

Man 'showed no emotion' when sentenced

PAROLE, from Page 1

when he heard the verdict or the sentence. "He showed no emotion," she said. "No emotion ever. Nothing." She said it was different for Schlicher's and Patton's wives, who sat in the courtroom crying. The juror said she hopes they will keep Schlicher in prison for the rest of his life.

"I do not believe in the death penalty," she said, "but I think there should be a sentence for someone who takes someone else's life." She added that she thinks the jury's decision should be final. "If the jury says life," she said, "they should stick with it."

If Schlicher does get parole, the juror said, she believes he might still try to hurt those who put him away.

Before the trial, she said, one of Schlicher's friends was standing in front of the courthouse shouting threats.

"He said, 'You people don't know what you're doing. He's going to come after you,'" she recalled. Sheila Smith, who was an alternate on the jury, said Schlicher never directly threatened her, but there were rumors that he told one of the jurors he planned to come after him if he ever got out of jail.

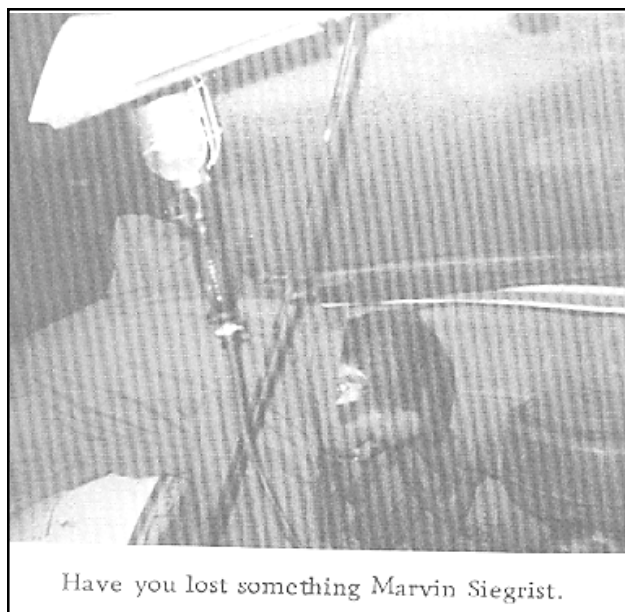
As an alternate, Smith said, she sat in on the trial and heard and saw all of the evidence, but was in a separate room while the jury deliberated. She said her job was to fill in if one of the jurors happened to get sick or had to leave for an emergency.

Smith said on the first day of the trial, one of the juror's sister or sister-in-law was killed in a car accident and she had to leave town. There were two alternate jurors, she said, and the other one was picked to fill the spot.

She said she never actually sat with the jury but she was there for the whole trial.

Smith said it was hard to know whether Schlicher was guilty because there was so much conflicting evidence. She said she remembers testimony that he confessed, but then heard that he had been trying to help officers solve the case by bringing them weapons to test. In the end, Smith said, she was con-

A picture of Marvin Dale Seigrist in the 1971 technical school yearbook. There was no head shot of Seigrist, who was in a special program to help young people enter the work force.



Have you lost something Marvin Siegrist.

vinced he did it. She said she never saw his face after the verdict was read because she got out of the courtroom fast, and so did just about everyone else.

"If you had just convicted a guy of murder," she asked, "would you want to stay in the room with the family screaming and crying? You just want to get out of there."

Smith said it was hard to look at pictures of the murder scene, the body and the autopsy.

"It was interesting," she said, "but I would never want to do it again."

She added that she would never want to be under that much pressure.

"His life is in your hands," she said. "What if you should incarcerate the wrong person?"

She noted that she thinks the jury did the right thing, and the killer should stay in jail.

"If you're sentenced to life," she said, "you should get life, not 20 years."

Prison life

Bill Miskell, spokesman for the state Department of Corrections in Topeka, said Schlicher has spent his time in prisons in Lansing, El Dorado and Ellsworth.

He said he was transferred to the Norton Correctional Facility for four days in October 1996, sent back to Ellsworth and then returned to Norton on May 3, 2000.

Miskell said Schlicher was a maximum security prisoner for many years,

but is now considered medium security, which means he is allowed out of his cell for 12 to 14 hours a day and can work, take classes or attend programs. He said Schlicher can't leave the facility unless he is in chains.

"An inmate convicted of first degree murder will be required to stay in maximum custody for a number of years," he said, "but if they don't present major problems and aren't a flight risk, they can be moved to medium custody over time."

A board reviews each inmate's custody classification every 120 days, Miskell said, and considers 11 factors, including the prisoner's crime, sentence and disciplinary history.

He said Schlicher has had a fairly clean record for the past five years. He hasn't been "written up" for a rules violation in over a year, he said, and has been punished five times since 1997 for minor, non-violent offenses.

In October and April 2000, Miskell said, Schlicher was fined \$5 and placed under restriction for seven days for unauthorized dealing or trading. He was written up in August 1999 for taking something without permission, he said, and in August 1997 for improper use of food.

In June 1997, which is as far back as Miskell could look in Schlicher's record, he said the inmate was punished for defacing or vandalizing state property.

Miskell said because Schlicher received a life sentence, he wasn't eligible for parole until 1995. He said the inmate saw the parole board in January 1995, 1998 and 2000, but has been

Hearing to determine killer's future

By Rachel Miskall
The Goodland Daily News

William Schlicher, sentenced to life in prison in 1980 for murdering a Goodland gas station attendant in 1970, is up for parole this month and could be released in February.

A clerk for the Kansas Parole Board said Schlicher's hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 16, and if he is granted parole he will be released on Thursday, Feb. 28, the date his sentence began. He is being held under medium security at the Norton Correctional Facility.

The board will consider letters about the crime or criminal at any time, but the clerk said it's best if comments are received at least a week before the hearing.

Bill Miskell, spokesman for the state Department of Corrections in Topeka, said Schlicher hasn't been "written up" for a rules violation in

more than a year and has been punished five times since 1997 for minor, non-violent offenses. Schlicher jumped parole before when he was released from prison in the 1970s for committing burglary in and around Sherman County.

Colene Seidel, parole board administrator, said the board considers seven areas when deciding whether to grant parole including the crime, criminal history, program participation, parole plan, disciplinary record, comments from victims and the public and prison capacity. Miskell said Schlicher first saw the board in 1995 and has been denied parole three times, the last time in January 2000.

The month before the hearing, Seidel said, the board holds public sessions to gather comments about the prisoner up for release. The last session was on Friday, but people can still send letters.

The clerk said members review all letters they receive, and will consider any information, even if it comes after the hearing. However, he said, it's best if letters arrive at least a week before, which would be next Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Seidel said letters can be mailed to the Kansas Parole Board; Landon State Office Building; 900 S.W. Jackson Street, Room 452 S; Topeka, KS 66612-1220 or faxed to 785-296-7949.

The clerk said letters should include the inmate's name and number. Schlicher's is 24626.

Because he was sentenced to life, Seidel said, Schlicher will probably be supervised by a parole officer for the rest of his life if he is let out. She added that the board has released some sentenced to life from parole, but only if they have exemplary behavior on the outside.



Kauffman

denied each time.

After the initial parole hearing, Miskell said, the board decides, within legal limits, how long it will be before they see the prisoner again.

Parole?

Colene Seidel, parole board administrator, said Schlicher was last up for parole in February 2000, when the board decided he would stay behind bars for at least two more years. Because Schlicher's sentence started on Feb. 28, she said, he will be released on that date if he is granted parole.

Seidel said a parole hearing is usually scheduled the month before an inmate could be released, and Schlicher's hearings come up in January. A clerk for the parole board said his next hearing will be on Wednesday, Jan. 16.

The month before the parole hearing, Seidel said, the board holds public sessions to gather comments about the prisoner up for release. Schlicher is one of hundreds of inmates in Kansas who will have a parole hearing in January.

Seidel said because Schlicher is considered an "A" felon, the board can legally decide not to see him again for up to 10 years after denying him parole. She noted, however, that members

would have to provide reasons for passing a prisoner for more than 3 years.

Inmates were once allowed a parole hearing every year, Seidel said, but lawmakers changed that so victims wouldn't have to relive the crime so often. She said it means nothing that the board passed Schlicher for only two years.

"I think to try to read anything into passing him for two years would be a mistake," she said.

When deciding whether to grant parole, Seidel said, the board considers seven areas including the prisoner's crime, criminal history, program participation, parole plan and disciplinary record. She said members also consider comments from victims, the public and law enforcement officers and prison capacity.

Each parole-eligible inmate is required to submit a "parole plan" to the board, Seidel said. In the plan, she said, the prisoner says where he will live and work if he is granted parole. She said the board will receive Schlicher's plan on the day of the hearing.

If Schlicher decided to move to Sherman County, Seidel said, he wouldn't have to let anyone know he was here.

Anyone convicted of a sexual offense after 1994 or first degree murder after 1997 is required to register in the county they move to, she said, but Schlicher wouldn't have to because he was sent to prison in 1980.

Miskell said once a criminal is sent to prison for life, the only way he is getting out is through parole. Most inmates can earn "good time," he said, which reduces their sentence, but that doesn't apply to Schlicher.

"Good time doesn't count on a life sentence," Miskell said. "There's no point. He won't get out unless he gets parole."

If Schlicher does get out, Seidel said, he'll likely be on parole for the rest of his life. The parole board could decide to release him, she said, but only if he has excellent behavior on the outside.

"He'd have to be an exemplary, model parolee," she said.

Jack Armstrong, the former sheriff who dogged the case for 10 years, said he knows Schlicher well and he doesn't believe the man could be rehabilitated.

"I don't believe he should be let out," he said. "I think he should serve a life sentence for what he did."

"He's cold-hearted. In my opinion, it meant nothing to him to do what he did."

Man shot after taking baby hostage

SHOOTING, from Page 1

before he was allowed to flee in a late model Jeep Cherokee, leaving the uninjured children in the house. Sheriff Steve Goering said in an interview Friday the Jeep belonged to someone else but Clower had access to it.

Driving up to 90 mph, Clower sped into Burlington, managing to avoid "stop sticks" police officers laid out on County Road V near the Kit Carson County Correctional Center. Several officers chased him around the city until he pulled into the main parking lot north of the Comfort Inn at 282 Lincoln.

Two police officers and two troopers followed Clower into the lot and surrounded him. Police Chief Randy

Millburn (a former Goodland police officer) said he got out of the Jeep and pointed a double-barrel shotgun at the officers.

Sheriff Goering, who said he pulled into the parking lot after the shooting, said he believes the man had more guns stashed in the Jeep.

Millburn said Clower refused to put down the weapon and a police officer and trooper shot at him once after he swung the gun as if he was going to shoot.

One of the bullets wounded Clower and the other went through one of the windows of the motel's swimming pool. It was found later in the pool.

An ambulance took Clower to Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital, where he apparently died from the bullet wound.

Goering said the autopsy was not finished.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is helping to investigate the shooting.

Millburn said technology will help with the investigation. "One of the troopers videotaped the entire incident in the motel parking lot," he said, "and this was a huge help to the CBI and will speed up the investigative process."

Goering said they're using the tape and testimony to try to figure out what happened.

"There's a lot of speculation," he said, noting he's not sure if Clower had been drinking or using drugs.

He said the young man was married at one time, but he's not sure if he still is.

Inmates may face charges after incident

LARNED (AP)—Criminal charges could be filed against maximum-security inmates involved in a disturbance at Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, Warden Karen Rohling said Thursday.

The incident happened about 11:20 p.m. Sunday, after an employee error caused all 30 doors in the maximum-security unit to open simultaneously.

The cause of the error remains under investigation. Two or three inmates led the others in tearing up the area, Rohling said. They pulled smoke detectors and a security camera off the walls and broke lights, causing more than \$2,000 in damage, Rohling said.

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