets of America because "that's how many I confessed to."

He insisted he really killed only one person — his mother in Tecumseh, Mich., in 1960.

Last week, Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox released a report



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of a yearlong investigation of Lucas in which he accused the one-eyed drifter of perpetrating "a hoax on the criminal justice system."

Mattox said there is physical evidence linking Lucas to only three murders: his mother, an elderly Montague County woman and his girlfriend.

"There were a very large number of murders that were attributed to him — and that he con-

fessed to — that he could not have committed," Mattox said.

Lucas on Wednesday repeated his contentions that he confessed to the slayings around the country to show the ineptness of law enforcement officers.

"They want to clear cases that have been on the books and then they get recognition for clearing them," he said. "I wasn't trying to make fun of them. I was just trying to prove a point. Every place I'd been, they were willing to convict an innocent person."

Lucas said detectives would show him pictures of crime scenes and then take him to the places of the crime.

"They'd give you the whole case," he said. "You take that, put it together and give it back to them."

Lucas, 49, is on death row for the slaying of a female hitchhiker in Texas known only as "Orange Socks."

"The confession was not good,"

Lucas said of the case.

Department of Public Safety Director Jim Adams noted Lucas has received six life sentences in other cases, two 75-year prison terms and a 60-year term.

"There are agencies that went beyond the call of duty to get confessions," Lucas said. "The only thing I'm really interested in now is that the guilty should pay for the crimes. I'm hopeful they'll be found."

Questions about Lucas' confessions first became public when Mattox and McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell began a grand jury investigation of Lucas in Waco in April 1985.

On July 2, 1985, Lucas was notified by the grand jury in three unsolved McLennan County murders.

Much of the attorney general's office investigative work for the Lucas report was conducted during the 4-month-long Waco probe.