

# MURDER ON THE TECHE

A True Story of Money and a Flawed Investigation

By  
**Tom Aswell**

# MURDER ON THE TECHE

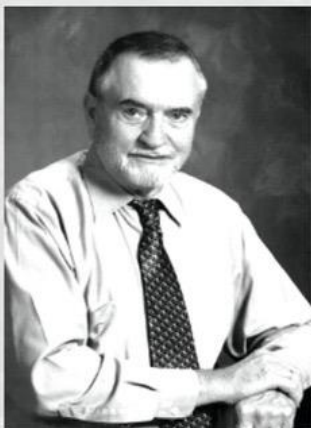
A True Story of Money and a Flawed Investigation

*“... either the sheriff’s office or the district attorney’s office – or both – dropped the ball in allowing a guilty person to escape justice that was meted out on an unequal basis.”*

Dr. Robert Chastant, successful orthodontist and civic activist in New Iberia, Louisiana, turned up bludgeoned to death December 13, 2010 at Sonriente Stables where he and his wife raised Peruvian Paso show horses. The undocumented Mexican farm hand who worked at the stables, Ismael Viera Tovar, was apprehended and confessed to the murder within hours.

But soon an unexpected twist occurred – upon further questioning, Viera said that Laurie Futral Chastant, the doctor’s third wife and 25 years his junior, had paid him \$1000 to kill her husband. His story seemed to gain traction with discrepancies in her timeline of events, a prenuptial agreement, a budding extra-marital affair, missing evidence and more than a million dollars in life insurance at stake.

Aswell’s book examines through testimony and documents the inability, or unwillingness of the Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office with whom Mrs. Chastant’s father had worked as a Louisiana State Trooper before his retirement, to conduct a thorough investigation of this brutal crime.



This is **Tom Aswell’s** fifth book, including *Louisiana Rocks*. A Ruston, LA native, he is a veteran newspaper reporter, an editor, and currently publishes the acclaimed blog *LouisianaVoice* about state politics. He has won various awards for his investigative reporting.



US \$17.95



