

Suspect's alias confused officials

Authorities make final arrest in '98 Johnson County killing

By Lynn M. Tefft
Gazette staff writer

IOWA CITY — James Christopher Lee, whom authorities have known the last year by his alias Jason Lack, will make an appearance today in Johnson County District Court on a charge of first-degree murder in the death of Frank Boyd.

Authorities determined their suspect's identity after they arrested him Saturday in a park in East St. Louis, Ill., Johnson County Sheriff's Detective Robert Dolezal said.

The arrest is the last in the investigation into Boyd's murder more than a year ago.

"There's no closure in a case until all your suspects are in custody," Dolezal said.

Johnson County Attorney J. Patrick White said his office intends to file a formal charge as soon as possible and that that could happen as soon as

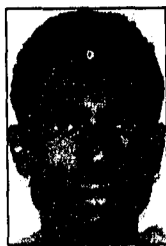
today. Then, an arraignment would be set for Lee to enter a plea. That arraignment could happen as soon as today, or it could happen in the next week or two, White said.

White said investigators have had to deal with confusion over Lee's real name. Lee will be charged under the name of Jason Christopher Lack and the Johnson County charge will list other names the man has used, White said.

White credited work Dolezal and state Division of Criminal Investigation agent Wade Kisner did for finding Lee.

Dolezal said interviews with about 200 people produced leads that Lee was in East St. Louis. The Illinois State Patrol helped track Lee down, he said, adding that he doesn't believe Lee had been in the area long.

Lee, 20, was arrested without incident and



James Christopher Lee
Also known as Jason Lack

waived extradition proceedings, Dolezal said. Lee was held in an Illinois jail until detectives brought him back to Iowa City on Tuesday afternoon.

Dolezal said Lee spoke with investigators but declined to comment on what Lee said. He added that detectives also interviewed another person for the case while in East St. Louis.

Lee is accused of helping beat Boyd to death in an Iowa City apartment on July 19, 1998, and then dump his body in a county ditch and burn the body. Farmers found the body on Aug. 7, 1998.

Investigators say drugs his assailants believed Boyd had stolen was the motive for the killing.

Also charged last November with first-degree murder were James Miller, 17, and Carlos Morris, 22. Charged with willful injury was Clifton Walker, 17.

James Christopher Lee is accused in the murder of Frank Boyd of Iowa City.

Morris pleaded guilty in July to drug and obstruction charges and was sentenced to up to 27 years in prison. Walker pleaded guilty to the willful injury charge as well as conspiracy, facilitation of a criminal network, perjury and obstructing defense and was sentenced to up to 32 years in prison.

Miller is to stand trial Jan. 17.

Dolezal said authorities had been looking for Lee in various Illinois locations for the last year.

"We tried to track him down every time we picked up a lead that he was in a certain area," Dolezal said. "But none of the leads turned out to be good until last week."

Lee also was wanted in Johnson County for failing to appear for a pretrial conference for a marijuana possession charge. He is not wanted anywhere else for any other crimes, Dolezal said.

Contact writer Lynn Tefft at (319) 339-3158 or lynn@fjyowa.com

Signaling change in Coralville

Mike Corso of North Liberty replaces the old "walk" and "don't walk" signs with new icon symbols Monday for the Coralville Streets Department. The icons, a hand for "don't walk" and a striding figure for "walk," are more universal and easier for non-English speaking people to understand.

Corso also replaced the old light bulbs with brighter, more efficient bulbs that are easier for drivers and pedestrians to see and are expected to lower the city's electrical costs.



Photo by Justin O'Brien, Gazette intern

Lawyers debate Tumey evidence

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

TIPTON — Five times in 19 years Dean Ray Tumey has commented or confessed to authorities about the 1980 murder of Sandra Jo Pittman, by all accounts a petite, pretty and troubled 17-year-old Davenport girl with whom he had only a brief acquaintance.

"It's time for people to accept what he said," prosecutor Alan Ostergren railed Tuesday to the jury here in closing arguments at Tumey's first-degree murder trial.

Or most of what he said, the prosecutor told jurors, who begin deliberations today.

With the trial's last witness Tuesday morning, jurors heard Tumey's most detailed confession to date of what happened in the last 18 hours leading up to Pittman's murder.

It came on Aug. 25 in a pretrial interview with Dr. Michael Taylor, a Des Moines psychiatrist hired by the prosecution to make an assessment of Tumey, long suffering from

paranoid schizophrenia.

In his talk with Taylor, Tumey said he did not kill Pittman. What has plagued him over the years, he said, is that he witnessed the murder. He told the psychiatrist he had walked into the Fairfield Police Department in 1990 and confessed out of guilt for not having intervened to stop the murder.

Taylor testified that Tumey said he went to the Catholic Worker House shelter in Davenport the afternoon of Sept. 16 to warn Pittman, a resident there, that somebody intended to harm her. The two drove around, at some point she placed a call and they went to a state park to meet someone. There, three men got into Tumey's car, he got out to urinate and the men beat Pittman to death with a tire iron, he told the psychiatrist.

Ostergren, while embracing Taylor's conclusions that Tumey was never suffering from delusions in the times he talked to authorities over the years,

dismissed the latest confession as a "ham-handed, pathetic attempt to think of a good story" on the eve of trial.

"Dean Tumey is crazy — crazy like a fox," insisted Ostergren, of the Muscatine County Attorney's Office.

Defense attorneys Brad Norton and Brian Fairfield of Lowden pounded back, quoting the defense's own psychiatrist and saying comments and confessions were little more than the delusions of a man suffering from paranoid schizophrenia or the exaggerated rantings of a manipulating patient seeking a hospital to take his problems seriously.

Norton said the prosecution has little evidence against the defendant other than the confessions and much evidence centering suspicion around Pittman's abusive, assaultive, drug-dealing boyfriend who asked fellow mill workers for advice about murdering her six days before her death.

Contact writer Rick Smith at (319) 398-8312 or ricks@fjyowa.com

Calmar opts for chlorine to counter bacteria

By James Q. Lynch
Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau

CALMAR — High levels of coliform bacteria in the Calmar water supply have prompted a decision to begin adding chlorine to the town's water.

The Winneshiek County town of about 1,000 people is one of the few in Iowa that hasn't added a disinfectant, such as chlorine, to its water. But contamination, which was discovered after tests Sept. 20, prompted the city Water Department to buy chlorinating equipment immediately, city officials said Tuesday.

The presence of coliform bacteria indicates fecal contamination of water. It can come from a variety of sources, including septic tanks, livestock and wildlife manure.

The city's wells are being

shock treated with chlorine to eliminate high levels of coliform bacteria, but the water may not be safe to drink for at least another day, City Clerk Michele Elsbernd said Tuesday.

Health officials are advising residents against drinking from public water fountains or any water that has not been boiled. The warning will remain in effect until the source of the contamination is eliminated and tests prove the water safe.

Results from tests of water samples collected Tuesday are expected to be known today.

Elsbernd said the city became aware of the problem after water at a local business was tested last week. The Department of Natural Resources notified the city on Monday of the

contamination.

It is unclear whether the contamination is widespread or only where the water sample was collected.

Contact writer James Lynch at (319) 387-3198 or jamesl@oneota.net

Meditation Workshops

There's No Place Like "Om" ...

St. Luke's Center for Health and Well-Being
319-369-8161

IRRITABLE BOWEL STUDY

Women 18-years of age or older may be interested in participating in a study for the control of bowel urgency with diarrhea predominant irritable bowel syndrome.

For details, please call
Joan Ryder Benz, MD, PhD
(319) 363-8811

FAST CASH MONEY ORDERS

25¢

FAST CASH MONEY ORDERS

\$ PAYDAY LOANS \$ PHONE CARDS
\$ CHECKS CASHED \$ MONEY ORDERS

Fast Cash of Iowa
1199 Grand Ave., Marion
373-8230

2 Blocks North of Rt. 100 (Marion Bypass) & East Post Rd.
Across From Cedar Rapids Boxing Club/Bingo

Platinum ...at affordable prices

From \$19 and up

SIEGEL'S
Your Family Jeweler Since 1910

www.diamondsforever.com
105 3rd Ave SE • 366-1554

MERCYCARE COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS

For over 40 years,
Percy Harris, MD,
has served his patients
with love, care
and respect.



He has provided valued leadership to organizations including the Iowa board of Regents, the Jane Boyd Community House, United Way and the Cedar Rapids chapter of the NAACP. He continues to serve what is now a 38 year tenure as Linn County Medical Examiner.

In 1998, Mercy Medical Center presented Dr. Harris with the prestigious Gold-Headed Cane Award. Bestowed to medical laureates who have demonstrated medical excellence, professional leadership and personal integrity, Dr. Harris is one of only four recipients of this award in the history of Mercy Medical Center.

Please join us at an
Open House
Wednesday, October 6, 1999
to celebrate Dr. Harris' retirement.

MercyCare Blairs Ferry
1790 Blairs Ferry Road • Hiawatha, Iowa

Patients and public are invited from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Congratulations on your retirement!
From your fellow
MercyCare Community Physicians and colleagues.

