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JAN. 4, 2000

Texas drifter suspected in Ky. Killing



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LEXINGTON, Ky., Jan. 4 (UPI) - In a case eerily reminiscent of last summer's "Railroad Killer" scare, a Texas drifter is facing charges he killed a Kentucky girl and stabbed a 10-year-old Texas girl, leaving her 13-year-old friend dead.

The injured 10-year-old then walked a quarter-mile to her nearest neighbor and wrote out what happened. She could not talk because her throat had been slashed.

Tommy Lynn Sells was held Tuesday by sheriff's deputies in Del Rio, Texas, on charges of attempted and capital murder.

Lt. Larry Pope of the Val Verde Sheriff's Department said when he questioned Sells, a drifter who has lived on-and-off in Del Rio for the last three years, about the stabbing of the 10-year-old and the killing of her friend Friday, Sells asked him if he wanted to know about the Kentucky killing.

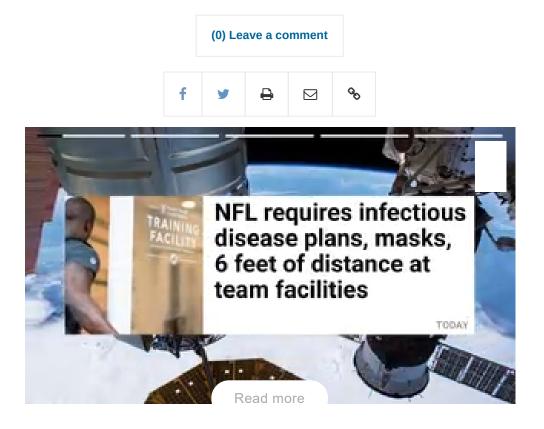
"He struck me as the start of a serial killer," Pope told the Lexington Herald-Leader.

The body of Haley McHone was found just 150 feet from her Lexington, Ky., home, in bushes along some railroad tracks. Friday's attacks took place in a house along the same railroad line, about 1,000 miles away.

Police said Sells also is suspected in crimes in at least five other states.

Pope said investigators were struck by the similarities between the cases of Sells and Angel Maturino Resendiz, the so-called "Railroad Killer" who has been charged with killings in Kentucky and Texas - also committed along railroad tracks.

Resendiz initially was a suspect in Haley's killing. -- --



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