

Dog kills toddler in Collin

Continued from Page 1A.

Francis said the incident will be referred to a grand jury to determine whether criminal charges should be filed.

The grandmother told officials that she was keeping the child while her parents, James and Debby Cole, were at work. The victim's grandparents live in a house, and the child's family lives in a mobile home at the front of the property, on State Highway 121 about one mile north-east of Melissa, Lt. Francis said.

Mary Jane Cole told authorities that she was getting ready to drive into town from her house. On the way out, she stopped her car at the mobile home. The dogs are kept chained nearby. Mrs. Cole and the girl got out of the car to go inside the mobile home, but the girl pulled away from her, went around the car near the dogs and was attacked, Mrs. Cole told officials.

Mrs. Cole said she rushed around the car, where the dog was still mauling the child. Mrs. Cole was bitten while getting the child away.

At the hospital, the girl's grandfather said that the dogs had never been vicious and that the little girl had played with them.

"I've raised the dogs from pups. They never hurt anybody," said Charles Cole.

The girl's father, James Cole, told Terry Sanner, a field agent for the Collin County medical examiner, that he never left the child around any of the dogs and that the dogs were always chained. He told Mr. Sanner that he raised the 4-year-old male dog from a puppy and that he breeds pit bulls.

"The father was really shaken up," said Mr. Sanner. "He and his father are truck drivers, and normally they would have been gone (out of town) but they'd just gotten in when they were called that this happened."

The dog was picked up by the county animal control officer, then killed at a McKinney veterinarian clinic about two hours after the at-

DOG BITE VICTIMS

Here are the people who have died from dog-bite injuries in the United States so far this year:

Jan. 17 — Marjee Lilly, 70, Los Angeles. Victim attacked by two pit bulls while feeding dogs at grandson's house.

Jan. 21 — Anna Lynn Pagliaro, 5 days old, Florence, N.J. Attacked by the family's Siberian husky while sleeping in crib.

Feb. 7 — Lillian Butler, 72, Memphis, Tenn. Pit bull escaped from neighboring yard and attacked her.

March 15 — Tonya M. Elliott, 2½, Forest Township, Mich. Victim wandered into yard where she was attacked by a chained wolf hybrid.

March 26 — Laurene MacLeod, 35, West Palm Beach, Fla. Police on break-in call sent their German shepherd police dog into house; dog bit victim twice.

April 9 — Norma Faith Jordan, 4, Coosada, Ala. Two mixed-breed strays attacked the victim in her front yard while her mother was in the back yard hanging laundry.

April 10 — Paul Mahler, 28 days, Mat-Su Valley, Alaska. Victim's mother entered mother wolf hybrid's pen while wolf was in labor and held infant to animal's face. Wolf's tooth pierced baby's skull.

April 12 — James C. Mills, 81, Gwinette County, Ga. Details uncertain. Chained pit bull crossbreed found with body of neighbor.

May 5 — Jerry Lee Cornell, 3, Talkeetna, Alaska. Husky-

malamute sled dog broke a tether and attacked boy at a birthday party.

May 6 — Gage H. Rache, 6 days old, Lacey, Wash. Victim attacked by husky while sleeping in crib.

June 18 — Betty Lou Stidham, 57, Memphis, Tenn. Two pit bulls attacked victim for 20 minutes while she was outside getting mail.

June 28 — Kelsie Provo, 2 months, Dalton, Ohio. Attacked by uncle's pit bull-shepherd crossbreed while watching television with grandmother.

July 1 — Jason Lee Wilson, 5, Seneca, S.C. Rottweiler-pit bull crossbreed attacked victim while playing in yard.

July 18 — Tionna Kenny, 6 months, Morgan Park, Ill. Victim attacked by pit bull after mother left child with a neighbor.

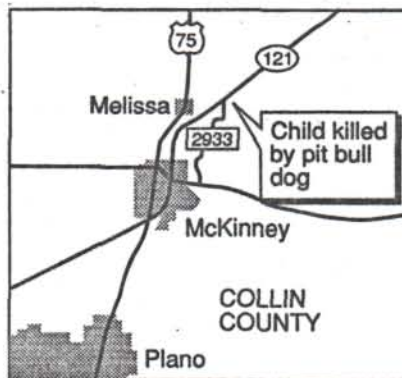
Aug. 24 — Richard S. Stitch II, 1½, Bremerton, Wash. Victim attacked by family's Akita while playing on floor with sister.

Sept. 12 — Patricia Roberts, 48, Walterboro, S.C. After victim had epileptic seizure, she was attacked by seven stray dogs that she and her husband had been feeding.

Sept. 26 — Mary Elisabeth Leffew, 1 month, Pima Co., Ariz. Victim was killed by the family's pet husky-malamute as she slept in a bassinet.

Oct. 23 — Jessica Anne Cole, 18 months, Collin County. Victim was killed by family pit bull dog chained in the yard. Grandmother injured while trying to rescue her.

SOURCE: Humane Society of the United States, Collin County authorities.



tack, said county animal control supervisor Sidney Auten. The dog's head has been sent to Austin for rabies tests, he said. The three other dogs were not confiscated.

"They're (the dogs) not in any legal violation; they are chained up securely," Mr. Auten said.

Mr. Sanner said the girl's father told him he did not think the three dogs would attack anyone.

Scripps Howard News Service, The Dallas Morning News

Jessica's death is the 18th in the United States this year from dog attacks, according to figures from the Humane Society of the United States. The national Centers for Disease Control, which studied dog-related deaths nationwide from 1979 to 1988, estimates there are about 20 such killings annually.

Most victims are children — 70 percent are under 10, according to the study. Pit bulls are the breed most often responsible for deadly attacks — about 42 percent of the fatalities. German shepherds rank second, at 15 percent, followed by huskies, at 12 percent.

Of the 17 fatal attacks documented by the Humane Society of the United States this year, seven were caused by pit bulls or pit bull crossbreeds.

Staff writer Nita Thurman and the Scripps Howard News Service contributed to this report.

includes a staging area (40 feet wide, 60 feet long and 14 feet high), darkroom, kitchen, tabletop studio for photographing small items, reception and waiting areas, a makeup

and dressing room, a control mezzanine where clients can view the proceedings, an overhead power grid, and a drive-in set fabricating

floor on the basement level, where welding, carpentry and painting can be done.

The staging area's I-beam ceiling

allows products as heavy as automobiles to be hoisted into the air for dramatic effect. Gateway Studios recently used the space to photo-

graph ca on the fl Does E a studio?

Dog-bite fatalities

Here are the human fatalities in 1990 resulting from dog-bite injury in the United States:

- Jan. 17**
Marjee Lilly, 70 years old, Los Angeles
Two pit bulls
Victim attacked while feeding dogs at grandson's house.
- Jan. 21**
Anna Lynn Pagliaro, 5 days old, Florence, N.J.
Siberian Husky
Victim attacked by family dog while sleeping in crib.
- Feb. 7**
Lillian Butler, 72, West Memphis, Tenn.
Pit bull
Dog escaped from neighboring yard and attacked victim.
- March 15**
Tonya M. Elliott, 2½, Forest Township, Mich.
Wolf hybrid
Victim wandered into yard where dog was chained.
- March 26**
Laurene MacLeod, 35, West Palm Beach, Fla.
German shepherd (police dog)
Police on break-in call sent dog into house; dog bit victim twice.
- April 9**
Norma Faith Jordan, 4, Coosada, Ala.
Two mixed-breed strays
Victim attacked in front yard while mother in back yard hanging laundry.
- April 10**
Paul Mahler, 28 days, Mat-Su Valley, Alaska
Wolf hybrid
Victim's mother entered mother wolf's pen while wolf was in labor and held infant to animal's face. Wolf's tooth pierced baby's skull.

- April 12**
James C. Mills, 81, Gwinnett County, Ga.
Pit bull cross-breed
Uncertain. Chained dog found with body of neighbor.

- May 5**
Jerry Lee Cornell, 3, Talkeetna, Alaska
Husky-Malamute sled dog
Victim attacked at a birthday party when dog broke tether.

- May 6**
Gage H. Rache, 6 days, Lacey, Wash.
Husky
Victim attacked while sleeping in crib.

- June 18**
Betty Lou Stidham, 57, Memphis, Tenn.
Two pit bulls
Victim attacked for 20 minutes while outside getting mail.

- June 26**
Kelsie Provo, 2 months, Dalton, Ohio
Pit bull-shepherd cross-breed
Victim attacked by uncle's dog while watching TV with grandmother.

- July 1**
Jason Lee Wilson, 5, Seneca, S.C.
Rottweiler-pit bull cross-breed
Victim attacked while playing in yard.

- July 18**
Tionna Kenny, 6 months, Morgan Park, Ill.
Pit bull
Victim attacked after mother left child with a neighbor.

- Aug. 24**
Richard S. Stitch II, 1½, Bremerton, Wash.
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Victim attacked by family dog while playing on floor with sister.

Source: Humane Society of the United States

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- 1. **Scripps Howard News Service** - October 22, 1990

PEOPLE WHO DIED FROM DOG BITE INJURIES

Here are the people who died from dog-bite injuries in the United States so far this year: Jan. 17 -- Marjee Lilly, 70 years old, Los Angeles. Victim attacked by two Pit bulls while feeding dogs at grandson's house. Jan. 21 -- Anna Lynn Pagliaro, 5 days old, Florence, N.J. Attacked by the family's Siberian Husky while sleeping in crib. Feb. 7 -- Lillian Butler, 72, Memphis. Pit bull escaped from neighboring yard and attacked victim. March 15 -- Tonya M. Elliott, 2-1/2,...

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- 2. **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)** - September 28, 1990

THEIR BITE IS WORSE THAN THEIR BARK DOG ATTACKS KILL ABOUT 20 EACH YEAR ACROSS U.S., MOST OF THEM CHILDREN

Jason Lee Wilson didn't have a chance. Playing in the yard outside a South Carolina trailer home, the 5-year-old boy lost his life when a neighbor's dog attacked. By the time Jason's mother reached him, the youngster was dead, his neck broken. The dog, a cross between a pit bull and a Rottweiler, was still attacking. The animal later was shot and killed. Its owner was charged with involuntary manslaughter. The fatal incident, which took place in July, is one of 15 deaths caused by...

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- 3. **The Commercial Appeal** - July 8, 1990

PIT BULL KILLS DOG, GETS SHOT CITY OFFICERS ANSWER CALL

Police shot and wounded a pit bulldog in North Memphis about 8:25 p.m. Saturday after it attacked two neighborhood dogs, killing one. Chief Insp. W. L. Reed said four officers shot at the bulldog as it chased a brown Labrador retriever, which was killed by the gunfire. Police responded in force to a report of a pit bulldog on the loose because of the death June 18 of St. Mary's Episcopal School teacher Betty Lou Stidham, 57, in southeast Memphis. Miss Stidham, of 6595 Cottingham,...

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