



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Steve Casey
John Goold
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: John Goold

Date: November 30, 2006

Re: Manuel Barcello

Phone: 209-525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted killer Manuel Barcello, age 46, was found unsuitable for parole after a hearing before the State Board of Prison Terms held on November 29th, 2006 at the state prison in Avenal, California. Deputy District Attorney Beth Owen appeared at the hearing and argued for Barcello’s continued confinement based upon the risk of danger to society and the threat he would pose to public safety if released from prison. Additionally, Prosecutor Owen argued that the crime was committed in a cruel and callous manner, with a blatant disregard for the life and suffering of another and in a dispassionate and calculated manner.

In the early morning on May 5th, 1983, Barcello and two other men broke into the Riverbank home of George Shafer. They bound, gagged, and hog-tied the 78 year old victim while they robbed his house, leaving him to die by asphyxiation. Shafer was found the next day by Sheriff’s deputies when his daughter became concerned because the victim hadn’t called her. Deputies found Shafer with his hands tied behind his back, his legs tied with a blanket and a rope wrapped around his neck. A ceramic figurine with the defendant’s fingerprints on it was found in the victim’s mouth. Barcello took two guns during the robbery and sold them on the street for \$25, splitting the profit with his crime partners. Barcello had “staked” out Mr. Shafer’s house, knowing that the victim was alone, elderly and rumored to have cash on hand.

After the crime, Barcello was arrested for a different burglary and deported to Mexico, only to return to Los Angeles after several months. Two years later, Barcello was extradited to Stanislaus County after he was arrested in Los Angeles on a drug charge.

In 1986, Barcello pled guilty to second degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life in state prison. While in custody, in 2006 he was convicted of drug possession and was sentenced to an additional 8 years which was added on to his life sentence.

The Board of Prison Terms agreed with the prosecution's arguments and denied Barcello parole for a period of five years.