Las Vegas Review-Joiurnal - Sunday, October 04, 1998

**TIMELINE: The State of Nevada vs. Frank La Pena**

     **Jan. 14, 1974** -- Intruders break into the Las Vegas Country Club home of Caesars Palace slot manager Marvin Krause, 64, and his 71-year-old wife, Hilda. She is killed. He is knocked unconscious but lives.

      **January 1974** -- Gerald Weakland is arrested after a confidential informant tells police Weakland asked him to go along on a robbery at the country club.

      **April 1974** -- Weakland tells prosecutors Frank LaPena and Rosalie Maxwell paid him to slit the elderly woman's throat. Weakland says Maxwell would marry the widower and funnel money to her lover, LaPena. LaPena and Maxwell are arrested and charged with murder. Weakland is allowed to plead guilty to second-degree murder in a deal that will make him eligible for parole after five years.

      **October 1974** -- After the longest preliminary hearing in Nevada history, LaPena and Maxwell are ordered to stand trial on charges of murder-for-hire.

      **July, August 1976** -- After weeks of testimony Maxwell is acquitted of the murder. Weakland testifies at Maxwell's trial that she had nothing to do with the death of Hilda Krause.

      **March, April 1977** -- LaPena's first trial is held. Weakland refuses a second time to repeat story of the contract hit. Jury deliberates a day and a half and finds LaPena guilty of first-degree murder. Trial takes three weeks. LaPena is sentenced a few months later to life without parole.

      **April 4, 1978** -- LaPena is sentenced to 40 years for a 1973 attack on Hacienda hotel manager Willis Obenauer. Weakland also confessed to that crime, saying he shot the man in the knees and left him in the desert. Again, he says LaPena paid him to do it.

      **May 1982** -- Nevada Supreme Court reverses LaPena's conviction in the death of Krause.

      **September 1982** -- LaPena is indicted again in connection with the Krause slaying.

      **August 1982** -- Nevada Supreme Court orders prosecutors to reveal the name of a secret informant in the Krause case. LaPena is released on bail the next year. Prosecutors find the informant and speak to him, but the defense never does.

      **May 1989** -- LaPena turns down a plea bargain that would have sentenced him to time already served. After two weeks of trial he is convicted for the second time of the murder of Krause. A judge then sentences him to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

      **November 1993** -- Supreme Court sends the Krause murder case back to Clark County District Court for a hearing on whether the second conviction was valid.

      **October 1995** -- After an evidentiary hearing, District Judge Gene Porter rules there is enough evidence that the last jury didn't see to warrant a third trial. Prosecutors appeal that decision.

      **June 1997** -- LaPena gets out on bail pending a possible third trial.

      **May 1998** -- Prosecutors argue to Supreme Court against a new trial. Justices ask if it isn't finally time to put case to rest.