



OFFICE OF THE  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: June 11, 2004

Re: MARLIN BINGLE

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John J. Goold, Chief Deputy District Attorney

Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Marlin Bingle, age 45, was once again found unsuitable for parole after a June 10<sup>th</sup> hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms held in California State Prison - Sacramento.

Marlin Bingle was convicted of the murder of 65-year-old Frank Norris of Jamestown on Christmas Eve 1976. Mr. Norris was a newspaper distributor. Mr. Norris was awaiting delivery of newspaper inserts when Bingle and his crime partner, Gary Ehle, confronted him on I Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets in downtown Modesto. The pair forced Mr. Norris into his pick up truck at gun point and made him drive to California Avenue where they robbed him of \$130.00. When Mr. Norris put up a struggle, Bingle shot him twice. Ehle then stabbed Mr. Norris in the neck. The two then got into the truck and ran over the victim before ditching the truck and attempting to set it on fire. The gun shots were determined to be the cause of death. While awaiting trial on the murder, Bingle took a fellow inmate hostage at knife point in order to attempt an escape from jail. The inmate was able to wrest Bingle's hand away from his neck, and deputies took control of Bingle.

Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees appeared at the hearing. Ms. Rees argued that Bingle still poses an unreasonable risk of harm to society, and particularly to Stanislaus County where Bingle intends to return upon his release. "This was a cruel, and malicious murder, all for the sake of \$130.00 to buy drugs. Even 27 years later, nothing presented at this hearing gave me any reassurance that our community will be safe once Bingle is back on the streets of Modesto, with drugs and alcohol readily available to him."

Marlin Bingle will be scheduled for another parole hearing in one year.

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