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Vic Feazell  
District Attorney  
McLennan County Courthouse  
Waco, Texas 76701

Dear Mr. Feazell,

Today I interviewed Henry Lee Lucas in neuropsychiatric evaluation at your request, and I believe with the knowledge and consent of Mr. Lucas' lawyer, Mr. Guy Cox. I was assisted during and after the interview by my colleague, Dr. Willard Gold of the Texas Department of Corrections in Huntsville, Texas. Mr. Lucas was fully cooperative and was informed of the possibility that anything he said to us might be used in a court of law, in either a direct fashion or as interpreted by us. He was informed that we were psychiatrists. I felt it to be of some advantage in our evaluation that Dr. Gold knew a great deal about the evolution of Mr. Lucas' notoriety, and that I knew very little. I have not read newspapers nor witnessed television accounts of his case and was aware of virtually nothing but "headline" matters.

His story is strange, but believable. Dr. Gold and I concur that he is telling the truth—at last! The major psychological theme in his life has been one of seeking "justice" from authorities. In childhood he ran away from home repeatedly trying to get the authorities to place him in a foster home or a children's home rather than stay in the disturbing and degrading home where his mother forced him to watch her work as a prostitute repeatedly. He felt that the authorities let him down. When he was about fourteen he was charged with a breaking and entering crime which he insists that he did not do, and again felt the authorities were unjust. He admits subsequently on a number of occasions breaking the law, usually burglary and never armed robbery or violent crime. He claims to have hit his mother in self defense and that she then died of a heart attack but he was sent to prison for this "murder"—unfairly! During his incarceration he spent several years in a mental hospital and describes hallucinations and paranoid thoughts arising from homosexual attacks during his first six months in prison. He claimed to have been labeled "schizophrenic", but denies ever having subsequent mental disease or having been thought to have mental disease, except on some occasions during the past couple of years when he was lying to everyone including psychiatrists.

Vic Feazell

Page 2

Mr. Lucas says that he consciously decided more than two years ago, when he was again unfairly accused of a crime he did not commit, to confess to everything anyone wanted him to until it became ludicrous and obvious to everyone that there were "bad authorities" who would be willing to have anyone confess to murders just to get them "off the books". He then states that he got into his pattern of lying about the murders so much that there was a long period of time when he became somewhat convinced that he might have done them. He goes into a fair amount of detail about certain friends particularly a lady in Georgetown whom he trusted, although there have been few people in his life whom he has trusted.


When he came to Waco and was asked about murders known to have been committed by someone else, he says he denied the crimes and found himself believed rather than coerced for the first time. He then states he began to tell the truth, knowing he would probably be prosecuted for the perjury over the last two years. He insists repeatedly that his goal as it has been all of his life is to force the authorities to account for "injustice".

The mental status examination reveals a man who obviously is taking some pleasure and pride in his accomplishments. He utterly denies that what he really wanted was publicity for himself and sticks faithfully to the story of wanting to publicize injustice. He denies that he in any way has wanted to profit financially from the various books which may be written about him. He is rather reasonably concerned about his own safety. At no time during the interview did he show any signs of paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, depression, mania or any other significant psychiatric symptomatology. He does not seem to be losing his grip on reality in the prolonged incarceration (Ganser's Syndrome), nor does he seem a suicidal risk. There is nothing about him that fits the usual demeanor of a sociopathic killer. Diagnostically, he would seem to have a somewhat passive-aggressive personality structure, but no current evidence of any psychosis.

It is our belief that the unusual tale he tells at this time is probably quite close to the truth and we cannot formulate any other logical story.

It seems advisable to keep him rather isolated because of the possible danger to his well-being from other prisoners who might want to share his notoriety—Jack Ruby style. I hope that these comments may be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

  
James W. Jolliff, M.D.

JWJ/wlw