



Courtesy of McLennan County Sheriff's Office

Police measured David Wayne Spence's teeth as part of their investigation into the death of three teen-agers at Lake Waco in 1982. The killer viciously bit his victims.

## Pain echoes 10 years after grisly deaths

### 1 defendant to be retried in slaying of 3 teen-agers

By **SIG CHRISTENSON**  
Houston Chronicle

**W**ACO — Ten years after the grisly slayings of three teen-agers at Lake Waco, Lt. Truman Simons cannot forget the promise he made while praying over the bodies at Speegleville III Park. A veteran of countless homicide investigations, Simons later was struck by the "fear and the anger and the violence" that seemed to hang like a pall over the wooded murder scene at nearby Koehne Park.

"Just try to comprehend what their thoughts were," he said, "what they were going through."

It is hard to imagine what Kenneth Franks, Jill Montgomery and Raylene Rice thought as they were stabbed and cut dozens of times on July 12, 1982. Their throats were slashed. The girls, both 17, were raped. Montgomery, the first cut and last to die, was stabbed or slashed more than 30 times.

A botched murder-for-hire scheme triggered the murders.

As killer David Wayne Spence observes his 34th birthday this weekend in death row's solitude, two Fort Worth special prosecutors prepare to retry Muneer Deeb for his alleged role in the Lake Waco murders.

Pre-trial motions begin Aug. 10 for Deeb, whose death sentence was overturned after the Court of Criminal Appeals ruled in 1991 that a prison inmate's testimony was inadmissible.

Special prosecutors entered the case after the current McLennan County district attorney, John Segrest, disqualified his office from involvement in Deeb's retrial. Ironically, then-private attorney Segrest, acting as a court-appointed attorney, and Waco lawyer Dick McCall, wrote the appeal that eventually won Deeb a new trial.

Simons says he no longer senses the suffering during visits to Koehne Park. He now just wants to watch Spence die.

"(Spence) won't accept the fact that he's dying until he feels (the chemicals) going in him," said Simons, 49. "And that's the part I'd like to see."

Seven years and numerous appeals after his second capital murder conviction in College Station, time is running out on Spence. U.S. District Judge Norman Black last May denied two habeas corpus writs. An execution could come within a year, said Assistant Attorney General Bill Zapalac.

Spence will be returned to Waco if a new execution date is set, Segrest said.

That would delight Simons and others close to the case and

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Raylene Rice, left, and Jill Montgomery were brutalized before being killed by Spence.

## Halt to dairy sought

### Ranchers fear pollution of drinking water

By **ROY BRAGG**  
Houston Chronicle

**CHRISTOVAL** — So steady is the flow from Anson Springs that water spritzes forth and bubbles on the surface of the South Concho River headwaters like some stone-age Jacuzzi.

The water's so clear that it fools a first time wader — white limestone riverbeds that appear within reach are actually six feet under the brisk, flowing stream.

Now imagine 6,000 cows — or, more significantly, the dung and urine from 6,000 cows — on 2,200 acres of rocky ranchland that slopes downward toward the river's banks. In some places, ranch boundaries are only 50 feet from the river channel.

That's why San Angelo city leaders and several dozen northern Schleicher County ranchers want

'Outside people don't understand the fragile nature of this country.'

Rancher Bobby Helmers

brush of West Texas, the springs and the river supply the lion's share of the drinking water for San Angelo's 84,475 residents and help ranchers here eke out a living in the unforgiving wasteland.

"Outside people don't understand the fragile nature of this country," said Bobby Helmers, a local rancher whose 2,800 acres sit across U.S. Highway 277 from the proposed site. "But you can't just ignore the land."

Jack Tuls Jr., Double Vision's co-



