

EP writer kills himself, other man

By Michael Scanlon
El Paso Times

Henry Gordon Frost, a former prominent El Pasoan, killed his fiancée's ex-husband and then himself in Michigan last week after telling the woman what he had planned, police said.

Sgt. Thomas Hansen of the Michigan State Police said Frost, who moved to Petoskey, Mich., from El Paso in 1983, apparently shot Gary Churchman, 35, at the front door of Churchman's home at about 10:45 p.m. Saturday.

Hansen said Frost, 54, then turned the gun on himself in the driveway of the home.

Frost was an author and teacher when he lived in El Paso. He was the author of at least seven books, including

"The Gentleman's Club," a book about prostitution in El Paso.

Frost's fiancée, Mary Churchman, told police that Frost had revealed his plan to her, Hansen said.

"She said Frost told her he was going to kill Churchman and himself and she could read about it in the papers," he said.

Hansen said the woman did not take the threat seriously and did not call the police.

The shooting apparently stemmed from a dispute over the Churchmans' two children, of whom Gary Churchman had legal custody.

Frost shot Gary Churchman in the chest as Gary Churchman answered the door.

"Churchman ran back into

the home, up a short stairway and Frost shot him several more times," Hansen said.

Frost then shot himself in the head.

Police are continuing to investigate.

In November 1983, Frost told the El Paso Times: "I never thought I'd say this, but I'm disenchanted with El Paso. It's too big for me, and it's come down with the big-city syndrome of crime, pollution and not caring too damn much for the city or the people of the city."

Petoskey is a resort town on the banks of Lake Michigan. Frost had lived there in a home he was in the process of selling for almost \$500,000, Hansen said.

El Paso author and historian

Leon Metz said he was "flabbergasted" by the news.

"He was a longtime friend," Metz said. "We weren't close friends. Sometimes months would go by and we wouldn't see each other. We were buddies in a literal sense."

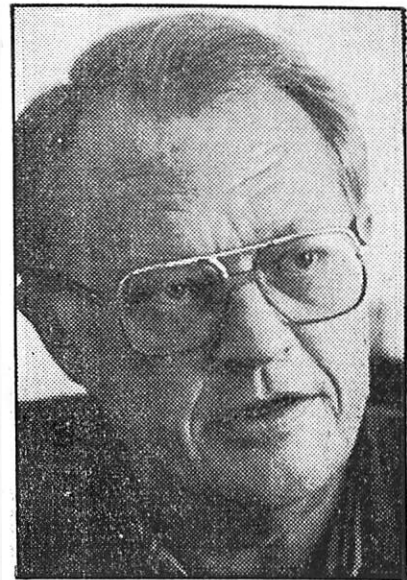
Metz said the circumstances surrounding Frost's death were hard to believe.

"He was talented and pleasant. I heard he was a great teacher."

Metz said Frost had been going to Michigan during the summers for several years before moving there.

Frost was a history teacher in public schools and St. Clement's Episcopal School.

Funeral arrangements for Frost are pending with Stone Funeral Home in Petoskey.



Henry Gordon Frost wrote "The Gentleman's Club."