

# ESTILL TRIBUNE



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## Local news briefs

### Five Sentenced on Friday

Four Estill Countians and one Madison County man were sentenced Friday afternoon in U.S. District Court in Lexington.

All five had pleaded guilty in January to one charge each of conspiring to manufacture false W-2 forms in order to defraud the Internal Revenue Service. They had been indicted in November by a federal grand jury on as many as 24 counts.

Larry W. Riddell, Irvine, was sentenced to two years in a federal prison. Ada Rene West, Irvine, and Kenneth Harris, Richmond, received 18 month prison sentences.

Douglas Kirby, Pryse, and David Hall, Winston, received suspended 18 month prison sentences and were placed on three years probation.

Riddell, West, and Harris are presently free on bond, but are scheduled to report on May 11 to begin serving their sentences.

The I.R.S. reportedly did not lose any money. However, Carl Fain and Olin Estes allegedly lost about \$35,000. Fain and Estes were owners of The Beach, which bought income tax forms in exchange for the refunds. The Beach now has new owners.

### Investigator to be sentenced tomorrow

Sentencing is scheduled tomorrow in Clark County Circuit Court for Thurman "Buddy" Misenheimer, an investigator for Nick Harrison.

Misenheimer, of Georgetown, was found guilty last Tuesday of bribing Mildred Shuler, the only witness who saw Harrison in the Hood Avenue Trailer Park at the time Irvine Police Chief Bob Walker was killed.

Shuler, who was employed in a Winchester nursing home, allegedly received a \$55 check from Misenheimer for a telephone deposit.

The three count indictment against Misenheimer was sealed and not opened until after Harrison was found guilty of Walker's murder on Sept. 30.

The investigator received acquittals on charges of tampering with a witness and obstructing justice.

## Murder charge is dropped in Loretta Willoughby case

by DELORES PATRICK  
Estill County Tribune

An indictment against Mickey Reed for the February 10, 1985 murder of Loretta Lynn Willoughby has been dismissed in Estill Circuit Court.

Circuit Judge Edward Jackson ruled for the dismissal late Friday afternoon, but it will not be official until he signs the typed orders later this week.

Reed was scheduled to go on trial on the murder charge on May 13.

But on March 24, Reed's attorney, William Chambliss, filed a motion for the dismissal based upon four reasons, with the first being a lack of evidence.

Secondly, Chambliss asked that the indictment be dismissed because several of the witnesses who appeared before the grand jury had a motivation to fabricate their testimony. Those witnesses have since been indicted on felony charges which questions their credibility as witnesses.

Thirdly, Chambliss stated that Reed had submitted himself to a polygraph test given by the Kentucky State Police which revealed that he had no knowledge of the murder. However, Chambliss stated that the grand jury was inadequately informed on this matter.

Last of all, certain scientific tests were made of the defendant's hair and body fluids, but they did not match up with evidence found at the scene of the crime. Chambliss stated that this excluded Reed from the range of possible suspects.

During a conversation with Chambliss Friday, he stated that dismissing the charges against Reed would allow for reopening the investigation. He also stated that three or four other individuals had appeared before the grand jury who were as likely to have been suspects as Reed was.

Willoughby's body was found in May, 1985 in a wooded area behind Broadway. Her body was discovered by Reed, which made him the number one suspect for over a

year.

For over a year, Reed refused to take the polygraph test given by the Kentucky State Police. However, he did agree to the test and passed it several months prior to the grand jury's indictment on September 24, 1986.

Willoughby, who was only 15 years old at the time, is thought to have died from a blow to the side of her head. Also, there was other evidence of foul play at the scene of the crime which indicated murder rather than death from natural causes.

She was also believed to have been sexually molested, which has limited the suspects to males.

Dismissing the indictment against Reed does not mean that he cannot be indicted again in the future on the same charge if more evidence appears which implicates him. However, if the case had gone to court and he had been found not-guilty, then he could not have been retried if new evidence appeared.

Chambliss had filed a motion for

dismissal on March 24 which gave Prosecutor Phillip Owens until April 10 to produce witnesses and reasons why the indictment should not be dismissed.

However, on Friday, Owens had no witnesses present at court.

Owens stated that the judge would have ruled for a directed verdict when he gave his opening remarks in this case.

The prosecutor also said that none of the present evidence places Reed near Willoughby at any time when the murder occurred.

Another reason given for dismissing the charge before Reed was tried, is to save the expense of a jury trial when there was not enough evidence for a conviction.

Because Reed "hung around" with law enforcement officials, many have been accused of covering up for him, until the grand jury indicted him.

After Reed was indicted, he spent about a month in the Estill County Jail before he was able to post the \$50,000 property or cash bond which had been set for him.