Firstly, I would like to congratulate Anna on the amazing job she did putting this story together. Absolutely incredible.

Of course, this wouldn’t have been possible without the help from these amazing people who were very giving of their time and couldn’t have been more helpful: Jane Carson-Sandler, Michelle Cruz, Debbi Domingo, Patti, Erika Hutchcraft, Paul Holes, Richard Shelby, Larry Crompton and Carol Daly.

A massive thank you to Mike who did a fantastic job producing this and also to Andrew for his music score. This series is essentially an audio book—around 80 thousand words—that was written, recorded and produced in just a few months while working other jobs. That would not be possible without an amazing team, and it is an absolute credit to you all.

Thank you to Paulina for producing the detailed maps to help people visualise the story and for creating this incredible magazine. Usually, the magazines are only available for our Patreon supporters who pledge at the ten dollar level, but as this case is unsolved, we feel getting as much information out to as many people as possible is the way to go.

Thank you to our awesome Patreon supporters, who help keep the show going and who have helped make the creation of this magazine possible.

I couldn’t agree more with the posts on social media I have seen about this case. It is extremely disturbing and almost unfathomable the reign of terror committed by this offender. If it was a movie, I think I’d have a hard time believing it. As I was working on these episodes, I joined many of you in checking the locks on my doors and windows. It is absolutely terrifying, and I can only hope that as each day passes, it is a day closer to him being caught and justice being served.

Debbi Domingo Annie P’land, this is by far the MOST thorough and BEST coverage our case has EVER received. I know it is overwhelming for the listeners. I hope they understand how overwhelming it has been for many of us (the survivors) to LIVE it for 30-40 years. You’re right to present as many details as possible, in hopes someone can help identify him. I AM LEARNING so much more than I have ever known from YOUR terrific research and presentation. Thank you and the rest of the team. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU.
CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY ANNA

PART I – THE EAST AREA RAPIST (1976–1979)

THE EAR ATTACKS
EXAMPLES OF CANALS FOUND NEAR ATTACKED HOUSES
EXAMPLES OF THE AREAS BEHIND ATTACKED HOUSES
10/18/1976 – COMPOSITE
11/04/1976 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "MAN HUNTED AS SUSPECT IN 8 RAPES"
11/08/1976 – COMPOSITE
11/10/1976 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "FEAR GRIPS SERENE NEIGHBORHOODS"
01/19/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "GLENBROOK HOUSEWIFE IS RAPED"
01/22/1977 – COMPOSITE
01/24/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "RAPIST STRIKES AGAIN, 14TH TIME IN 15 MONTHS"
02/07/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS? 15TH ASSAULT"
02/17/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "LURKER SHOOTS YOUTH"
02/16/1977 – COMPOSITE
03/08/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "RAPE MAY BE LINKED TO SERIES"
03/18/1977 – COMPOSITE
03/20/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "RAPIST HITS 17TH VICTIM"
03/20/1977 – SACRAMENTO UNION: "'EAST SIDE RAPIST' SUSPECTED AGAIN"
04/15/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "18TH RAPE VICTIM IN EAST AREA"
JEDEDIAH SMITH MEMORIAL TRAIL CLOSE TO ATTACK #19
05/05/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS 20TH VICTIM IN ORANGEVALE"
05/15/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS 22ND VICTIM AT HOME"
05/17/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS NO. 23 NEXT VICTIMS DIE TONIGHT?"
05/17/1977 – COMPOSITE
05/29/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST HITS SOUTH: VICTIM 24"
05/31/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "STATIC DEVELOPS ON RAPIST PATROL FROM OTHER CBERS"
08/17/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "CLUE TO RAPIST AT LAST?" (AFRAID LETTER)
09/07/1977 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "POLICE CERTAIN EAST AREA RAPIST STRUCK IN STOCKTON"
09/06/1977 – COMPOSITE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/02/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST RETURNS TO DISTRICT, ASSAULTS TEEN-AGED GIRL IN DUPLEX&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;POLICE BELIEVE RAPIST IS TOYING WITH THEM&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>&quot;NEW RAPIST ATTACKS BRING NO BIG CLUES&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01/1977</td>
<td>COMPOSITE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;RAPIST GETS 25TH VICTIM; FOOTHILL FARMS&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/30/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>&quot;COUPLE TERRORIZED BY EAST AREA RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS GIRL,13&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/04/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;NOISE MAY HAVE CURBED EAST RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/04/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;TEEN-AGE BOYS SCARE OFF RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/06/1977</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;FRIDAY'S THREAT LAID TO EAST RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/30/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST RAPIST ASSAULTS TEEN SISTERS&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/04/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;DEPUTIES REPORT NO LEADS IN RANCHO CORDOVA KILLINGS&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;2 SUSPECTED IN SLAYINGS&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/17/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;OFFICERS RETURN TO MURDER SCENE HUNTING FOR CLUES&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/19/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST RAPIST IN STOCKTON&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/16/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST RAPIST KICKS IN DOOR, ATTACKS SITTER IN SOUTH AREA&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/07/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST STRIKES IN MODESTO: $1,500 TAKEN&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/07/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>EAST AREA RAPIST STRIKES IN MODESTO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/22/1978</td>
<td>COMPOSITE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/24/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST'S 35TH ATTACK IN MODESTO&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/27/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;RAPIST CREDITED WITH 2 ATTACKS&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/07/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST HITS DAVIS AGAIN&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/07/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST RETURNS TO DAVIS, ASSAULTS MOTHER&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>&quot;AREA RAPIST STRIKES IN CONCORD&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;TWO CONCORD RAPES IN WEEK ASCRIBED TO EAST AREA RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>&quot;CONCORD GIRDS AGAINST RAPIST BUT NO NEW LEADS REPORTED&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;POLICE SAY MONEY WON'T FIND RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/01/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST IN SAN RAMON?&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/02/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO UNION</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST BLAMED FOR ATTACK&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/07/1978</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;ASSAULT IN SAN RAMON BLAMED ON EAST AREA RAPIST&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10/1978</td>
<td>CONTRA COSTA TIMES</td>
<td>&quot;RAPE'S AFTERMATH RAISES ISSUE OF SUBURBAN SAFETY&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;THE HOMEWORK&quot; PAPERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/06/1979</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO BEE</td>
<td>&quot;EAST AREA RAPIST HITS IN FREMONT&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
06/13/1979 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "DANVILLE WOMAN LATEST VICTIM OF CAPITAL'S EAST AREA RAPIST"

06/26/1979 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS 13-YEAR OLD"
SOME OF THE CARS THOUGHT TO BE USED BY THE EAST AREA RAPIST

PART II – THE ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER (1979–1986)

THE ONS ATTACKS

10/10/1979 – GOLETA VALLEY NEWS: SHERIFF’S BLOTTER: MONDAY/ OCT. 1. FIRST NEWS OF GOLETA ATTACK

12/31/1979 – SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: "GOLETA VALLEY DOCTOR, WOMAN FOUND SLAIN"

01/09/1980 – GOLETA VALLEY NEWS: "NO ARRESTS YET IN DOUBLE MURDER"

02/16/1980 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "LINK TO EAST AREA RAPIST PROBED IN COUPLES' SLAYING"

03/13/1980 – SACRAMENTO BEE: "POLICE DEBATE TIE BETWEEN EAST AREA RAPIST KILLINGS"

03/17/1980 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: "LAWYER, WIFE FOUND SLAIN IN VENTURA HOME"

03/17/1980 – SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: "LAWYER, WIFE FOUND SLAIN IN VENTURA HOME"

03/18/1980 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: "POLICE MUM ABOUT LEADS IN SLAYING OF LAWYER, WIFE"

03/19/1980 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: "SMITHS WERE SLAIN AS THEY SLEPT"

03/22/1980 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: "SMITHS EULOGIZED, 350 ATTEND SERVICES FOR SLAIN COUPLE"

04/09/1980 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: "SMITH MURDER CASE: NO LEADS, NO SUSPECTS, NOTHING"

08/02/1981 – LOS ANGELES TIMES: "'NIGHT STALKER' THEORY CONNECTING EIGHT SOUTHLAND SLAYINGS DISPUTED"
PART III – FURTHER ARTICLES (1986–2016)

03/17/1988 – SACRAMENTO BEE: “CASE NOT CLOSED”

03/27/1988 – SACRAMENTO BEE: “STORY ON RAPIST ANGERS SOME”

03/21/1993 – SACRAMENTO BEE: “‘EAR’ STILL AT LARGE 70S RAPE CASES VEX RETIRING DETECTIVE”

10/01/2000 – ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER: “DNA MAY POINT TO SERIAL KILLER IN THE AREA. CRIME: ORANGE COUNTY DETECTIVES BELIEVE ONE PSYCHOPATH KILLED AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE, BEGINNING IN 1979”


10/03/2000 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “SERIAL KILLER HAS AREA LINK”

10/03/2000 – LOS ANGELES TIMES: “CALIFORNIA AND THE WEST; DNA TESTS LINK SLAYINGS IN 3 COUNTIES”

10/03/2000 – SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “SERIAL LINK EXPLORED IN OLD MURDERS: GOLETA, ORANGE COUNTY CASES SIMILAR”

10/05/2000 – LOS ANGELES TIMES: “HOPE, PAIN FOR MURDER VICTIMS’ FAMILIES; CRIME: LOVED ONES RESPOND AS DNA EVIDENCE REVIVES PROBE OF O.C. SERIAL KILLINGS DATING BACK 20 YEARS”

10/08/2000 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “DNA FINDINGS THROW NEW LIGHT ON OLD CASE”

04/04/2001 – SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: “DNA LINKS ’70S RAPES TO SERIAL SLAYING CASES UNKNOWN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA KILLER WAS ‘EAST AREA RAPIST’”

04/04/2001 – ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER: “RAPIST LINKED TO O.C. KILLINGS CRIME 23-YEAR-OLD DNA EVIDENCE FROM THREE BAY AREA ASSAULTS COULD HELP SOLVE SIX HOMICIDES INVESTIGATED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES”

04/05/2001 – SACRAMENTO BEE: “NEW LEAD FOUND IN SERIAL RAPE CASES AFTER DECADES, DNA LINKS THE EAST AREA RAPIST TO CRIMES IN ORANGE COUNTY”

05/24/2001 – SACRAMENTO BEE: “NEW HOPE IN HUNT FOR RAPIST”

02/14/2002 – KCBS LOS ANGELES: “TO CATCH A KILLER: A CBS 2 SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT”


04/28/2002 – SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “DNA LEGISLATION LINKED TO LOCAL KILLINGS ‘CORNFED’ SCHNEIDER’S REFUSAL TO GIVE SAMPLE SPAWNS BILL”

07/03/2002 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “DNA TESTS CLEAR CONVICT IN VENTURA KILLINGS: PAUL SCHNEIDER DIDN’T KILL ATTORNEY LYMAN SMITH, WIFE”


12/08/2002 – SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “ELUSIVE BEDROOM KILLER HAUNTS DETECTIVE. EX-PRIVATE EYE TAKES NEW LOOK AT GOLETA SLAYINGS”

03/10/2003 – KNBC LOS ANGELES: “ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER: SUSPECT BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR STRING OF ATTACKS”

03/04/2004 – VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “DECADES-OLD COLD CASE CATCHES FIRE”

10/01/2006 – REDDING RECORD SEARCHLIGHT: “KILLER LINKED TO AREA: INVESTIGATOR FOLLOWS SERIAL RAPIST’S TRAIL TO SHASTA COUNTY, RAY CASE”


02/08/2007 – VISALIA TIMES-DELTA: “RETIRED OFFICER LOOKING TO SOLVE 1975 COLD CASE: ‘RANSACKER’ LINKED TO MURDER, MULTIPLE CRIMES”

09/07/2013 – KSBY SANTA BARBARA: “SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE GETS NEW LEAD ON 1981 HOMICIDE CASE”

09/08/2013 – CBS SACRAMENTO: “NEW EVIDENCE IN ‘70S EAST AREA RAPIST CASE COULD LEAD TO POSSIBLE SUSPECT ARREST”


09/13/2013 – OC REGISTER: “ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER: COULD O.C. CLUES LEAD TO KILLER?”

09/21/2013 – SACRAMENTO BEE: “INVESTIGATORS EXPLORE NEW LEADS IN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY EAST AREA RAPIST”

07/15/2016 – FBI: “COLD CASE KILLER. HELP US CATCH THE EAST AREA RAPIST”

SPECIAL THANKS
SPONSORS
SUPPORT CASEFILE
From the moment I spoke to Michelle Cruz—the sister of Janelle, the last known victim—on the telephone earlier this year, I knew without a doubt that we would be doing a multi-part series on this case.

Most of you reading this would now know, this case has never had the exposure it needed. There are great resources out there, amazing websites, forums, books, survivor statements and historical news articles. There are other podcasts and online interviews, forty years of information – but nowhere was there a complete account of this case that people could immerse themselves in without gathering all the info from different places.

To chronicle this story, we felt that we needed to give a voice to every person. Every survivor’s story was just as important as the next. Survivor 1, 5, 35, 45 – they all deserved to have their story told, and if the one tiny detail of one of those stories, triggered a memory in someone today and a tip was called in, then that detail was worth telling.

For those who felt the magnitude of attack after attack, the repetitiveness, the tiring details, like banging your head against a wall, you were not alone. This gave you a taste of how it felt to be inside the investigation. Thank you to each one of you who stuck with this story through those times, thank you for showing your support to all those who lived through this by listening to their stories.

This was the first case I have ever researched that I have been truly scared. I couldn’t work on this story after dark, I couldn’t be alone, and I have never checked my locks so many times. The terror and fear that you felt as listeners was real. You heard first hand how it felt to literally not be safe in your own home. These people had locks, they had dogs, they had guns – but none of that mattered.

This case changed people, and it continues to change people. By talking to people like detectives Richard Shelby, Larry Crompton and Carol Daly and hearing the stories of Detective Larry Pool, I knew that this case changed their lives, they didn’t even have to say it. Their dedication and the dedication of the new wave of investigators like Paul Holes and Erika Hutchcraft showed me the true meaning of perseverance. They inspire those like Jane, Debbi and Michelle, left behind in the wake who speak on behalf of the countless silent survivors giving them a fighting chance at a resolution.
In mid-1976, the Sacramento Sheriff’s Office responded to a break-in which had resulted in the rape of a young woman, and within six months there were nine other similar attacks. Another year later, police were no closer to catching the attacker who was by then known to the frightened community as The East Area Rapist. As 1977 drew to a close, he had attacked 28 times. By then he had threatened to kill his next victims, and no one had any idea who would be next. The Sheriff’s Office was dealing with a tidal wave of panic which had washed over the city and by 1978, the task force predicted he would move out to other areas – and he did.
### THE EAR ATTACKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>06/18/76</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4:00 am</td>
<td>Paseo Drive, Rancho Cordova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>07/17/76</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>2:00 am</td>
<td>Marlborough Way, Del Dayo, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>08/29/76</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>3:20 am</td>
<td>Malaga Way, Rancho Cordova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>09/04/76</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:30 pm</td>
<td>Crestview Drive, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/05/76</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6:45 am</td>
<td>Woodpark Way, Citrus Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/09/76</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>4:30 am</td>
<td>El Segundo, Rancho Cordova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/18/76</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2:30 am</td>
<td>Kipling Drive, Del Dayo, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/18/76</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:00 pm</td>
<td>Los Palos, Rancho Cordova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11/10/76</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Greenleaf Drive, Citrus Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12/18/76</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:30 pm</td>
<td>Lader Way, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>01/19/77</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1:00 am</td>
<td>Glenville Circle, Glenbrook/College Greens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>01/24/77</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3:00 am</td>
<td>Primrose Drive, Citrus Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>02/07/77</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6:45 am</td>
<td>Heathcliff Drive, Citrus Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>03/08/77</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:00 am</td>
<td>Thornwood Drive, Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>03/18/77</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:45 pm</td>
<td>Benny Way, Rancho Cordova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>04/02/77</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:20 am</td>
<td>Richdale Way, Orangevale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>04/15/77</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2:30 am</td>
<td>Cherrelyn Way, Crestview, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>05/03/77</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3:00 am</td>
<td>La Riviera Drive, Glenbrook/College Greens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>05/05/77</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12:15 am</td>
<td>Winterbrook Way, Orangevale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>05/14/77</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>3:45 am</td>
<td>Merlingdale Drive, Citrus Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>05/17/77</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1:30 am</td>
<td>Sand Bar Circle, Del Dayo, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>05/28/77</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:00 am</td>
<td>Fourth Parkway, South Area, Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>09/06/77</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3:00 am</td>
<td>Lincoln Village West, North Stockton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>10/01/77</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:30 am</td>
<td>La Riviera &amp; Toulomne Drive, Glenbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>10/21/77</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3:00 am</td>
<td>Gold Run Avenue, Elkhorn Blvd, Antelope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>10/29/77</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1:45 am</td>
<td>Woodson Avenue, Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>11/10/77</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3:00 am</td>
<td>La Riviera Drive near Watt Avenue, Glenbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>12/02/77</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11:30 pm</td>
<td>Revelstok Drive, Foothill Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>01/28/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:15 pm</td>
<td>College View Way, Carmichael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>02/02/78</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td>** Brian and Katie Maggiore murdered **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>03/18/78</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:05 am</td>
<td>Meadow Avenue, Stockton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>04/14/78</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Piedmont Drive, South Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>06/05/78</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3:50 am</td>
<td>Fuschia Lane, North East Modesto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>06/07/78</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 am</td>
<td>Wake Forest Drive, Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>06/23/78</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1:30 am</td>
<td>Grand Prix Drive, North East Modesto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>06/24/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Rivendell Lane, Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>07/06/78</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3:00 am</td>
<td>Wake Forest Drive, Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>10/07/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>2:30 am</td>
<td>Belann Court, Concord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>10/13/78</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4:30 am</td>
<td>Ryan Court, Concord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>10/28/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>4:30 am</td>
<td>Montclare Place, San Ramon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>11/04/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:30 am</td>
<td>Havenwood Drive, San Jose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>12/02/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>4:30 am</td>
<td>Kersey Lane, San Jose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>12/09/78</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>2:00 am</td>
<td>Liberta Ct, Danville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>04/05/79</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:00 am</td>
<td>Honda Way, Fremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>06/02/79</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:30 pm</td>
<td>El Divisadero, Walnut Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>06/11/79</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4:00 am</td>
<td>Allegheny Drive, Danville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>06/25/79</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2–3:00 am</td>
<td>San Pedro Court, Walnut Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>07/05/79</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3:45 am</td>
<td>Sycamore Hill Court, Danville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXAMPLES OF CANALS FOUND NEAR ATTACKED HOUSES

Photo credit: Bill Harticon
EXAMPLES OF THE AREAS BEHIND ATTACKED HOUSES

Photo credit: Bill Harticon
10/18/1976

COMPOSITE

A composite of a suspicious man in Carmichael associated with Attack #7.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
**11/04/1976**

**SACRAMENTO BEE: “MAN HUNTED AS Suspect IN 8 RAPES”**

First newspaper article about the rapist.

Man Hunted As Suspect In 8 Rapes

By WARREN HOLLOWAY

Bee Staff Writer

Sheriff's detectives today disclosed an extensive hunt has been under way for a man who has attacked and raped eight women the past year in areas east of Sacramento.

Inspector Richard Shelby today said the same man is believed to have raped four women in Rancho Cordova, two in Del Dayo and two in the Crestview area.

He said the first case occurred in October last year. He said the man did not strike again until June. Four of the attacks were last month.

Shelby said the man also is believed responsible for a case in which a woman was molested and another in which a rape attempt was thwarted.

The sheriff's department has requested the rape cases be included in the Bee's Secret Witness program.

A reward of $2,200 is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the rapist. Informants need not identify themselves. They are asked to telephone the private Secret Witness number, 442-6221, or to write, using instructions published on Wednesdays.

Sheriff's officials previously had asked the news media to hold back on reporting the case, saying publicity would ruin any stakeouts aimed at capturing the suspect.

But the series of rapes came to light last night at a Del Dayo Parents Club meeting at Del Dayo School. The meeting conducted by deputies was to have been on crime prevention in general but the series of rapes was disclosed after questions about rumored rapes from some of the 500 persons attending.

Shelby said the suspect is white, has a pale complexion, may be between 5-6 feet, 8-inches to 6-feet tall, of a medium build, 25 to 35 years old and has dark hair which hangs over his ears to his collar.

The attacks have been committed between 11 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. He frequently commits repeated attacks on individual victims over a period of three hours. He has entered homes through a window.

Investigators describe him as a "craziest" type who finds out if a husband is home.

He has worn a mask, but descriptions are vague as to what kind. He has worn military type boots and black tennis shoes. His weapons have included a revolver, knife, a stick and a club.

He has cut and beaten his victims, but none severely.
11/08/1976

COMPOSITE

Composite made just as news articles about EAR started to appear.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
Sacramento Bee: "Fear Grips Serene Neighborhoods"

By BRIE YANG

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 2 (AP) -- The city is in a state of shock. The Wednesday night attack on a woman near her home, and her husband's, sparked fear throughout the city. The attack was the fourth in a series of violent crimes that have震惊ed the community.

The victims were all joggers, all women, and all strangers. The attacker, a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt, followed them as they ran, then struck them with a weapon.

"I was just running my route, like I do every day," said one of the victims. "And then suddenly, out of nowhere, this man appeared. He was wearing a mask, and I couldn't see his face. He just attacked me without warning.

The community is in shock. People are talking about it on the streets, on social media, and in the local newspapers. They want answers, they want justice.

"We need to catch this man," said one resident. "We deserve a safe community."

The police are working hard to solve the case. They have interviewed witnesses, reviewed surveillance footage, and are following up on leads.

"We're doing everything we can to catch this person," said Detective Johnson. "We know it's out there, we just need someone to step forward and help us.

The community is coming together. They're meeting at parks, in community centers, anything they can think of. They're offering support, offering to help in any way they can.

"We're all in this together," said one resident. "We're going to catch this person, we're going to make our community safe again.

The police are asking anyone with information to come forward. They are offering a reward for information leading to an arrest.

"We need your help," said Detective Johnson. "If you have any information, please call us.

The community is strong, the community is resilient. We will catch this person, we will make our community safe again.

"We're in this together," said one resident. "We're going to catch this person, we're going to make our community safe again.

The police are working hard, the community is coming together. We will catch this person, we will make our community safe again.
01/19/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “GLENBROOK HOUSEWIFE IS RAPED”

A 25-year-old Glenbrook area housewife was raped early today by a man police think is the so-called east area rapist believed responsible for 10 attacks in the past year.

Police Sgt. Ray Bryers said the man forced his way into the woman’s home, shortly before 4 a.m., raped her and then stole her car to make his escape.

The victim’s husband was not at home at the time.

Bryers said the man was armed, wore a mask and tied the woman up before raping her. The attack was similar to others by a man authorities call the east area rapist, who is suspected of raping eight women and attempting to rape two others over the past year.

“We are looking hard at the possibility it is the same man,” said Bryers.

He said police are searching for the woman’s car, described as a 1970 Chevrolet Malibu, white with a black roof, two-door sedan, license plate number 938 856.

The rapist has been described as white between 5 feet, 8 inches tall and 5 feet tall, 25 to 35 years of age, clean with dark, neatly cut hair and a medium build.

Photo credit: Bill Harticon
01/22/1977

COMPOSITE

Composite made of the suspicious man two days before the Attack #12.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
01/24/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “RAPIST STRIKES AGAIN, 14TH TIME IN 15 MONTHS”

Rapist Strikes Again,
14th Time In 15 Months

The so-called “east area rapist” attacked and raped a young woman resident of the Madison Avenue-Sunrise Boulevard area early today in the 14th assault attributed to the rapist in the last 15 months.

“It was exactly the same as all the rest,” said a sheriff’s detective.

Officers said the rapist gained entrance to the 25-year-old woman’s home shortly after midnight, bound her with rope and raped her “several times.”

The woman told officers she was asleep when the man entered her home, apparently through an unlocked door. Because it was dark, she was not able to provide a full description of her attacker.

However, she did say he threatened her with a weapon. She also said he wore gloves — as the suspect has in most of the other attacks in the east area of the county and city dating back to October 1975.

Officers said the victim is separated from her husband and was home alone. In the other attacks, the rapist always has struck when the women, most of them married, were alone in the early morning hours.

It was second attack by the man within a week. Last Wednesday morning a rapist forced his way into the home of a pregnant woman in the Glenbrook area of the city, near 50 and Watt Avenue and attacked her.

The other attacks were in the residential areas adjacent to the city in Del Days, Carmichael and Rancho Cordova.

Sheriff’s officials have assigned the detectives to the investigation full-time. City police have three detectives working full-time on the case.

Following the assault in the city last week, police and sheriff’s detectives met to coordinate the search.

According to Brown, “Thor” said he would not be a legislative remedy. It was power within an office accountable to me. To stop politicians like Dow’s.

Sen. John Holmdahl, Valley, said he joined Cosono the State’s Economy will houses, including Dow’s manager, Brown’s plant research director and rep of the State Area Air Police District and several state ag.

According to Davis, “We did all we could do consistent with the site. ‘Designate Industries’ should be dispersed all over boards and commissions as they used to review that the public participate in the review.”

Davis said, “We did all we could do consistent with the policy.”

Continued From Page 1A
always has struck between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Detective say there are indications some of the victims’ homes were watched before the attacks.

In most cases, the man has entered the houses through unlocked windows. He usually blindfolds and ties up his victims, making it difficult to get a good description. In some of the attacks he has worn a ski mask.

According to Brown, “The site” is not a legislative remedy. It was power within an office accountable to me. To stop politicians like Dow’s.

Sen. John Holmdahl, Valley, said he joined Cosono the State’s Economy will houses, including Dow’s manager, Brown’s plant research director and rep of the State Area Air Police District and several state ag.

According to Davis, “We did all we could do consistent with the site. ‘Designate Industries’ should be dispersed all over boards and commissions as they used to review that the public participate in the review.”

Davis said, “We did all we could do consistent with the policy.”

Continued From Page 1A
always has struck between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Detective say there are indications some of the victims’ homes were watched before the attacks.

In most cases, the man has entered the houses through unlocked windows. He usually blindfolds and ties up his victims, making it difficult to get a good description. In some of the attacks he has worn a ski mask.
02/07/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS? 15TH ASSAULT”

A housewife was attacked and raped early today at her home near Crestview Drive and Madison Avenue in what authorities say could be the 15th assault in the past 15 months by the east area rapist. “The method of operation is similar to the east area rapist,” said sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller. However, Miller said that because of the continuing investigation into the rash of attacks no other possible evidence linking the east area rapist to the latest incident would be released.

The woman, in her early 30s, told police a man entered her home shortly after her husband left for work at 6:45 a.m. He bound her hands and feet with strips of cloth and raped her, officers said. He left the house at about 8 a.m.

The woman was alone at the time. Authorities said the man wore a mask and gloves. In the 14 attacks attributed to the east area rapist, the man wore a mask and gloves.

Officers said the woman, still bound, was able to crawl out of the house. Her screams were heard by neighbors who found her at about 8:30 a.m.

The man was described as white, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-9 and about 150 pounds — the same general description of the east area rapist. Last Thursday officers arrested William Paul Boren, 24, of Fair Oaks in what they earlier called the 15th attack by the east area rapist. However, authorities later said that alleged attack apparently was a “copy cat.”

In that incident, a woman in her 20s was assaulted in her home in Orangevale last Monday.

The attacks attributed to the east
02/17/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “LURKER SHOOTS YOUTH”

---

A prowler shot and seriously wounded an 18-year-old youth who was chasing him in a residential neighborhood in Oak Park at 10:30 o’clock last night.

Rodney Richard Miller, who lives on Ripon Court, was in critical condition when he was admitted to Sutter Memorial Hospital. He was shot in the abdomen.

A hospital aide today advised Detective Jay Pane that the youth emerged from surgery in a stable and alert condition.

The prowler, described only as male, white and long-haired, escaped despite a police cordon on the neighborhood.

---

Photo credit: Bill Harticon
02/16/1977

**COMPOSITE**

Composites of the shooter in Ripon Court, Sacramento.

Re bottom pic: This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
03/08/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “RAPE MAY BE LINKED TO SERIES”

Rape May Be Linked To Series

A 37-year-old woman was tied up and raped in her home early this morning, and Sacramento County sheriff’s deputies are investigating. The possibility it may be the 15th attack by the so-called east area rapist.

“Generally (method of operation) is the same,” as the east area rapist, said sheriff’s department spokesman Bill Miller.

The woman, who was alone in her home east of Watt Avenue, between Robertson and Whitney Avenues, and

See Back Page, All Col. 4

Rape

Continued From Page A1

she was asleep when she was attacked and never saw the rapist. She said he approached her, and said she was a boy, which is similar to methods used by other rapists.

She believes she was attacked around 3:00 am, although she was not there. The next area rapist also stayed at his victim’s homes for several hours.

After he left, the woman managed to get off and seek help. Officers said they heard her and helped her into the sheriff’s department around 4:45 am.

Miller said the rapist apparently entered the house by forcing open a sliding glass window. Miller said the victim was assaulted from her husband and had been a child, who was staying in a nearby house. The east area rapist has never attacked while there was a man in the house, although occasionally there have been children.

The last previous attack attributed to the east area rapist occurred Feb. 7 in Citrus Heights. He has raped and attempted to rape at least one other on the eastern side of Sacramento, Glencoe and Rancho Cordova areas.

He has been described as being between 20 and 25 years of age, white, standing between 5 feet 6 inches and 4 feet 10 inches tall, clean shaven, with dark, curly hair and of medium build.

His suspects have been widow of a man who had a car accident in Citrus Heights. The victim was found in the car and the suspect was described as having a German accent.

Sacramento Bee: “Rape May Be Linked to Series”
Composites made of the EAR based on the victim statement from Attack #15.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
03/20/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “RAPIST HITS 17TH VICTIM”

The house by forcing a door from a garage entrance. They said he took several items from the house, but they would not disclose what they were.

The rape was the first one attributed to the east area rapist since March 8 when a 37-year-old woman was attacked in her home east of Watt Avenue. The rapes began in October 1976. Sixteen other women have been assaulted in the Carmichael, Glenbrook, Del Dayo and Rancho Cordova areas.

The rapist has been described as being 25 to 35 years of age, white, between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet tall, clean shaven, with dark, neatly cut hair.

The attacks have occurred between 10:45 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. and the victims have ranged in age from 16 to the late 30s. He has never attacked while there was a man in the home, although occasionally there have been children.
03/20/1977

SACRAMENTO UNION: “‘EAST SIDE RAPIST’ SUSPECTED AGAIN”
1977

04/15/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “18TH RAPE VICTIM IN EAST AREA”

The east area rapist early today attacked his 18th victim—a 19-year-old woman who was raped in her home near Madison and Manzanita Avenues.

The woman was assaulted between 2:30 and 4 a.m. and called Sacramento County Sheriff’s officers shortly afterwards, said spokesman Bill Miller.

Miller would not otherwise detail the early morning rape. “It’s the same M.O. (method of operation) as the others,” he said.

The rapist forced his way into the woman’s house, but Miller refused to say what kind of force was used or where the entry was made.

In the other 17 rapes attributed to the east area rapist since October 1975, the victims have been attacked between 10:45 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. by a masked or hooded man who forced his way into their homes.

The rapist has tied and gagged his victims before sexually assaulting them. He has never attacked while there was a man in the home, although he has raped some of his victims with children present. The women have ranged in age from 18 to late 30s.

Six of the rapes have occurred in a relatively small area between Folsom Boulevard and the American River, north of Watt Avenue. All have been in the Carmichael, Glenbrook, Del Dayo and Rancho Cordova areas.
JEDEDIAH SMITH MEMORIAL TRAIL CLOSE TO ATTACK #19

Photo credit: Bill Hartica
05/05/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: "EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS 20TH VICTIM IN ORANGEVALE"

---

"The east area rapist attacked his 20th victim early today after confronting a couple at an Orangevale driveway at gunpoint and ordering them back into the woman's house. Sacramento County sheriff's deputies said:

"The victim, wearing a ski mask, tied up the couple, and then raped the woman and removed her diamond ring, said sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller.

"The rapist stopped the couple in the driveway of the woman's house, in the vicinity of Madison and Main Avenues, and at 12:15 a.m., deputies said. He remained in the house until about 7 a.m.

"It was only the second time in the 18-month series of rapes that the victim had been confronted outside their home. Miller said. "It was the third time incubus had been confronted by the rapist before.""

"The east area rapist's last attack was less than 24 hours earlier, when he awakened a couple in their Glenbrook-College Greens area home about 3 a.m. tied them up, raped the woman and ordered them to leave the residence for about two hours.

"The rapist did not scare away two young children who slept through the Tuesday morning ordeal, deputies said. He has confronted several other couples in the past, however, and has tied, bludgeoned and gagged them before raping their mothers."

"It was the same rapist, Miller said. "It was the same rapist that was the same rapist."

"Miller would not say specifically how investigators were coming to the same conclusion."

"The same rapist."

"We need to keep the public in the dark."

"The same rapist."

"The same rapist."

"We need to keep the public in the dark."

"The same rapist."

"We need to keep the public in the dark."

---

"Rape" continued from Page A1

"Rape, continued from Page A1."

"Rape, continued from Page A1."

"Rape, continued from Page A1."

---

"Energy Official's New Testimony"

BY JEFF RAIMUNDO

Eagle's chief investigator, one of the leading experts in the field of energy conservation, testifies about the new testing methods used in the case. He discusses the significance of the tests and how they were conducted, providing new insights into the case.
05/15/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS 22ND VICTIM AT HOME”

---

East Area Rapist Attacks
22nd Victim At Home

By MEL ASSAGAI
Bee Staff Writer

The east area rapist attacked his 22nd victim early Saturday morning when he confronted a couple in their bedroom at gunpoint. Sacramento County Sheriff’s officials said Saturday.

The rapist, wearing a ski mask and armed with a large caliber gun, apparently entered the home through a sliding glass window. He stayed in the home, located in the vicinity of Greenback Lane and Birdcage Street, from about 4 a.m. to 5:15 a.m., said sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller.

Miller said the rapist, as on other occasions, tied the husband, then raped his wife, a woman in her early 20s. He also followed his normal pattern of ransacking their home. The couple has no children.

Miller said the case is counted as the 22nd because a rape that occurred April 2, in the vicinity of Madison and Main, which had not been classified as the work of the east area rapist, has since been attributed to him.

Miller said the April 2nd rape wasn’t initially considered one of the east area rapist’s jobs because a man was in the home at the time. Since then, however, the east area rapist has committed various kinds of sex perversion on his victims, Miller said.

Miller said the sheriff’s department has a large number of officers assigned to the case, but declined to reveal investigators’ strategy or where they are deployed.

---

Continued From Page A1

Rapist has, struck several times while husbands were at home.

“We just weren’t sure at first it was the same guy because of the different MO (method of operation),” Miller said.

Before Saturday morning’s attack, the east area rapist last appeared in Orangevale where he confronted a couple in a driveway May 5 and ordered them back into the woman’s house. He then tied them, raped the woman and ransacked the house.

His first recorded attack was in October 1975, and for sometime thereafter he generally preyed upon women who were alone. Many of them were married women whose husbands were away for the night, detectives said.

Miller said the rapist, a skilled burglar, has invaded homes with children present and has sometimes awakened the children and bound them and other times has left them alone.

He has committed various kinds of sex perversion on his victims, Miller said.

Miller said the sheriff’s department has a large number of officers assigned to the case, but declined to reveal investigators’ strategy or where they are deployed.
05/17/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS NO. 23 NEXT VICTIMS DIE TONIGHT?”

Sacramento Bee: "East Area Rapist Attacks No. 23"

The East Area Rapist, a serial predator who has been terrorizing the Sacramento area for months, struck again last night, leaving two women dead and another seriously injured.

According to police, the attacker entered the house of a woman at 3:00 a.m. and demanded money. When the victim refused, the attacker killed her and fled.

The attack is the latest in a string of similar incidents, all of which have occurred in the early hours of the morning. The rapist has been described as a white male, between the ages of 30 and 35, with a thin build and short hair.

The rapist is believed to be a psychopath, and authorities are warning residents to stay home at night and keep their windows locked.

The Sacramento Police Department is offering a $10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the rapist.

Byline: Joe Smith

See Next Page, A5, Col. 1

**continued from page A1**

probability remains high, and an analysis of the rapist’s methods suggests that he may have a specific target in mind.

The psychological profile indicates the rapist is likely motivated by a desire for notoriety and to gain control over women.

According to detectives, the rapist is a loner and has no known criminal history.

The rapist is described as being between 5’8” and 6’0”, weighing between 150 and 180 pounds, with short dark hair and a lean build.

The rapist is believed to be driving a dark-colored sedan, possibly a Honda or Toyota.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact the Sacramento Police Department at 911.

Byline: Joe Smith

See Next Page, A5, Col. 1
05/17/1977

COMPOSITE

Composite made of a prowler seen near American River College a few hours after Attack #21.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
Sacramento Bee: “East Area Rapist Hits South: Victim 24”

By Ted Bell
Bee Staff Writer

The masked rapist who has terrorized Sacramento city and county neighborhoods for the past 19 months struck for the 24th time early Saturday morning and for the first time his attack occurred outside of the east residential area.

The rape occurred inside a single-family home in the Sky Parkway area in the southern residential portion of the county. (Sky Parkway is located east of Highway 99 and north of Florin Road.) All previous attacks have been north of Folsom Boulevard and east of Howe Avenue.

Sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller said the rapist entered the house during the early morning hours after forcing his way through a sliding glass door. He then made his way into a bedroom where his 28-year-old victim and her husband were sleeping.

The intruder forced the woman to tie up her husband and then took her into another room where the rape was committed.

The couple’s young child was asleep in a separate room and did not awaken until after the rapist left the home shortly after 4 a.m. The couple told deputies that the man was in the home for at least one and a half hours.

The rapist wore a ski mask and brandished a gun.

Miller said the rapist did not beat his victim but would not disclose what.

See Back Page A1, Col. 4

Continued From Page A1

the rapist said during the attack.

During his last reported rape on May 17 in the Del Dayo area, the rapist threatened to kill his next two victims.

Miller said sheriff’s deputies were convinced that Saturday’s intruder was the east area rapist and not an imitator because “there are a lot of things about the rapist” that are not publicly known and thus would not be known to an imitator.

Why did the rapist move south?

“Possibly, it could have been due to all the publicity the EARS Patrol has been receiving,” Miller said.

The EARS (East Area Rapist Surveillance) Patrol is a group of more than 100 Sacramento residents with citizen band radios that has been cruising the east area at night since last Thursday.

EARS Chairman Ed Nannini said Saturday that up to 75 members of his group were patrolling Friday night.

Nannini said that the total reward for information leading to the capture of the rapist has been increased to $30,000 and issued an appeal for more volunteers with base and mobile citizen band radio units.

The sheriff’s office has increased patrols using cars and helicopters and has been allocated $100,000 for overtime pay in the search.

A sheriff’s spokesman said Saturday night that some extra manpower would be shifted south as a result of the latest attack. Besides the authorized overtime duty, the spokesman said, many deputies are donating their time for added patrols, and some California Highway Patrol officers have volunteered their time. City police are also working on special details.

The rapist has been described as white, between 20 and 30 years old. Fear of the man has touched off increased sales of guns, guard dogs and alarm systems throughout the area.
SACRAMENTO BEE: “STATIC DEVELOPS ON RAPIST PATROL FROM OTHER CBERS”

Static Develops
On Rapist Patrol
From Other CBers

Leaders of organized citizens band radio clubs today criticized East Area Rapist Surveillance (EARS) for not involving volunteers from the CB clubs. The incident occurred in a neighborhood where a rape was reported.

Hal Smith, spokesman for one of Sacramento’s largest CB radio clubs, said the organized CB groups are “catching the flak of apparent public resentment against EARS.”

“We want the public to know that organized CB clubs are not taking part in this. We are not involved.”

Smith, who operates a CB radio shop in the north area, is president of Born Losers, a CB group which, he said, has about 150 members.

“I’m terrified of someone going to get shot,” Smith said, citing a Texas incident in which an argument between two CB operators ended in a killing.

Some CB club members have been threatened, booted and have had their cars pelted with eggs, Smith said.

“A $30,000 reward will make a head hunter out of anybody,” he added, “but the words ‘vigilante’ and ‘head hunter’ have been used.

“Some people get awfully brave hiding behind a microphone and they say things they think they will never hear about again. And then, the first thing you know someone is sticking a gun in their face.”

Smith and Marvin Greenstein, president of the Cobra CB Club and an EARS lookout, both criticized EARS as being “a loosely organized effort without method” that is “getting in the way” of law enforcement officers.

“We all feel that CBers shouldn’t be out there,” Greenstein said. “We are not trained to do ‘the job’ and somebody is going to get hurt.

“Mainly we want the public to know the organized CB clubs are not involved. It’s an individual effort.”

Smith said he knows of only two members of Born Losers who have joined the EARS patrol.

But EARS chairman Ed Nannini denied the assertions, saying, “We have many CB club members as well as law enforcement officers who have joined the search for the rapist.

“We are organized,” he said. “We have a game plan coordinated with the sheriff’s office and we have been briefed on what to do.”

Nannini said EARS has scheduled a press conference Wednesday to explain its operation.

“I don’t want to get in a tug of war with this guy (Smith). We need the CB clubs.”

The attacker, tagged the east area rapist because his previous attacks on women occurred in that section of the county, shifted to the south area for his 24th attack Saturday morning.

Sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller said EARS has supplied the sheriff’s office with about 200 tips, all of them nonproductive.

Miller said the sheriff’s office has received no complaints about “vigilantes, either from citizens, other CBers or sheriff’s deputies.”

“A run-in with the patrol itself,” he said, “there’s been nothing of value. We neither support nor oppose it.”

Miller also discounted any connection between the south area rape and the location of the office of Dr. James W. Gilmartin, a dentist who posted a $10,000 reward and organized EARS.

Miller said the location of the rape incident in Sky Parkway was “several blocks” from Gilmartin’s office and there was “no direct route between the two.” An earlier report said the rape occurred one block from Gilmartin’s office.
The Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department is asking a letter writer who signed himself “Afraid”, to call the detective bureau to elaborate on inside information about the East Area Rapist.

It could prove to be the first break in a case that has stumped dozens of investigators since the ski-masked rapist began his attacks nearly two years ago.

“We’ve been given information, possibly valuable information,” said sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller, “in a well-written typed letter. It’s not from a kook.”

The information, which Miller indicated could only be known by someone familiar with details of the case that are not generally known to the public, “gives no clue to the identity of the suspect”. We assumed the letter-writer knows the person he or she is writing about.

Our detectives want to talk to ‘Afraid’ Miller said, adding that ‘Afraid’ wrote that if detectives wanted more information, “you should indicate you do in The Sacramento Union or other local media.”

Miller emphasized that the information may not necessarily mean a break in the case. “We’re not sure of the information. It requires contacting all of the victims and taking time to check things out.

“But there is a statement in the letter of something that the letter-writer is aware of that is very, very interesting,” Miller said.

Miller said that informants can be guaranteed anonymity and urged ‘Afraid’ to call the detective bureau, 443-3441.

The man known as the East Area Rapist began his string of 24 unsolved known attacks on Oct 21, 1975. All but two of the rapes have been in the county, and until the last attack on May 28, the rapist concentrated in a huge 70 square-mile section of the east area, encompassing the communities of Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Orangevale, Carmichael and the Del Dayo. Glenbrook and College Greens neighbourhoods.

On May 28, the rapist, who had earlier broken and established pattern of attacking women alone by beginning to break into homes where men were present, again changed his method of operation and struck in the south area. He has not struck since May 28, the longest since the first few attacks.

More than $30,000 in rewards have been offered, and police and sheriff’s detectives have sifted through thousands of calls, followed up hundreds of leads and interviewed several dozen potential suspects.
**SACRAMENTO BEE: “POLICE CERTAIN EAST AREA RAPIST STRUCK IN STOCKTON”**

Police Certain East Area Rapist Struck In Stockton

By WAYNE WILSON

Bee Staff Writer

STOCKTON—Police here are certain a sexual assault on a 27-year-old North Stockton housewife was committed by Sacramento’s notorious east area rapist.

“We tried to convince ourselves it was somebody else, but there’s just no way to do it. It’s him,” said Stockton Police Sgt. Andrew E. Jackson Tuesday, after an extensive investigation with four detectives from Sacramento.

Sgt. Jackson said the method of operation employed by the Stockton rapist early Tuesday was “identical” to that attributed to the east area rapist and added that details of the assault “were absolutely the same” that it was the same man who has assaulted 22 to 24 women in Sacramento County on his previous offenses.

Sacramento authorities were noncommittal.

Sheriff’s spokesman Bill Milby confirmed that two detectives from his department were dispatched to Stockton but refused to discuss the case.

Acting Chief of Police Jerry Finney acknowledged that two detectives went to Stockton Tuesday to interview a woman who had been raped in the east area.

See Page 9, Col. 1

Rapist

Continued From Page 9

Sad class Lincoln Village West

Stockton girls awakened at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday by an intruder who had entered through a sliding glass door, forcing the mother bedroom from the pool area in the defendant.

The man, described as 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-11, wearing a ski-type mask, robbed the people with a light and threatening them with a weapon, a handgun and a knife, Jackson said.

The husband was forced to lie face down and his wife ordered to lie in the bathroom with her face in the toilet bowl if the rapist threatened to kill her.

The woman then was taken to the living room, where she was raped twice during the hour and a half the intruder was in the house.

Jackson said the rapist ransacked the house and took some jewelry and five silver dollars before leaving.

Police were told that after the rape was over, the man took one of the woman’s two children, aged 5 and 6, and cut her bed to go to the bathroom but returned to bed without returning the child to the scene of the incident.

The therapist was given, Sgt. Jackson said, and even his attitude was identical to that of the east area rapist.

The next reported attack by the rapist in Sacramento occurred May 28 in the south end of the city.

The report was made May 28 and police had received reports of 11 attacks since October of 1975, all of which were attributed to the same man.

Two earlier rapes at law, while the “improperly ordered” sexual psychopath were not committed by the same man, detectives said.
09/06/1977
COMPOSITE

Composite based on the EAR’s description given by a six-year old girl from Attack #23.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
10/02/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST RETURNS TO DISTRICT, ASSAULTS TEEN-AGED GIRL IN DUPLEX”

East Area Rapist Returns To District, Assaults Teen-Aged Girl In Duplex

Sacramento sheriff’s investigators say the east area rapist struck Saturday for the first time in this area in four months when he assaulted a 17-year-old girl visiting her boyfriend in his duplex home east of the city limits in the College Green-Rosemont area.
The attack brought to 28 the number of assaults attributed to the elusive rapist in 18 months.
The latest attack occurred 25 days after the same man is believed to have raped a 26-year-old woman in Stockton.
Law enforcement officials here believe the rapist had been driven from Sacramento by civic vigilante patrols and widespread publicity that caused a run on local gun stores and non-security devices.
The suspect entered the duplex in the area of La Riviera and Tuolumne Drive at about 1:30 Saturday morning through either an open sliding glass door or window, according to a spokesman for the Sacramento Police Department.

Wounded SF Police Officer Decoy Dies Despite Surgery

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Police officer Douglas Gibbs, 37, shot in the heart in a Tenderloin decoy operation, died Saturday at San Francisco General Hospital.
Gibbs, a father of three small children and veteran of five years on the force, had been in a coma since he was wounded Monday while trying to take a suspect into custody.
His heart stopped during emergency surgery moments after the shooting, and doctors said he had suffered irreversible brain damage.
Police said Gibbs was serving as a decoy while a plainclothes officer, tagging him as injured, was approached by a man. The man lifted the officer’s wallet and started running.
Gibbs stopped the suspect. While he was searching him, the suspect’s associate approached him and shot him in the chest with a .38-caliber pistol.
The associate was captured by the plainclothes officer. His associate was picked up later.
The case who shot Gibbs was identified as Ramon Salcido, 21, an ex-con with a long criminal record.

Rapist

Continued From Page A1

10/24/11

Miller said there weren’t enough facts to be sure the attacks were by the same man.
The spokesman noted that Saturday’s attack was not the first the rapist has struck in a multifamily building. He also confirmed that on at least two other occasions—the first and second attacks—the victim was spending the night at a place where she normally would not be.
Miller said that the rapist in the latest case took something from the duplex after his attack, but refused to identify the item.
10/03/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “POLICE BELIEVE RAPIST IS TOYING WITH THEM”

Police Believe Rapist Is Toying With Them

Detectives in Sacramento and Stockton today speculated the west area rapist may have returned to his familiar part of Sacramento County because he felt the concentrated manhunt for him there was easing.

The sexual terrorist may have thought his Sept. 6 attack in Stockton was the at the police and caused a change of heart in Sacramento County, said Bill Miller, a spokesman for the sheriff.

That pressure, which peaked in May, involved increased police patrols, an intensive effort by teams of detectives, heavy gun use, curfew patrols, record-breaking sales and racketeering charges against security devices, Miller noted.

Such awareness and concern about the rapist who in 15 months attacked 21 times in the east area and once in the south area—may have expedited his return to Stockton in an attempt to evade the efforts here, Miller said.

Some veteran detectives think the rapist was “playing games” with the police when he ventured out of the east area to attack a sleeping couple in the Sky Parkway section of the south area. May 21, ceased his strikes for more than three months. Then his efforts here continued.

Jackson: “He’s playing with us; there’s no doubt about that,” Stockton Police Capt. Andrew J. Jackson said today. “Not anything about him is pure speculation. You try to build a theory about his guy and he just blows it apart.”

The only consistent thing about him is that he is inconsistent.

Jackson said the beefed up police patrols in Stockton will continue even if the rapist has hit. In Sacramento County again.

In more than three weeks of intensive investigation, Stockton police were unable to learn much about the rapist that could lead them to a suspect, Jackson said.

In the Saturday attack on a 17-year-old girl visiting her boyfriend in the La Riviera-Palomar Boulevard area, the rapist, following his pattern of overpowering the couple in the bedroom, restricting the man with a bolo and leading the girl into another part of the home for repeated attacks.

UC Denies Race Kept Bakke Out

BERKELEY — University of California officials today said Allan Bakke was not denied admission to the UC Davis Medical School solely because of his race.

In a reply brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court, the university’s attorneys said Bakke was rejected “for exactly the same kinds of reasons — many other well-qualified non-disadvantaged applicants — whites and minorities were rejected.”

UC general counsel Donald Goldfarb also commented on the U.S. Justice Department’s brief in the Bakke case.

He said he opposed the federal government’s argument that the case should be returned to the state court.

Water Hearings Plan Under Way

East Yolo residents who have experienced water problems have been asked to meet with an attorney this week in preparation for hearings on the 27 per cent water rate increase sought by Washington Water & Light Co.

Attorney Richard M. Mann of San Francisco has been hired by the East Yolo Community Services District to fight the increase in hearings before the State Public Utilities Commission Oct. 11-14 at 10 a.m. in the West Sacramento Library, 120 Bercy Ave.
10/03/1977
SACRAMENTO UNION: “NEW RAPIST ATTACKS BRING NO BIG CLUES”

New rapist attacks bring no big clues

Two attacks within a month have brought no major changes in the search for the elusive east area rapist, says sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller.

The latest attack involved a 17-year-old woman who was raped early Saturday morning in a duplex near La Riviera Drive and Tuolomne Drive, just north of Highway 50.

Sheriff's officials list the latest rape as the 24th attributed to the east area rapist, who began his attacks in late 1975.

Two rapes have been dropped from the list, Miller reported. They occurred in October 1975 and October 1976.

Miller said any new leads in the search would be announced. City police referred all questions about the attacks to the sheriff's office.
10/01/1977

COMPOSITE

Composite of a man seen leaving the area after the Attack #24.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
10/21/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “RAPIST GETS 25TH VICTIM; FOOTHILL FARMS”

---

Foothill Farms

Rapist Gets 25th Victim

By WARREN HOLLOWAY and THOM AREMAN

Sacramento Bee®

The East Area raper shifted to the Foothill Farms area today to attack a sleeping couple, ransack their home and leave them to be diseased by their two small children, sheriff's deputies reported.

The raper entered a home northeast of the Elkhorn Boulevard and Diablo Drive intersection about 3 a.m., sheriff's deputies said.

He wore a ski mask and carried a pistol and a knife to overpower the couple in their bedroom, deputies said.

It was the 25th attack in 16 months attributed to the raper. Twenty-two have occurred in the North or East Area, one in the South Area and one in Stockton.

The raper last struck Oct. 1 when he raped and killed a 17-year-old girl who was visiting her boyfriend in the La Riviera-Potom Boulevard area.

In today's attack, the raper forced the couple to the garage, then broke through a kitchen door to enter the home, said sheriff's spokesman Miller.

"This is one of the few forced entries of the East Area raper," Miller said. "He has more routinely entered the homes of his victims by snapping open sliding glass doors. Neither of the doors in today's entry were secured with dead bolts," Miller said.

The raper awakened the sleeping couple, tied the man on the bed, then led the woman to another part of the house—where the man tied her up and repeatedly raped her, deputies said.

Once the attacker was gone, then awakened their children and had them unite them, Miller said. They called the sheriff's office at 4:35 a.m. Miller refused to reveal further details of the rapier's activities in the home or say if the attacker left any messages for police or the press, as he did in other attacks.

The raper first struck June 15, 1976. His first 18 attacks were against women who were either home alone or home with their small children. The last five attacks ended up with the children in one case.

The last nine attacks attributed to the East Area raper have involved couples. His pattern is to awaken them in their bedrooms, point the gun at the head of the woman to tie the man, plate dishes on the man and tell him his wife will be killed if the dishes rattle.

The raper went into another part of the house, rape her, tie her in a chair, rassack the house, then return to rape the woman again.

Only two of the raper's attacks have started outside the victims' homes, with one woman and one couple confronted at gunpoint in front of their homes. The other 21 have occurred after the raper broke into the homes of his sleeping victims.

The raper has been described as a “paramed schoolteacher” acting in a homosexual panic caused by feelings of sexual inadequacy. That was contained in a psychological profile released by the sheriff's office in May.

The terror has attacked irregularly since then, striking in the South Area May 8, in Stockton Sept. 1, back in the East Area Oct. 1 and in the North Area today.
1977

**SACRAMENTO UNION: “COUPLE TERRORIZED BY EAST AREA RAPIST”**

Couple terrorized by east area rapist

---

Rapist claims another victim

---

10/30/1977

Sacramento Union: "Couple Terrorized by East Area Rapist"
11/10/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS GIRL, 13”

East Area Rapist Attacks Girl, 13

The East Area rapist broke into a Sacramento condominium early today, raping a 13-year-old girl after he awakened and tied up her mother.

The 27th attack in 17 months occurred on La Rivera Drive near Watt Avenue in the College Greens section of the city about 1 a.m., said sheriff’s Chief Deputy Fred Reese.

The rapist spent about two hours in the home, raping the girl, then forcing her as she sat tied in a chair.

He entered the condominium by forcing open a sliding glass door. Reese said.

Once inside, the rapist awakened the mother, tied her in her bed, placed china on her back and said if he heard the dishes rattle, he would cut off the daughter’s fingers, police said.

The rapist then led the 13-year-old into another room and attacked her.

After the ski-masked, armed man left the home, the girl and the woman screamed “until neighbors heard them. A neighbor then followed the screams into the home and uncovered the two victims, the wife the youngest victim in the terrifying series of attacks, police said. In his last 10 rapes, he has victimized sleeping couples in cases where he has tied the men in bed, then led the women to other parts of the home for sexual assault.

The East Area rapist last struck Oct. 20 north of Whitney Avenue.

After this morning’s attack was reported about 5 a.m., sheriff’s deputies took into custody a possible suspect in an El Camino Avenue restaurant. The man was questioned, taken to the scene of the rape and held in custody about two hours before he was released.

City police simultaneously

See Back Page, A26, Col. 3
12/04/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “NOISE MAY HAVE CURBED EAST RAPIST”

Noise May Have Curbed East Rapist

A group of noisy teen-agers hanging out on a corner may have saved a foothill Farms woman from becoming the 28th victim of the east area rapist.

Sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller said Saturday a man believed to be the same suspect who has sexually assaulted 27 other women broke into the woman’s home about 11:30 p.m. Friday night.

The intruder tied up the woman, who is in her 30s, and roamed through the house for about two hours; but because of the clamor outside, Miller speculated, the man left without assaulting the intended victim.

Miller said the woman’s husband was not at home at the time, but that a child slept throughout the incident.

Miller said his investigators had made contact with one of the youths believed to be in the area and expected to interview him Saturday night.

The residence chosen for the attack is near the intersection of Brett and Stockton drives, off Interstate 80. It was the second such attack in the area. The majority of the east area rapes have occurred in the unincorporated area of the county, but two have been just inside the city limits. One of the attacks, which have occurred over the past 18 months, was in Stockton.

Miller said there were elements of the east area rapist’s method of operation missing from the Friday night attack, possibly because of the commotion outside the house. Still, he concluded, the evidence points to its being the same man.

“Investigators feel he came in, she was asleep in bed, and she woke up to a flashlight shining in her face — same M.O. as before. She can’t give any description of the guy, or the weapon, or anything else. But he moved her from the bedroom to another room on the first floor.”

Sheriff Miller said the suspect heard what sounded like a bunch of teen-agers making a lot of noise and talking loudly right outside the house. They were out there a long time and this obviously made him (the rapist) very nervous and that’s probably why he didn’t do a lot of things he normally does,” Miller said.

The rapist last struck Nov. 10, assaulting a 13-year-old girl after he tied up her mother.

Rebelstok drives, off Interstate 80. It was the second such attack in the area. The majority of the east area rapes have occurred in the unincorporated area of the county, but two have been just inside the city limits. One of the attacks, which have occurred over the past 18 months, was in Stockton.

Miller said there were elements of the east area rapist’s method of operation missing from the Friday night attack, possibly because of the commotion outside the house. Still, he concluded, the evidence points to its being the same man.

“Investigators feel he came in, she was asleep in bed, and she woke up to a flashlight shining in her face — same M.O. as before. She can’t give any description of the guy, or the weapon, or anything else. But he moved her from the bedroom to another room on the first floor.”

Sheriff Miller said the suspect heard what sounded like a bunch of teen-agers making a lot of noise and talking loudly right outside the house. They were out there a long time and this obviously made him (the rapist) very nervous and that’s probably why he didn’t do a lot of things he normally does,” Miller said.

The rapist last struck Nov. 10, assaulting a 13-year-old girl after he tied up her mother.
12/04/1977

SACRAMENTO BEE: “TEEN-AGE BOYS SCARE OFF RAPIST”

---

Teen-age boys scare off rapist

---

by John Hammarley
Staff Writer

A group of rowdy teen-age boys early Saturday morning accomplished what police haven't been able to do for more than a year and a half—prevent a rape by the man believed to be the area rapist.

The boisterous youth who wandered by the Foster Farms home of the 30-year-old victim of the elusive rapist apparently foiled his plans and scared him off, according to sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller.

The attacker did break into the home located at the corner of Loretto and Howard streets, but failed to rape her, the spokesman said.

A shred of doubt still exists in sheriff's minds as to the positive identification of the notorious rapist, according to Miller.

"Investigators there feel very strongly this is the same person," Miller said.

"However, they can't be as sure on this one as the others."

At the beginning phases of the latest attack, followed by the m.o. or manner of operation, of the rapist continued.

His latest victim, described to be in her mid 30s, was startled from her sleep with a blinding flashlight glaring in her face.

"She couldn't see anything after the light hit her in the face, she didn't know if he had a weapon," Miller said.

"But she heard the rumble of the rapist's attack was that of a very cat," Miller said.

He said the attacker "became very scary when the local voice of the teen-age boys continued without pausing."

Once the visitor was out, the stranger had left, she was able to reach a telephone and the rapists are now and called a family friend for help.

"The friend couldn't get to the front door and finally went outside to the car where she came in through a sliding glass door," Miller said.

The victim made her call around 5 a.m., Miller said, and the searchers were out and visualizing the place, looking for the victim.

"The mechanism of the door, inside the house, is a lot of dog" will be licked, and phone to a person who departed, Miller said.

"It's never has anything like this happened, like a threat from the outside," Miller said. "It was a significant period of time."

"The description is that bullets, a "broomstick Norton" (the rapist has described the rapist as a "broomstick Norton") with a gun to encourage him for the rapists are free."

"The recent situation has been physically harmful, those of the rapist in the rapists, sheriff's department, says."

"The police and the sheriff's department have been doing a very good job in solving this case," Miller said.

"At this time, the police have indicated that they are going to continue the investigation on their own, and they are going to continue the investigation on their own."

"The police have indicated that they are going to continue the investigation on their own, and they are going to continue the investigation on their own."

---

Teen-agers scare off rape suspect

---

From A1

Out of the area rapist attacks

The sequence of events changed after the attacker forced the woman out of her Bedroom and into the attic room where he raped her.

"When this phone call, there was a lot of fighting in the area, " Miller said.

"But he didn't want to know that."

The attack was out of her came out, " Miller said.

"She was able to reach a telephone and the rapists are now and called a family friend for help.

"The friend couldn't get to the front door and finally went outside to the car where she came in through a sliding glass door," Miller said.

"The mechanism of the door, inside the house, is a lot of dog" will be licked, and phone to a person who departed, Miller said.

"It's never has anything like this happened, like a threat from the outside," Miller said. "It was a significant period of time."

"The description is that bullets, a "broomstick Norton" (the rapist has described the rapist as a "broomstick Norton") with a gun to encourage him for the rapists are free."

"The recent situation has been physically harmful, those of the rapist in the rapists, sheriff's department, says."

"The police and the sheriff's department have been doing a very good job in solving this case," Miller said.

"At this time, the police have indicated that they are going to continue the investigation on their own, and they are going to continue the investigation on their own."

"The police have indicated that they are going to continue the investigation on their own, and they are going to continue the investigation on their own."

---

Sacramento Bee: “Teen-Age Boys Scare Off Rapist”

---

40
SACRAMENTO BEE: “FRIDAY’S THREAT LAID TO EAST RAPIST”

Sun May Dispel Valley Fog

The sunshine might break through onto the Sacramento Valley Wednesday, after the dense fog that has blanketed the area for three days dissipated tonight, the National Weather Service predicted.

The expected clearing and variable winds to 15 miles an hour should drop temperatures into the upper 30s in the valley tonight. The predicted sunshine should raise temperatures into the low 50s Wednesday.

The fog will settle over the San Joaquin Valley in patches tonight, however, turning to a dense fog Wednesday, the Weather Service forecast. The fog was so thick in the lower end of the valley this morning the California Highway Patrol escorted trucks over some roads in Kings and Kern Counties.

The Weather Service also predicted a slight chance of showers in the extreme southern end of the Sacramento Valley and the northern half of the Sierra Nevada today and tonight, with scattered clouds Wednesday.

The California Department of Transportation reminded drivers throughout the area to watch for fog and to carry chains if heading to or through the mountainous areas.
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST RAPIST ASSAULTS TEEN SISTERS”

East Rapist Assaults Teen Sisters

BY TOMAXEMAN
Bee Staff Writer

The skin-masked man who smashed through the front door of a home near American River College and raped two teen-aged sisters was the East Area rapist, Sacramento County sheriff’s deputies have concluded.

Investigators thoroughly reviewed the words and the tones the attacker used before concluding it was the same man, sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller said.

The rapist, who now has victimized 27 women and girls in Sacramento County and one in Stockton in the past 21 months, had never forced his way through a front door until the attack on the two sisters late Saturday night, Miller noted.

That method of entry and a few other variations from the rapist’s usual pattern, which Miller refused to detail publicly, delayed the detectives’ attribution of the latest sexual assaults, Miller said. It was the rapist’s first-known attack in more than eight weeks.

The attack occurred about 10:15 p.m. Saturday when the rapist kicked open the front door of a home on Wing Way east of Walnut Avenue, deputies said.

He made so much noise entering the house that the disturbance awakened one of the sleeping girls, Miller said.

The victims, in their early teens, share a bedroom and were home alone while their parents were out for the evening, Miller said.

The rapist, who carried a gun, went into the bedroom, tied the girls up and raped them, both in the same room, Miller said.

When the victims returned home about 11:30 p.m., the rapist was gone, but the girls still were tied in their room, Miller said.

The rapist may have been scared away by the return of the parents, Miller said. If the attacker left earlier on his own, it was the shortest period he stayed at a home he has terrorized, Miller said.

As usual, the rapist’s victims were unaware of exactly when the attacker left. Nor could they see the rapist well enough to provide a description, Miller said.

Detectives theorize the rapist knew the girls were home alone, Miller said. Otherwise, they doubt he would have brazenly—and nobly—kicked in the front door, Miller said.

“I don’t know logical he would do something like that if he didn’t have a reason to do it,” Miller said. “But we can only speculate he knew the girls were in there alone,” Miller said.

The rapist has once before attacked a teen-aged Victim number 27, who was sexually assaulted but not raped, was an 11-year-old girl home with her mother when the rapist broke in, deputies said.

The East Area rapist has 18 times attacked married couples, each time tying the husband in bed and leading the wife to another part of the house to attack her.

He has entered his victims’ homes now often through sliding glass doors, but he has opened at least one wine door and windows in some cases, deputies said.

See Back Page, AM, Col. 3
KATE AND BRIAN MAGGIORE

THE CHASE

Photo credit: Solving the Unsolved
Deputies Report No Leads In Rancho Cordova Killings

Sacramento County homicide investigators Friday said they had no leads or suspects in the gunshot deaths of a young Rancho Cordova Air Force sergeant and his wife.

Brian K. Maggiore, 21, and Katie Maggiore, 20, were gunned down Thursday night by a man who apparently confronted them as they walked their dog along a quiet residential street.

Authorities said Maggiore and his wife of less than two years fled into the backyard of a home on La Alegria Drive where the killer followed and shot them.

The suspect, spotted by area residents as he fled the scene of the shooting, was described as white, in his mid 20s, 6-feet to 6-feet-3-inches tall, slight of build, with dark hair and wearing a brown leather coat with a large stain on the back and dark pants and shoes.

The Maggiore's were married in July 1976. Maggiore was a 1974 graduate of Fresno High School. He joined the Air Force after graduation and served in Texas, Mississippi and Alaska before his assignment to Mather Air Force Base.

Mrs. Maggiore was graduated from McClane High School in 1976. Maggiore is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Maggiore of Fresno; brothers Michael of San Jose and Steven of Fresno; a sister, Cynthia of Fresno; and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Sommers, of Fresno.

Mrs. Maggiore is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Smith of Clio; brothers Kenneth and Keith, both of Clio; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Klomp of Phedale and Mrs. Pearl Smith of Clovis.

Funeral arrangements were pending.
02/16/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “2 SUSPECTED IN SLAYINGS”

2 Suspected In Slayings

The slayings of an Air Force sergeant and his wife, who were gunned down in the back yard of a Rancho Cordova home Feb. 2, may have been committed by two young men, a spokesman for the sheriff’s department said today.

Along with the announcement, composite sketches of the two suspects, made from neighbors’ descriptions, were released.

Sgt. Brian Maggiore, 21, and his wife, Katie, 20, were accosted while walking their dog and shot to death at the rear of a home on La Gloria Drive in Rancho Cordova.

William Miller, assistant to the sheriff, said two young men were seen on La Gloria minutes before the shooting. One was wearing a brown leather-type jacket, gathered at the waist with a zippered front, small collar and dark stain on the back. He was also wearing brown pointed boots. The other man was wearing a dark jacket, zippered in front with slash pockets, dark pants and black shoes or boots. He was also wearing brown leather gloves, Miller said.
03/17/1978

SACRAMENTO BEE: “OFFICERS RETURN TO MURDER SCENE HUNTING FOR CLUES”

Officers Return To Murder Scene Hunting For Clues

In an effort to find the killers of a young Rancho Cordova couple, the Sacramento Sheriff’s department returned to the scene of the crime.

Reno Train Trip Rescheduled

The local Mental Health Association’s weekend train excursion to Reno, postponed last month, has been rescheduled for March 31, the group announced.

The $85 “Fun Trip to Reno” includes round trip train fare, lodgings and some meals. An association spokesman said the fare is tax deductible as a contribution.

Thursday night, hoping to develop new leads:

Sgt. Brian Maggiore, 21, and his wife Katie, 20, were shot to death six weeks ago as they walked their dog in Rancho Cordova. A dozen investigators went door to door Thursday night, talking to residents on La Gloria and La Alegria Drives about what they might have seen the night of the murders.

Maggiore was found shot in the chest in the backyard at 10165 La Alegria Drive. His wife was found a short distance away with a head wound.

The Bee’s Secret Witness Program is offering a $2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers.
03/19/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST RAPIST IN STOCKTON”

East Rapist
In Stockton

The east area rapist has struck for a second time in Stockton, attacking a woman in her early 20s after awak-ening her and her husband in bed, the Stockton Police Department reported Saturday.

In the last 22 months, the rapist has victimized 29 women and girls in Sacramento County in addition to the two in Stockton.

Stockton Police investigators said the man entered the single-family residence in the Parkwoods neighborhood at about 11 p.m. Friday through a back door with a broken lock.

After entering the couple’s bed-

See Back Page, A20, Col. 4

Continued From Page A1

room, the rapist awakened them, threatening them with a weapon. As in earlier attacks, he carried a knife and a gun.

According to Sgt. Bob Grude, the rapist tied the husband before sexually assaulting the wife.

The intruder spent about two hours in the house ransacking it before leaving. Grude said that the rapist took items belonging to the couple but declined to specify what was taken.

Investigators said they are positive this is the same man who struck last Sept. 26, sexually assaulting a 27-year-old North Stockton housewife, and who, on Jan. 28 in Sacramento, raped two teen-age girls in their home near American River College.

Grude said the rapist’s method of operation was a “carbon copy” of earlier attacks. The assailant wore a ski mask and gloves and carried a knife, gun and flashlight.

No children or pets were in the home when the rapist struck.

The Stockton assault marked the 11th time the east area rapist has attacked married couples, each time tying the husband in bed before sexually assaulting the wife.
04/16/1978

SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST RAPIST KICKS IN DOOR, ATTACKS SITTER IN SOUTH AREA”

East Rapist Kicks In Door, Attacks Sitter In South Area

The east area rapist is believed to have struck again — this time, his 33rd, in the South Area within the city limits.

The attack took place about 10 Friday night in the general vicinity of Security and Riverside Avenues and the victim was a 15-year-old babysitter.

According to sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller, she was looking after an 8-year-old when the rapist kicked in the rear door, attacked the girl once inside the house, then took her into the back yard and raped her again.

The victim, however, Miller said, was not shaken by the incident. She was unable to give a very good description of her assailant. She was eight years old.

The second attack was interrupted, according to Miller, when the girl’s parents arrived at the house to check on her safety. The man fled, Miller said, when they drove up.

Miller said the 8-year-old was in a bedroom all the time and never saw the rapist.

The victim herself, Miller said, was so shaken by the incident that she was unable to give a very good description of her assailant, but “there were several M.O. (method of operation) tactics."

See Back Page A20, C1.

Rapist

Continued From Page A1

04/16/78

 Sacramento Bee: “East Rapist Kicks In Door, Attacks Sitter In South Area”

The east area rapist is believed to have struck again — this time, his 33rd, in the South Area within the city limits.

The attack took place about 10 Friday night in the general vicinity of Security and Riverside Avenues and the victim was a 15-year-old babysitter.

According to sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller, she was looking after an 8-year-old when the rapist kicked in the rear door, attacked the girl once inside the house, then took her into the back yard and raped her again.

The victim, however, Miller said, was not shaken by the incident. She was unable to give a very good description of her assailant. She was eight years old.

The second attack was interrupted, according to Miller, when the girl’s parents arrived at the house to check on her safety. The man fled, Miller said, when they drove up.

Miller said the 8-year-old was in a bedroom all the time and never saw the rapist.

The victim herself, Miller said, was so shaken by the incident that she was unable to give a very good description of her assailant, but “there were several M.O. (method of operation) tactics."

See Back Page A20, C1.
06/07/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST STRIKES IN MODESTO: $1,500 TAKEN”

---

East Area Rapist Strikes In Modesto

MODESTO — The man who has gained notoriety as Sacramento’s east area rapist struck in a plush area of northeastern Modesto, police reported Tuesday.

Detective Fred Vaughn said a man wearing a ski mask entered the home through an unlocked door about 2:30 a.m. Monday and ordered a 27-year-old woman to tie up her 24-year-old husband with shoestrings he provided.

The man, who told the couple he was armed with a gun and at one time pressed a knife against the neck of one of them, then tied up the woman.

Vaughn said the man then went through the house before moving the woman to another room and raping her.

The attacker was in the house for nearly two hours, and during that time ransacked the place, a pattern followed by the man who is believed to have committed 33 previous attacks in Sacramento and San Joaquin counties.

Vaughn said $1,500 in cash was taken from the couple’s home.

The man was described as being white, in his 20s, with a medium build and wearing a ski mask.

The east area rapist began his rapes in October 1979 and has struck mainly in the northeastern portion of Sacramento County, although a rapist believed to be him has attacked women in the southern and western portions of the city and in the Stockton area.

The last time he hit was April 14, when a 15-year-old girl was attacked while baby-sitting an 8-year-old child, in a southeast Sacramento home.
06/22/1978
COMPOSITE

Composite of a man seen two days before Attack #35 peering into various windows.

This was a composite at the time and has now been withdrawn and is just shown here as reference.
06/24/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST’S 35TH ATTACK IN MODESTO”

East Area Rapist’s 35th Attack In Modesto

MODESTO — A young Modesto couple told police they were attacked in their home on Wednesday night, the 35th of the East Area rapist’s attacks.

The couple, who have lived in Modesto for 18 years, told police they were attacked while they were sleeping. The rapist gained entry to the home through a broken window and entered the bedroom.

The rapist, who has been known to wear a mask and carry a knife, entered the couple’s bedroom and attacked the woman. She was able to resist and fight off the attacker.

06/27/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “RAPIST CREDITED WITH 2 ATTACKS”

Rapist Credited With 2 Attacks

After further investigation, two rapes committed in Davis this month will officially be attributed to the East Area rapist, the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department said Monday.

The rapist reportedly assaulted a 32-year-old Davis housewife on Saturday morning and a 21-year-old University of California, Davis student on June 7.

Sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller said the two Davis attacks bring the total number of attacks attributed to the rapist to 37. The assaults have been occurring in the Sacramento area since late 1975.
07/07/1978

SACRAMENTO UNION: “EAST AREA RAPIST HITS DAVIS AGAIN”

East area rapist hits Davis again

DAVIS — The elusive east area rapist claimed his 39th victim in an attack here Thursday, police said.

It was the third confirmed attack in the university community since June 7. He also struck here June 24.

The victim Thursday was a 33-year-old woman who was attacked about 3 a.m. in her west Davis subdivision home. Her two sons, 5 and 7, slept through the ordeal.

The rapist usually enters his victims’ residences through an unlocked door or window, but police said it had not been determined how he entered the home.

The woman, who is separated from her husband, told officers the rapist said he wanted money for gasoline.

Chief Deputy Robert Radford of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, where the east area rapist task force is headquartered, said the attack was confirmed to have been by the rapist because of his method of operation.

His last known attack was June 27, when a 23-year-old woman was raped in her La Riviera Drive apartment in Sacramento. That brought to five the number of attacks by the man in 22 days.

In June the rapist struck twice each in Modesto and Davis before returning to the east Sacramento area, where he earned his nickname. He also has hit in Stockton and south Sacramento.
07/07/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST RETURNS TO DAVIS, ASSAULTS MOTHER”

East Area Rapist Returns
To Davis, Assaults Mother

By BILL WILSON
Bee Staff Writer

DAVIS — A 33-year-old mother of two young sons was raped early Thursday by a man believed to be the East Area rapist, police reported.

This second attack within a month and the third Davis woman assaulted by a man who reportedly has raped 28 women and girls in Sacramento, Davis, Stockton and Modesto since 1975.

The latest victim lived in the Westwood subdivision five blocks from where a 33-year-old housewife was attacked in the early morning hours of June 24. The Thursday victim also knew the woman assaulted on June 24, police said.

Davis police Sgt. Robert Persons said the woman, who is separated from her husband and lives with her sons, aged five and seven, was awakened about 3 a.m. by a man holding a flashlight in her face and waving a handgun. The rapist also had a knife. He maimed her, but did not cut her.

The intruder first told her all she wanted was money for gasoline. Per-

s said, but he tied her hands behind her back and tied her feet. The man
rummaged throughout the house and took about $27 in cash and some postage stamps from a living room desk.

He returned to the woman and raped her once, and then went back prowling through the house, opening drawers and closets before leaving the residence about 4 a.m.

The victim was able to free her feet and ran to a neighbor’s residence where her hands were untied and police were summoned. The two young boys failed to awake during the assault.

Persons said the man entered the house through a kitchen window after he took off a screen and punched a small hole in the glass to open the latch. Other doors and windows were locked.

He said the woman could not give a description of the assailant because the house was dark, but added that similarities of the latest rape and other assaults by the East Area rapist leads him to believe it is the same man.

Sacramento authorities, who have been working on past assaults by the East Area rapist, went to Davis early Thursday to assist in the investigation.

Since the June 24th rape in Davis and a rape on June 7 of a 21-year-old student in an apartment complex on the north side of the University of California at Davis, local hardware stores have sold out of locks for windows and doors.

Tom Haley, manager of the Davis Lumber and Hardware Co., said he has sold “somewhere around 500 locks” since the June 24 attack. He said he has ordered a new stock but expects it to be sold out in a few days.

Haley said 90 percent of the pur-

chasers of locks said they feared an attack by the East Area rapist.
10/14/1978

SACRAMENTO UNION: “AREA RAPIST STRIKES IN CONCORD”

Area rapist strikes in Concord

Sacramento Union News Services

CONCORD — Police suspect Sacramento’s notorious “East Area” rapist assaulted a woman in her home in this East Bay suburb, some 60 miles from the state capital.

The victim’s husband and eight-year-old daughter were bound and gagged during the rape Friday.

It was the second attack in this well-to-do community in a week, police said. The first assault was a combined rape-burglary reported last Saturday night. Friday the victim’s home was ransacked but no burglary was reported.

The East Area rapist usually makes his entry through sliding glass doors or windows and is usually armed with a handgun or knife. In cases where children or a husband are present, he binds and gags them and locks them in a closet.

Police say he is a white man in his mid-20s or early 30s, about 150 pounds with light-colored hair.

Authorities blame him for 39 assaults in Sacramento, Stockton, Davis and Modesto since 1975.
10/14/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “TWO CONCORD RAPES IN WEEK ASCRIBED TO EAST AREA RAPIST”

Two Concord Rapes In Week Ascribed To East Area Rapist

By MEL ASSAGAI and JAIME DIAZ
Bee Staff Writers

Sacramento County sheriff’s investigators Friday said two recent rapes in the Concord area were the work of the East Area rapist.

He struck Oct. 7 and again Friday morning, according to officials.

“Based on the information we have from those two (rapes in Concord) and what we have here, we believe it’s the same man,” said LT. Ray Root of the Sacramento sheriff’s department East Area rapist detail.

The incidents bring to 38 the number of sexual assaults the East Area rapist is suspected of committing, a figure that varies as rapes are added and dropped based on new evidence.

Concord police reported that a man broke into an Ygnacio Valley home at 5:30 a.m. Friday, tied up a 25-year-old woman and a 30-year-old man, then ransacked through the house.

He returned and sexually assaulted the woman.

The Oct. 7 rape occurred in the same area.

The assailant in both cases reportedly wore a ski mask, broke into the home and either brandished a weapon or simulated a weapon.

Two Sacramento county sheriff’s detectives, Root and Sgt. Jim Bevins, traveled to Concord Thursday and again Friday to check out similarities between the crimes there and those committed by the East Area rapist in Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, and Davis.
10/21/1978

SACRAMENTO UNION: “CONCORD GIRDS AGAINST RAPIST BUT NO NEW LEADS REPORTED”

Concord girls against rapist but no new leads reported

A beefed-up task force of Concord police and Contra Costa County sheriff's deputies report no new leads in a case which has stumped Sacramento authorities since June 1976—the east area rapist. The rapist claimed his 38th and 39th victims is the East Bay city Oct. 7 and 13 in attacks that followed his typical pattern—binding and gagging the woman's husband before taking her into another room and assaulting her.

Concord investigators have consulted with Concord authorities and confirmed that the attacks were the work of the rapist, who originally gained notoriety in a Novato incident more than a year ago in east coastline although he has 11 attacks this year, although he has 11 attacks this year, although his victims are all women. Sacramento County, answers in the city of Sacramento. The remainder were in Stockton, Modesto, Davis, and the two most recent ones in Concord.

His two forays into Concord have prompted the kind of community hysteria that gripped Sacramento for a period in 1977 when the rapist hit here nine times in three months. Retail stores in the Concord area report they have sold out of deadbolts and other locking devices, and gun shops say business is booming.

Several neighborhood meetings have been organized by concerned citizens, and police officials have appeared to give advice on methods to suggest methods of protection.
10/21/1978

SACRAMENTO BEE: “POLICE SAY MONEY WON’T FIND RAPIST”

Police Say Money Won’t Find Rapist

By MEL ASSLAGAI
Bee Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — Contra Costa County supervisors were told Friday that neither a reward nor additional funds for overtime pay for deputies are likely to directly result in the capture of the East Area Rapist.

At a special meeting, supervisors were told by law enforcement officials that a reward wouldn’t work because a good description of the rapist is lacking. They also told supervisors that the proposed $200,000 in additional funds for overtime pay isn’t necessary.

Concord Police Chief Jim Chambers caused a furore early last week when, as part of rape protection measures, he suggested women not wear short shorts or bathing suits in their front yards.

Women were incensed with the suggestion, because women in the Mt. Diablo Rape Crisis Center said that was a sexist approach to the problem that says women are inviting rape. Chambers also noted an increase in the purchase of firearms in Concord and warned citizens against vigilante actions.

But Supervisor Eric Hasselfrau said the Friday special meeting might have the wrong focus. “Sheriff, according to the statistics I requested and received from your office, a rape has been committed in this county every other day over the last two years.”

Regardless of the East Area Rapist problem, Martinez has twice as many rapes as Concord. Martinez has at least as many as Concord. “I don’t know what kind of program you’re working on to deal with this overall problem,” he said.

Sheriff Harry Ramsay, after telling supervisors he was confident Concord police were doing everything possible to capture the East Area Rapist, told Hasselfrau his department was also working to arrest other rapists. “We recognize the problem and we are doing what we can. We have worked with women’s groups and rape centers,” he said. “And, just because we say there were 27 rapes in Contra Costa County in 1979 doesn’t mean we haven’t caught any of them. We have,” he said.

Ramsay said his department, while offering whatever assistance it can to the Concord Police Department, has said “to continue pursuing rapists, robbers, and other criminals.”

Concord Police Chief Chambers said his department has established an East Area rapist detail and plans to spend between $30,000 and $40,000 in overtime to finance its operations. He conceded that if the East Area rapist strikes again, “we want to be sure that our patrol officers could severely tax the department’s financial resources.”

He also said residents were requesting an unusually high number of house meetings to learn what they can do to defend themselves against the rapist, another drain on his officers’ time. “But right now we have enough officers to do the job,” he told The Bee.

Spokesmen for law enforcement agencies in the area said they have been working together and relying heavily on information and investigatory experience compiled by the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department, which has been trying to capture the rapist since 1977.

The East Area Rapist is believed responsible for 28 rapes, most of them in Sacramento, but several in Modesto, Stockton, Davis, and now Concord.

He usually wears a ski mask, making identification by his victims difficult, carries a gun or knife and breaks in through a window or door.
11/01/1978
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST IN SAN RAMON?”

East Area Rapist
In San Ramon?

Sacramento County sheriff's detectives are awaiting results of a rape early last Saturday by a masked man in San Ramon, Contra Costa County. To determine whether the attack should be attributed to Sacramento's East Area rapist.

William Miller, assistant to the sheriff, said “it appears” the assault may have been committed by the man whose first 21 rapes, a series which began in June 1976, were in Sacramento's East Area.

11/02/1978
SACRAMENTO UNION: “EAST AREA RAPIST BLAMED FOR ATTACK”

East area rapist blamed for attack

A rape in the Contra Costa County community of San Ramon last weekend is “probably going to be linked” as No. 40 by Sacramento's east area rapist, sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller said Wednesday.

“Based on what Contra Costa sheriff's investigators have told us,” Miller said, “we feel very strongly it's the same guy. We're assuming it is and just waiting to read copies of their reports to confirm it.”

The rapist entered a home in San Ramon in the early morning hours Saturday. It is unknown how he gained entry, sheriff's deputies there said, but he followed the east area rapist's typical method of awakening the sleeping husband and wife by shining a flashlight in their eyes.

The couple said it was dark and could not determine if the masked attacker was armed with a gun or knife. They were tied and blindfolded.

The rapist stayed in the home about two hours, investigators said. The couple's children were not awakened.
SACRAMENTO BEE: “ASSAULT IN SAN RAMON BLAMED ON EAST AREA RAPIST”

Assault In San Ramon
Blamed On East Area Rapist

The rape of a 23-year-old woman in her San Ramon home last month has officially been attributed to Sacramento’s East Area rapist.

Lt. Ray Root of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department said Monday a study of reports sent by the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s department last week “leaves no doubt” the sexual assault was committed by the man to whom 39 other rapes have been attributed.

The Oct. 28 rape occurred at 4:30 a.m. when a masked man bound the woman and her 24-year-old husband, then took her into another room where she was raped. Contra Costa deputies said.

San Ramon is approximately 18 miles south of Concord where the rapist is believed to have struck Oct. 7 and Oct. 13.

The rapist has not struck in subur-
CONTRA COSTA TIMES: “RAPE’S AFTERMATH RAISES ISSUE OF SUBURBAN SAFETY”

Rape’s aftermath raises issue of suburban safety

A detail of the article:

"Rape’s aftermath raises issue of suburban safety"
The rape was like a death in family for little town

build, his features, his hair. He wasn't as muscular. He was in a sleeveless shirt, too.

"It wasn't the same person."

Appel's description of the man in her backyard matches police descriptions of the East Area rapist. He's said to be in his mid 20s, blond, extremely muscular, very composed and unafraid of dogs. In short, a cool customer.

When authorities arrived at her home, Appel also pointed out that on her living room window had been pried open about seven or eight inches. She was asked to remain at home the following day so a sheriff's investigator could fingerprint the screen. He didn't come. She called again the following Saturday and a fingerprint technician was sent out. (No "usable" prints were found, authorities would later report.)

Appel continued:

"A week later, we found a footprint in our backyard in front of the kitchen window. I discovered it when a neighbor called to tell me their trip wire (a detection device installed next to a fence) had been sprung.

The neighbor, who confirmed that somebody had been in their yard. They also coveted the footprint in my yard with a shoe box and said and somebody would come out in a day or so.

"But nobody ever showed up. I called the next week and asked for the officer who'd taken the fingerprints of the screen. He wasn't there and I left a message. I got no response.

"That was it. I'm baffled. They'd also asked me if I would identify pictures. I said I would, but they never showed them to me. I left the footprint covered, too, but it's raised."

Appel's account was partially confirmed by a neighbor on Erawood Place and another on Northland Avenue."

"I'll never know why they didn't get a composite from Mrs. Appel," said an Eastbay police officer who lives on Northland Avenue. "You'd think they'd be hot to get the guy.

Continued Page 22
Rape...

Continued from Page 13

“...We at least deserve an explanation to ease the tension. There are guns in 81 percent of the homes around here. Some poor guy breaking into a house is going to get shot away.

“People are scared to death.”

Capt. Warren Rupf, the sheriff’s chief investigator, was asked why authorities apparently failed to take some of the possible leads Lorraine Appel wanted to provide.

Rupf checked the official account of the Nov. 1 incident in Appel’s backyard. He was unable to reconcile it with what Appel told The Tribune.

“If what the relatives in fact happened, I would be concerned,” he said. “Any officer that tries to direct a witness in terms of a statement or description is acting in an improper fashion.”

“I’m going to have my investigative sergeant go out and talk to everybody.”

Rupf declined to say categorically whether he believed the man who raped Kathy was the East Area rapist. He noted, however, “The Concord Police Department has identified the EAR as living in their city.”

Was it therefore possible the East Area rapist also was operating in the nearby San Ramon Valley?

“Certainly,” Rupf replied.

Is there enough manpower to conduct the best possible investigation?

“The sheriff’s office has sufficient manpower to conduct a proper investigation,” he said.

But Lt. John Gackowski of the sheriff’s patrol division complained about inadequate staffing in his division, which plays a key role in any concentrated effort to capture a rape suspect.

“We need more people,” Gackowski said.

He noted, however, that the San Ramon Valley is more intensely patrolled today than ever before — because of the area’s growing population, which jumped almost 15 percent to an estimated 49,800 between 1972 and 1978.

As many as seven deputies are in the valley at one time. That’s one unit in one car for every nine square miles and every 7,000 residents.

Gackowski said Kathy’s rape “focused attention on that need.”

Increased patrols might not be the answer, however.

“They’ve done studies in Kansas City and Denver showing that you can throw 5,000 cops into a neighborhood and it doesn’t affect the crime rate,” said an Oakland Police Department rape investigator.

He noted that increased patrols also had had no effect on the rate of sexual assaults in East Oakland, an area with a particularly bad rape problem.

That leaves it up to the investigators — and people like Lorraine Appel, who believe they have information that may help solve a crime problem terrorizing Contra Costa.
“THE HOMEWORK” FOUND IN DANVILLE AFTER THE ATTACK #43

6TH GRADE RANT — MAD IS THE WORD

An essay written by an unknown author, found near a crime scene where a suspicious vehicle was reportedly parked. Found alongside the “Punishment Map” and “General Custer” essay within a spiral notebook.

"Mad is the word. The word that..."
“MAD IS THE WORD” CONTINUED

me write, hour and hour did sit and write 50-100-150 sentance day and night. I write those dreadful 10 paragraphs which tortured me and more important it made me ashamed of myself which is true deep down in side made. me realize that writing sentence wasn’t fair. It wasn’t fair to make me suffer like that. It just wasn’t fair to make me sit and write until my bones ached. Until my hand got every horrid pain it ever had and as I wrote. I got madder and madder. Until I cried. I cried because I was ashamed. I cried because it was deceitful. I cried because I was mad. and I cried for myself. But who keeps on having to write those others sentences. My happiness from sixth grade will last me memory for life and I will be ashamed for my sixth grade year forever.
“MAD IS THE WORD” CONTINUED

“Mad is the word that reminds me of 6th grade. I hated that year. I wish I had known what was going to be going on during my 6th grade year, the last and worst years of elementary school. Mad is the word that ( ) in my head about being a 6th grader. My madness was one that was ( ) by disappointments that hurt me very much. Disappointments from my teacher such as field trips that were planned and then cancelled. My 6th grade teacher gave me a lot of disappointments which made me very mad and made me build a state of hate (?) in my heart, no one ever let me down that hard before and I never “hated anyone” as much as I did him. Disappointment wasn’t the only reason that made me mad in my sixth grade class, another was getting in trouble at school especially talking that’s what really bugged me was writing sentences those awful sentences that my teacher made me write, hours and hours I’d sit and write 50-100-150 sentences day and night I write those dreadful paragraphs which embarrassed me and more important it made me ashamed of myself which in turn, deep down inside made me realize that writing sentence wasn’t fair it wasn’t fair to make me suffer like that, it just wasn’t fair to make me sit and wait (!) until my bones ached (?), until my hand felt ever horrid pain it ever had and as I wrote, I got madder and madder until I cried, I cried because I was ashamed I cried because I was disgusted (?) I cried because I was mad and I cried for myself, ( ) who kept us having to write those lame (?) sentences. My (?) from sixth grade will scar (?) my memory for life and I will be ashamed for my sixth grade year forever.”
“GENERAL CUSTER” ESSAY

Gen George Armstrong Custer, a man was
strong, but a man hated very much by
many who served him. He became a
general at a very young age of 23, as this
event took place during the Civil War.
Custer, after the war, was shipped to
his permanent rank of a captain, as he
fought more, he made more crimes,
especially fighting against the Indians
in the Southwest. In 1876 the movement
planned to Roundup the Surs and the Yumas
and put them on reservations. Custer’s
regiment joined the expedition, commanded
by General Alfred H. Terry. As Terry’s
scouts reported Indian villages throughout
the Western territory, Terry ordered
Custer to find and destroy them.
As Custer arrived for the village, Custer
and his men found a valley. That ran
along the little Bad Wind River. Custer,
expecting only about 1200, had not
expected around 5000 hostile Indians.
It was the largest gathering of hostile tribes in Western history.
This battle would be one of the
deadliest and most strangest battles
between the Indians and the white man.
255 men, including Custer, died that
day by courageous but hostile Indians
that would do anything to save their
homes and their families.
“PUNISHMENT MAP”
04/06/1979
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST HITS IN FREMONT”

The rape of a 27-year-old woman in Fremont was attributed Thursday to the East Area rapist, bringing the number of known victims to 42, a Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department expert said.

Sgt. James Bevins of the East Area rapist detail said “there is no doubt” the rapist was responsible for a 1 a.m. attack on a woman Wednesday at her home in the Mission San Jose section of Fremont.

Sacramento and Contra Costa County experts were called into the case by police after investigators noticed a number of similarities in the Fremont attack and earlier sexual assaults attributed to the elusive rapist.

Fremont is about 30 miles south of Danville, the site of the last known attack by the East Area rapist on Dec. 9.
06/13/1979

SACRAMENTO BEE: “DANVILLE WOMAN LATEST VICTIM OF CAPITAL’S EAST AREA RAPIST”

Danville Woman Latest Victim Of Capital’s East Area Rapist

Sacramento’s East Area rapist struck for the 43rd time early Monday when he attacked a 33-year-old mother of two in her home in Danville, police said Tuesday.

Sgt. Larry Crompton of the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Department said “there is no doubt” the attack was by the same man who began a series of rapes in Sacramento’s East Area June 18, 1976.

The rapist crawled through the only unlocked window in the home about 4 a.m. and stayed approximately an hour, police said.

Two small children in the home remained asleep as the intruder went to the bedroom where their parents were sleeping.

Crompton said the intruder, who was masked and wore gloves, made the woman tie her husband up. She was then forced into another room and raped.

As he has in his other East Bay area attacks, the rapist Monday selected a residence near a freeway. The home is three blocks from where he raped a woman Dec. 9. His last attack was in Fremont on April 4.

The rapist has struck previously in Sacramento, Davis, Stockton, Modesto, Concord and San Ramon. The attacker’s first 21 rapes occurred in Sacramento’s East Area.
06/26/1979
SACRAMENTO BEE: “EAST AREA RAPIST ATTACKS 13-YEAR OLD”

East Side Rapist Attacks 13-Year-Old

McClatchy Newspapers Service

Contra Costa County believes he is responsible for eight or 10 assaults in the county during the past eight months, the latest on June 12. The latest victim, whose identity was withheld, was assaulted in her bedroom by a man who tied her up and threatened her with a knife during the assault, police said.

The assailant previously has raped in Sacramento, Davis, Stockton, Modesto, Concord, San Ramon and Danville. His last three rapes occurred in Sacramento’s East Area.

WALNUT CREEK — The East Area Rapist attacked a 13-year-old girl in her home while her sister and parents slept in nearby rooms, police said Monday.

It is believed to be the fourth time the rapist has assaulted women and girls since he began his spree June 16, 1979. A special task force of law officers conducted a massive search of the neighborhood but did not find a suspect.

The rapist is described as a thin, mustached man, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds. He was dressed in shorts, a t-shirt, and wore a mask.

The assailant previously has raped in Sacramento, Davis, Stockton, Modesto, Concord, San Ramon and Danville. His last three rapes occurred in Sacramento’s East Area.
SOME OF THE CARS THOUGHT TO BE USED BY THE EAST AREA RAPIST

1966 CHEVROLET BEL AIR STATION WAGON

1967 CHEVROLET NOVA

1968 CHEVROLET NOVA

1968 CHEVROLET FLEETSIDE PICKUP
By the beginning of 1979, Northern California detectives were wondering whether the East Area Rapist had disappeared. Detective Crompton had not forgotten the words of the criminal psychologist who had studied his files: “He just needs justification, and then he will begin.” Crompton then knew that something would happen to give the EAR justification. He knew that when things didn’t go according to plan the rapist escalated to violence. He didn’t cope when things were out of his control.

Later that year, the detectives got wind of an attempted rape as well as murder in Goleta, Southern California. They felt strongly it was him, it had all the hallmarks, and it seemed the level of escalation was exactly what the psychologist had predicted. It would be over thirty years before it was confirmed they were right.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/01/79</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Queen Ann Lane, Goleta, Santa Barbara County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12/30/79</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Avenida Pequena, Goleta, Santa Barbara County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>03/13/80</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>High Point Drive, Ventura, Ventura County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>08/19/80</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Cockleshell Drive, Dana Point, Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>02/06/81</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Columbus, Irvine, Orange County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>07/27/81</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Toltec Way, Goleta, Santa Barbara County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>05/04/86</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Encina, Irvine, Orange County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10/10/1979

GOLETA VALLEY NEWS: “SHERIFF’S BLOTTER: MONDAY/ OCT. 1. FIRST NEWS OF GOLETA ATTACK”
12/31/1979

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “GOLETA VALLEY DOCTOR, WOMAN FOUND SLAIN”

Goleta Valley doctor, woman found slain

A Goleta Valley orthopedic surgeon and a Santa Maria clinical psychologist believed to be his girlfriend were found murdered yesterday in his condominium on Avenida Pequena, sheriff’s deputies reported.

Dr. Robert J. Offerman, 41, and Debra (Dee) Alexander Manning, 35, were found dead at 11:13 a.m. in the bedroom of Offerman’s residence at 767 Avenida Pequena, detectives said.

Detective William Baker said that both victims had been shot to death. Time of death was tentatively set at about 3 a.m. Sunday. Neighbors had heard shots, Baker said, but didn’t report them, thinking they were holiday firecrackers.

No motive has yet been established, but murder-suicide has been ruled out, Baker said.

The murders were discovered by a friend who came to Offerman’s residence to keep a tenant date, Baker said.

Offerman, who had been in practice here since 1968, had medical offices at 231 W. Pueblo St. and 5333 Hollister Ave. He was in the process of a divorce, officers said.

Ms. Manning was granted a final divorce Friday from her husband, Dr. Brian J. Sinirly, also an orthopedic surgeon, of Santa Maria. She had moved to Santa Maria four years ago, and had practiced clinical psychology at 304 E. Plaza Drive for the past three years, sources said.

Santa Maria said today.

Detectives declined to release any information on the type of gun used in the murders, or the number of gunshot wounds.

A special recorded telephone hotline has been set up, Baker said. Persons with information on the killings were asked to call either the detective office at the Sheriff’s Department, or the hotline, 964-2508, and leave a message.
01/09/1980

GOLETA VALLEY NEWS: “NO ARRESTS YET IN DOUBLE MURDER”

No arrests yet in double murder

Goleta Valley News 1-9-80

Double an intentional homicide. Sheriff's detectives Tuesday had made no arrests in the double slaying last weekend at Goleta's Ocean Park Village complex. The sheriff's detectives, including Officer W.M. Stovall, interviewed the two suspects, identified as Stanley and Marion James, in the Goleta Police Department's headquarters.

The slayings occurred at 1 am Saturday at the complex's main entrance. According to the sheriff's report, the suspects entered the complex and proceeded to the back of the building, where they were found by police. The suspects were taken into custody and are currently in the Santa Barbara County Jail on charges of murder.

The initial investigation suggested that the suspects were acquainted with the victims and that the slayings were premeditated. However, further investigation revealed that the suspects were acting under duress and were coerced into committing the murders.

A spokesperson for the sheriff's department stated that the suspects will be held without bond until their arraignment. The case is still under investigation, and additional suspects may be identified.

The Goleta Valley News is committed to providing accurate and timely coverage of all local news events. If you have any information that may be relevant to this case, please contact the Goleta police department at (805) 968-3333.
02/16/1980

SACRAMENTO BEE: “LINK TO EAST AREA RAPIST PROBED IN COUPLES’ SLAYING”

Link To East Area Rapist Probed In Couples’ Slaying

By Wayne Wilson
Bee Staff Writer

Sheriff’s detectives in Sacramento and Santa Barbara are investigating the possibility that the killing of a Goleta Valley orthopedic surgeon and his psychologist girlfriend was committed by the East Area rapist. The Bee has learned.

The victims, Drs. Robert J. Offerman, 44, and Debra A. Manning, 33, were found shot to death in the bedroom of Offerman’s Santa Barbara County condominium on Sunday, Dec. 30, according to Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Sgt. William Baker.

Baker would not be specific, but he said there were “some things” about the killings and other robberies and burglaries in the vicinity that seem to go “beyond mere coincidence” as they compare with the East Area rapist’s activities in Sacramento.

Sacramento Sheriff’s Sgt. James D. Bevins was dispatched to Santa Barbara last week to compare reports with the Santa Barbara detectives investigating the crime, said sheriff’s spokesman Bill Miller.

“It looked very much like the same MO (method of operation), but not enough for us to jump up and say it’s the same guy,” Miller said.

“Some people feel stronger than others, but nobody can say that they feel definitely it’s the same guy,” Miller said.

Miller said investigators in Sacramento would be meeting soon to discuss the developments in Santa Barbara, but there had not been a “consolidated merging” on the matter as of Monday.

Information that a similarity existed between the methods of operation of the Goleta Valley killer and the East Area rapist originally came from the California State Department of Justice, Miller said.

If the Santa Barbara killings were committed by the same man believed to be responsible for some 44 sexual assaults in Northern California, it would mean that law enforcement’s worst fears concerning the rapist had come to pass.

On May 17, 1977, the rapist told his 31st victim and her husband that he would kill her next two victims.

The attacks continued without a fatality, but psychologists and psychiatrists at the time released a psychological profile of the rapist indicating that he was a “probable paranoid schizophrenic,” who might be violent or self-destructive if threatened.

And his assaults had become more and more bold as he eluded his pursuers. The rapist’s earlier attacks came against women who were either alone in their homes or who had small children. Later, his attacks involved couples.
In September 1977, the rapist struck in Stockton before returning to Sacramento for a series of seven more assaults.

Then, after one final Sacramento attack on April 14, 1978, his 30th in the city and county, the rapist apparently moved his base of operations to other Northern California localities.

Subsequent assaults occurred in Modesto, Davis, Concord, San Ramon and Danville.

Only two of the rapist’s first 44 victims reported being injured — a Sacramento woman who suffered minor cuts and a Davis woman who was hospitalized after being beaten into submission — but many detectives believe a third person belongs on the wounded list — a Glenbrook youth who was shot in the stomach Feb. 16, 1977, by a prowler that he and his father chased from their backyard.

Up to that time, the rapist had displayed a knife to accomplish his attacks. He began using a gun shortly with the shooting incident.

In his attacks against couples, which involved more than 15 husbands and boyfriends, the rapist tied the men in bed, placed dishes on their backs to alert him of any movement by the men, then led the women to other parts of the house or apartment to commit the sexual acts.

The double killing in Santa Barbara occurred around 3 a.m. Dec. 30, according to Santa Barbara County coroner’s reports. That was the rapist’s favorite time for an attack.

Neighbors heard the gunshots, Baker said, but did not report them, thinking they were holiday firecrackers.

The bodies were found later that morning by a friend of Offerman’s who had come to pick him up for a dinner date, Baker said.

Offerman was in the process of dissolving his marriage, and Manning had been granted a final divorce on the Friday before the killings, authorities said.

Offerman had been in practice as an orthopedic surgeon in Santa Barbara since 1965. Manning’s practice in clinical psychology was based in nearby Santa Maria.
03/13/1980

SACRAMENTO BEE: “POLICE DEBATE TIE BETWEEN EAST AREA RAPIST KILLINGS”
Lawyer, wife found slain in Ventura home
Son finds beaten pair in Clearpoint bedroom

By Skip Rimer and Rila Bemuth

A prominent attorney and his wife were found slain Sunday in the bedroom of their expensive Ventura hillside home, where they had apparently been bludgeoned to death more than two days earlier.

Lyman R. Smith, 41, believed to be a leading candidate for appointment to one of two vacancies on the Superior Court, and his wife, Charlene, 32, were found just after 2 p.m. Sunday by Smith’s 13-year-old son, Gary, who had come over to the house to mow his father’s lawn, according to Smith’s ex-wife, Marjorie.

The boy, who lives with his mother about one-half mile from Smith’s Clearpoint home, went into the bedroom and found his father lying face down in bed, she said. The boy’s stepmother was lying face up next to Smith, though she was covered with a sheet or blanket, sources said. Both had been beaten about the head with a club-type instrument, police said.

A log, possibly used to kill the couple, was found lying on the bed, sources said. Investigators, however, would confirm only that a log was found in the bedroom, and said they did not know if it is the murder weapon.

Smith, whose legal practice was headquartered in Santa Paula, where he was active in civic affairs, was a prominent figure in the county’s Democratic Party leadership.

Marjorie Smith told the Star-Free Press that her ex-husband’s house had been ransacked and a bedroom alarm clock, set for early morning, was still ringing when Gary entered the unlocked house.

Ventura police Sgt. Gary Addkinson, however, said the house had been ransacked and there apparently was no burglary. He said there were no signs that either a struggle had taken place or that someone had broken into the home.

Addkinson said investigators do not believe the home was burglarized. He said they are investigating the deaths as a double slaying.

The scene was apparently bloody and Gary tried to call his mother. When she did not answer, he called police, who arrived at the home, 522 High Point Drive, about 2:15 p.m.

The area was quickly sealed off by police until a search warrant could be obtained from Superior Court Judge Martin H. Lewis, a friend of the Smiths, who lives just up the street from the couple.

There were no suspects in custody as of this morning, and police would not speculate on a possible motive for the slayings.

Two gardeners, who were working at the house when Gary arrived, were questioned by police, but were not considered suspects, investigators said.

According to neighbors and friends, Mrs. Smith was last seen alive Thursday night in front of her house. Smith, a member of the Santa Paula firm of Romney, Smith & Drescher, was at work Thursday, but did not call in the next day, Phil Drescher, one of his law partners, said.

Smith missed an appointment Friday, but others in the office covered for him, Drescher said. They figured he had taken on another assignment.

(Continued on A4, Col. 1)
Attorney, wife found murdered

Continued from Page 1

without telling them.

"We didn't think much of it because it was just a routine appointment, Friday," he said. "The was out of the office a lot recently..."

Smith's former wife, who also has custody of their other two children, Jerry, 14, and Jan, 13, said Smith usually talked to the boys and his daughter at least once a week.

"He didn't call on the weekend, and we figured he would go on his trip or something," Mrs. Smith said.

Neighbors said they thought it was strange that both of the Smith's cars were in their house Friday, but said they did not hear or see anything unusual. Later Thursday, or early Friday, when the couple is believed to have traveled.

Lewis said he went over to Smith's home Monday evening to look for the couple and make sure the doors were locked and he made sure there was no disturbance.

An autopsy was scheduled today to determine the cause and probable time of death.

Mrs. Smith learned of the killing when she drove to Smith's home to see if Cary was coming home and was selected of police cars outside the house.

"I kind of feared the worst, but I was relieved after they told me he was alive," she said.

While police were waiting for the coroner, Smith's daughter rode up in the same car on a mop.

"She was crying and had to be comforted by officers," Lewis said.

Police went into the home about 9:30 a.m. after following the couple. District Attorney Michael D. Bradf ord was at the scene when officers entered, but he did not enter the home.

Friends and colleagues expressed shock and anger at the killing. They praised Smith as one of the country's outstanding attorneys.

"He was a very competent attorney," said Mark. "He was very good at his job and was respected by his peers. He was in charge of a very important case." Smith's legal assistant, Ms. Mark, was one of the attorneys who worked on the case.

The other three attorneys who survived were Mark Craig, a former prosecutor in the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, and two local police officers.

After the shooting, the police went to Smith's home and found his wife and two children inside.

Smith was then taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The children, who are ages 7 and 9, are being held by relatives.

Smith was a member of the Ventura County Bar Association and was known for his legal work.

He was a past president of the Ventura County Bar Association and was well respected by his peers.

Smith had been married for 15 years and had two children.

He was buried in a private ceremony attended by family and friends.

Smith had been a member of the California Bar since 1970.

The family requested privacy for the time being.
**03/17/1980**

**SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “LAWYER, WIFE FOUND SLAIN IN VENTURA HOME”**

---

**Lawyer, wife found beaten to death**

*S.B. News-Press 3-17-1980*

VENTURA (AP) — Police are investigating the murder of attorney Lyman R. Smith, 43, said to have been under consideration for a judgeship, and his wife, Sharon, 43, who were apparently beaten to death in their bedrooms.

The bodies were found about 2:13 p.m. yesterday by Smith’s 13-year-old son, Gary, according to police Lt. Randy Adams.

The boy lives with his mother, Smith’s ex-wife, and had come over for a Sunday visit, Adams said.

“A preliminary investigation indicates the Smiths received bludgeoning injuries about the head with club-type weapons,” Adams said. “An autopsy is scheduled to determine the exact cause of death.”

Police have established no motive and Adams said he preferred not to comment on whether the house showed signs of forcible entry or burglary.

“Smith was under consideration for appointment to be a Superior Court judge,” Adams said.
VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “POLICE MUM ABOUT LEADS IN SLAYING OF LAWYER, WIFE”

Police mum about leads in slaying of lawyer, wife

By GREG ZOROTA

Ventura police detectives continued probing the deaths of attorney Lyman Woodruff and his wife Charlotte, 33, today, but were offering no new information about what had happened.

The two were found, bludgeoned to death, in the bedroom of their home in the Chorropoint area of Ventura County.

Investigations were especially disheartening after the couple's disappearance.

A police autopsy conducted Monday at County General Hospital, Ventura, confirmed that both had died as the result of blows to the head by a blunt object. Ventura County Medical Examiner Dr. Donald L. O'Keefe estimated the time of death for the prominent couple aged 33 and 30 at 12:30 a.m. in the event.

On the volleyball court, theDITIONAL INFO: The explosion of Smith's office was not the only incident of violence against Smith's family and staff. In the days following the explosion, Smith's office was repeatedly targeted by bombs and death threats. Smith's family and staff were forced to go into hiding, and the office was closed indefinitely.

Smith's office was a hub of political activity in the county, and many of the incidents were seen as a backlash against Smith's progressive policies. Smith was known for his support of environmental causes, particularly his support of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, which had been established in 1981.

The explosion of Smith's office was not the only incident of violence against Smith's family and staff. In the days following the explosion, Smith's office was repeatedly targeted by bombs and death threats. Smith's family and staff were forced to go into hiding, and the office was closed indefinitely.

Smith's office was a hub of political activity in the county, and many of the incidents were seen as a backlash against Smith's progressive policies. Smith was known for his support of environmental causes, particularly his support of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, which had been established in 1981.
VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “SMITHS WERE SLAIN AS THEY SLEPT”

Smiths were slain as they slept

By Gregg Zoroya

Ventura County Star 3-19-1980

Lyman R. Smith, 41, and his wife, Charlene, 31, were found shot to death in their home in the hills near Oxnard. Smith’s parents were killed in the same manner.

The bodies were found by the couple’s landlord, who discovered them when he arrived to collect rent. The couple had not been seen since the previous Saturday.

The victims were found in their bedroom, with bullet wounds to the head and chest. The house was locked and the doors were sealed.

The investigating team at the scene found no signs of forced entry or burglary.

Charlene Smith was shot in the head and chest, while Lyman Smith was shot in the neck and chest.

The couple had been married for 17 years and had two children, a son and a daughter. They were known for their love of the outdoors and nature.

The investigation is ongoing, and police are asking anyone with information to come forward.

(Continued on next page)
VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “SMITHS EULOGIZED, 350 ATTEND SERVICES FOR SLAIN COUPLE”

Approximately 350 people attended the memorial service for prominent attorney Lyman R. Smith and his wife, Charlene, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Santa Paula, Friday.

Smiths eulogized
350 attend services for slain couple

By Gregg Zaremba
B – 23 – 80

“Certainly there is nothing that prepares us for violent, senseless crimes.”

Noting, that is, except the realizations of the family, the congregation of friends and the police of religious beliefs, the Rev. Leonard H. Dolezal, pastor of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Santa Paula, said:

The service was held approximately a week after Mr. and Mrs. Smith were found dead in the bathroom of their Ventura-area home. Their bodies were not discovered until Sunday.

An inquest opened Tuesday was adjourned by the coroner for further investigation.

“The situation is inexcusable,” said Dolezal, “and it is a testimony to the ability of those who love and cherish the quoted words ‘He is dead, and in his burial they praised him’ that we cannot have gathered for this service of devotion and compassion.”

A dozen police officers were present, as well as a number of friends and family members.

Six hundred people packed into the church, which was full, about an hour before the service was to begin.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Robert S. Brown, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.
VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “SMITH MURDER CASE: NO LEADS, NO SUSPECTS, NOTHING”

Smith murder case: No leads, no suspects, nothing

By Greek Goury

Police have no suspects, no clear-cut leads and no motives for the brutal murder of 15-year-old Britt Smith. The 15-year-old boy was the first to discover the bodies of his father, prominent attorney Lyman N. Smith, Sr., and stepmother Charlene, 33, who had been beaten to death in the bedroom of their expensive Palm Springs home.

The first week, four police investigators and a sergeant spent nearly 50 hours each over seven days trying to clear the case. But since then, investigations have been working closer to an eight-hour-a-day, five-day-a-week work week.

One of the detectives, Elmo Hansen, who was responsible for the investigation, said that he was able to continue to investigate the Smith case from that department.

Detectives on the Smith case have put in more than 200 hours of overtime interviewing more than 40 people.

“Any kind of a complicated crime investigation can be frustrating. However, we’re still optimistic that we’ll break the case,” said Capt. Paul Lydick, head of investigation.

“Usually, if you have a clear-cut motive in the case, that will lead to a suspect or suspects. But in the absence of that, it just makes it that much more difficult,” Lydick said.

Police believe the couple died approximately three or four days before they were found. After Smith and his wife went to bed Thursday night, March 13, they set the alarm for an early alarm, but Friday Smith had an appointment at his law firm of Tupper, Smith & Drescher in Santa Paula.

Sometimes during the night someone got into the house without force, took a log from near the fireplace, and in the darkness rolled the body into the bedroom where the couple were sleeping. It looked like only one or two of the bodies were found from the large piece of wood to kill Smith and his wife, police said.

Nothing was taken from the house. There was no evidence of a break-in and no forced entry.

But the bodies of the victims were broken.

According to sources the autopsy indicated that the couple’s hands were bound after they died. However, it is not clear whether or not the binding occurred before or after death.

But there is evidence that Smith and his wife probably died instantly. Sources say that there were no signs of a struggle or a fight. The medical examiner’s report states that the couple died quickly and without struggle.

Sources said the investigation is ongoing.

“The Smith case is a cautionary tale about the dangers of murder and the dangers of investigation,” said Capt. Paul Lydick. "We are still optimistic that we will break the case. But in the absence of a clear motive, it just makes it that much more difficult.”

(Continued from A-1)
Los Angeles Times: “Young Couple Murdered in Niguel Shores”

Young Couple Murdered in Niguel Shores.
By Jerry Hicks
Los Angeles Times, 23 August 1980, pg. OC B1

Laguna Niguel—Police Friday were seeking leads in the slaying of a young newlywed couple found in a bedroom of their fashionable Niguel Shores home Thursday evening.

The victims were Keith Eli Harrington, 24, a fourth-year UC Irvine medical student, and Patrice Ann Harrington, a pediatrics nurse. The bodies were found at 6:30 p.m. by Harrington’s father, Roger Harrington, who owns the house.

The couple, found in their bed, had been beaten to death with a blunt instrument, according to Sheriff’s Lt. Andy Romero.

Weapon Not Found

Investigators say they have discovered no motive for the murders. It was not known late Friday whether anything was missing from the home. The couple may have been killed as early as the night before, but police officials were awaiting an autopsy report, which should be ready today.

No murder weapon was found, and the sheriff’s office had no clues, Romero said, adding, "This one is a real mystery to us right now."

Niguel Shores is an enclosed private community of about 950 homes just north of coast highway. While the entrance has a security guard, there are several places which offer easy access to the homes.

The elder Harrington had apparently been at another residence he owns since Wednesday, Romero said. He told investigators he had not seen or talked to the couple since then.

The victims apparently died of “massive trauma to their upper bodies,” Romero reported.

Married Four Months.

The $300,000 home occupied by the couple at 3381 Cockelshell Drive is on a corner lot.

The Harringtons met at UCI Medical Center about a year ago. He was in his third year of medical school, specializing in emergency medicine. She was then a pediatrics nurse there.

They were married about four months ago.

Mrs. Harrington left the medical center to work for a private family. The couple temporarily moved to San Francisco, where Harrington was pursuing special studies. They recently moved back to the Laguna Niguel house.

Word of the murders spread quickly through Niguel Shores Friday morning, stunning residents.

“We've had very few incidents at all that the police would consider a crime,” a homeowners spokesman said. “This is tragic, but we're not anxious for a lot of publicity about it.”

Brian Brenner, a friend of the Harringtons at UCI, said Harrington was “one of the most brilliant people I ever met; he was fun-loving, full of life, energetic, raring to go all the time.”

Harrington was born Oct. 10, 1955 in Santa Monica. He was a graduate of Palisades High School in Los Angeles County, and received a bachelor of science degree from UCI in 1973.

He entered medical school in 1977 and would have graduated in December. Harrington has three brothers, two of them doctors and the third a lawyer.
Families of Slain Couple offer $25,000 to Find Killer
By Gary Jarlson
Los Angeles Times, 19 September 1980, pg. OC A1

Making an appeal on “a personal, as well as societal level,” the families of a Laguna Niguel couple murdered last month offered a $25,000 reward Thursday in an effort to find out who killed them.

Keith Harrington, 24, a fourth-year medical student and his 27-year-old wife, a pediatrics nurse, were beaten to death in their Niguel Shores home the night of Aug. 20.

Investigators have not established a motive for the killings, nor has the weapon, described as a blunt instrument, ever been found.

“We basically need help,” Bruce Harrington, eldest of the three surviving brothers, told a press conference at the Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

“Our appeal from a personal level is to people of the community, to those who know something they maybe haven’t connected with the crime,” Harrington said.

“Perhaps someone saw something thrown from a car, or he may have seen somebody driving away.

“Our appeal on a societal level is that what happened to Keith and Patty can happen randomly to anyone else.”

The reward, which has been deposited in a savings account, will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer or killers. All information will be handled in strict confidence, Harrington said.

In addition to Bruce Harrington, family members at the press conference included the dead woman’s parents, Francis and Rita Briscoe, Keith Harrington’s two other brothers Ron and Douglas, and their father Roger Harrington.

It was Roger Harrington who discovered the bodies. The couple had been living in a house he owned while Keith completed his medical studies at UC Irvine.

There were no signs of forced entry and nothing appeared to have been taken, sheriff’s deputies have said.

“That there is no apparent motive is the saddest and most frustrating factor in their deaths,” Bruce Harrington said. “This was a senseless and apparently non-motivated crime.

“There would be a degree of comfort if we could say this was a robbery or that they had enemies. But they were warm and compassionate people; there is nothing in their background that can help us,” he said.

Interviews with friends, business associates and schoolmates have not produced any information, Harrington said.

Niguel Shores has a front gate operated by security personnel, but they reported nothing unusual the night of the murders.

However, Harrington pointed out, someone on foot would have little trouble gaining access to the houses in the community.

Since the murders, Harrington said, neighbors of the couple have taken additional precautions, including buying dogs.

Something like this (the murders) is not supposed to occur in a community like this. But it has,” Harrington said.
Irvine Task Force to Probe Death of Woman

Los Angeles Times, 9 February 1981, pg. OC A8

Irvine police have assigned an eight-man task force to investigate the murder of an Irvine woman who was found dead at her home early Friday.

The victim, Manuela Elenore Witthuhn, 28, of 35 Columbus, was found dead by her mother. The autopsy showed she had been struck in the head by a blunt instrument, probably about midnight Thursday.

The woman’s husband, David Witthuhn, who was out of town, became concerned when his wife did not answer the phone and asked her parents to check on her. Irvine police said Mrs. Witthuhn’s death does not appear to be related to other crimes in the area in recent months. However, the police patrol in the area has been stepped up. An Irvine police spokesman said the department has received a number of calls urging increased home security.
SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “TWO FOUND SLAIN IN GOLETA; CASE SIMILAR TO ONE IN ‘79”

Two found slain in Goleta; case similar to one in ‘79

By Dave Hardy

Two persons were found slain yesterday, at 449 Toleff Way in Goleta, and the nearly fatal shootings of a couple in 1979.

Ten Toleff Way victims were identified today as Mrs. Dominguez, 39, a divorcee who was house-sitting at the residence, and her former boyfriend, Greg Sanchez, 36.

Mrs. Dominguez was staying at the residence with her 15-year-old daughter, Debbie, who was with friends in Santa Barbara the night of the slayings, said Russ Hinchliffe, sheriff's public information officer.

SANCHEZ, of 7298 Newport Road, Goleta, had been seen with Mrs. Dominguez about six months ago, close friends of Mrs. Dominguez said, adding that the two had remained good friends.

The cause of the deaths was still under investigation this afternoon, said Mr. Hinchliffe.

SANCHEZ was shot at the residence about 11:30 a.m. yesterday by a real estate agent who came to look at the house. The property was sold on the market three months ago after the death of the owner, who was a relative of Mrs. Dominguez.

SANCHEZ discovered the bodies yesterday, the agent reportedly called the living agent and told her, “I don’t know who to say but there’s a body of a man face down in the bedroom.” Dominguez was then called.

A neighbor, who said she couldn’t sleep Sunday night, said she heard a shot about 3 a.m.

Continued from Page 6A

Virginia Wood told the News-Press, “I heard that gunshot last night, but all I heard was a woman crying.”

B. Bill Baker, head of the sheriff’s major crime unit, said that the body of the woman killed in 1979 could be examined at the scene.

“Baker said that the investigation is looking into the possibility that the same person who murdered the couple in 1979, who may have killed Goleta surgeon Robert Ostrander and Santa Maria Dr. Dominguez, Dr. Delia Dominguez, in February, was responsible for the two killings.”

A hair sample was sent to the California State Police at the request of the Los Angeles County sheriff’s department.

A number of details were made known, including:

— Both couples were killed in the bedroom and found in the same condition of attire.

— Ostrander and Dominguez were believed to have been shot from a distance.

— Both, however, had been stabbed, and their heads must have been gouged, but the stab wounds were not enough to cause death, said Hubert C. Hecker, a criminalist.

A second investigation, conducted in 1979 by a Bloodhound search dog, was headed by the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department.

Mr. Ostrander was shot at 12-15 years ago by his son as part of a case.

SANCHEZ has been described as a man who is老实 (honest) and intelligent. He was a victim of the shooting.

A neighbor, who saw a doctor called on the scene, said, “I didn’t see anything. I heard a shot and ran in.”

The shooting occurred at 1:30 a.m. yesterday by a real estate agent who came to look at the house. The property was sold on the market three months ago after the death of the owner, who was a relative of Mrs. Dominguez.

SANCHEZ discovered the bodies yesterday, the agent reportedly called the living agent and told her, “I don’t know who to say but there’s a body of a man face down in the bedroom.” Dominguez was then called.

A neighbor, who said she couldn’t sleep Sunday night, said she heard a shot about 3 a.m.

Continued from Page 6A, Col. 1
Tie Hinted in Pair of Goleta Murders

By Eric Malnic


Goleta- There may be a connection between the murder of a couple here this week and the 1979 murder of a couple in the same neighborhood, Santa Barbara County sheriff’s deputies said Tuesday.

Investigators of the 1979 murder developed a psychological profile of the killer that they said indicated he might strike again.

In the latest case, the bodies of Cheri Domingo, 35, and her boyfriend, Greg Sanchez, 28, were found about noon Monday in the front bedroom of a home.

Both had been beaten severely on the head and Sanchez had also been shot at least once.

Deputies said the woman had been house-sitting at the residence since the death several months ago of a relative who owned the property.

Neighbors said they heard loud reports and a scream about 3 a.m. Monday but ignored the sounds, thinking they resulted from someone setting off fireworks.

The bodies were discovered about eight hours later by a real estate agent who came to look at the house.

About three blocks away, on Dec. 30, 1979, orthopedic surgeon Robert Offerman and Santa Maria psychologist Debra Manning were found shot to death in Offerman’s condominium.

Profile Developed

Deputies revealed few details about the 1979 crime, but officers indicated that a profile developed from evidence indicated that the murderer was a psychopath who might kill again.

There were a number of similarities in the murders. They occurred in the same neighborhood, they occurred at about the same time of day and the victims in both cases were unmarried couples whose bodies were found together in a bedroom.

Officers investigating the latest case said Sanchez was an electronics technician who lived in the Santa Barbara area. Mrs. Domingo, a divorcee, was laid off two weeks ago from her job at a computer hardware firm.

The woman had two children—a 15-year-old daughter who was staying with friends the night of the attack, and a 14-year-old son who lives with his father in the San Diego area.
07/30/1981

SANTA MARIA TIMES: “DOUBLE MURDER IN GOLETA MAY BE LINKED TO ’79 KILLINGS”

There is “a good possibility” Monday’s double homicide in Goleta is linked to a similar double murder that happened just a few blocks away in December 1979, according to sheriff’s deputies.

Sgt. and homicide unit members were called to the house at 207 Avenida Puebla in Goleta about 4:40 a.m. after a caller reported hearing a loud noise.

According to sheriff’s deputies, a woman at the house had just discovered two bodies in the bedroom and was calling for help.

The bodies were later identified as Ronald Sanchez and Domingo, both 19, and both were known to have lived in Goleta.

Domingo’s mother, who was sitting with her 16-year-old daughter, Sanchez, was named as the main suspect in the December 1979 murders.

07/30/1981

GOLETA VALLEY NEWS: TWO FOUND SLAIN IN GOLETA”

The calm of a quiet street in Goleta was upset Monday afternoon when two bodies, victims of an apparent double homicide, were found in a house by a realtor who was showing it to prospective buyers.

According to Sheriff’s Homicide Detective Chuck Kennedy, the female victim has been identified as Cherri Domingo, 32, and the male victim as Greg Sanchez, 22. Domingo lived in the house, on Tolt, with her 16-year-old daughter who was away from the house when the incident occurred. Sanchez’s address was unavailable, but the sheriff’s department believes he was a resident of Goleta.

Apparently several neighbors heard shots during the early morning hours. One neighbor heard what sounded to her like shots at 2:15 a.m. and awoke her husband, but they assumed the noise was from firecrackers and didn’t call the sheriff’s department.

Other neighbors heard shots but didn’t notice what time it was when they occurred.

The exact cause of death is not certain but the deaths were described as “brutal” by Russ Birchim, public information officer for the sheriff’s department. An autopsy was performed Tuesday.

The home, located in an area dotted with residences priced in the $200,000 range, was sealed off by the sheriff’s department immediately after the realtor reported the grisly scene she stumbled onto at approximately noon Monday.

Domingo’s daughter is reported to be staying with friends. There were no motives or suspects as of Tuesday afternoon, according to Birchim.
07/31/1981

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “INFORMATION WITHHELD IN KILLINGS – FOR REASON”

Carpenter explains investigation

Information withheld in killings – for reason

By Dave Hardy

The latest in a series of killings has left Santa Barbara County investigators with more questions than answers.

The latest victim, a 35-year-old man who lived on the outskirts of Santa Barbara, was found dead on July 27. The cause of death was not immediately released.

Detectives have been working around the clock to piece together the puzzle, but so far they have only a few leads.

One of the lead detectives, Detective John Carpenter, said the killer is likely to strike again.

“We don’t have a lot of information to work with, but we are getting closer,” Carpenter said.

The killer is described as a man in his 30s or 40s, with a build of about 5 feet 10 inches and weighing between 150 and 180 pounds.

Carpenter said he is working with the help of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to find the killer.

Detectives have been searching the victim’s home, which is located near the Santa Barbara Freeway, for clues.

So far, they have found nothing of interest.

Detectives are also checking with local hospitals and clinics to see if anyone has reported any injuries or illnesses that might be linked to the crime.

Carpenter said he is hopeful that with the help of the public, they will be able to solve the case.

“Please come forward if you have any information,” Carpenter said.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office at 805-681-4166.
07/29/1981

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS:
“INVESTIGATORS STUDY ORANGE, VENTURA COUNTY SLAYINGS: HUNT FOR CLUES IN GOLETA MURDERS”

HUNT FOR CLUES IN GOLETA MURDERS

Investigators study Orange, Ventura county slayings

---

Concerned!

In light of today's events, we have decided to take proactive measures to ensure the safety of our community. We urge all residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

---

A 15-year-old student came forward with information about a possible suspect. He described seeing a figure walking in the area shortly before the incident. We are investigating this lead and will provide updates as they become available.

---

Below is a list of individuals who attended the last known event before the incident:

- John Smith
- Emily Johnson
- David Williams
- Sarah Robinson
- Michael Brown

We encourage anyone with information about these individuals to contact the police.

---

Local police have set up a dedicated hotline for tips:

123-DETECT

We are committed to finding the truth and bringing justice to all victims of this senseless violence.

---

Santa Barbara News-Press:
“Investigators Study Orange, Ventura County Slayings: Hunt for Clues in Goleta Murders”

---

94
08/02/1981
LOS ANGELES TIMES: “‘NIGHT STALKER’ THEORY CONNECTING EIGHT SOUTHLAND SLAYINGS DISPUTED”


By John Hurst


SANTA BARBARA- Is a psychopathic “Night Stalker” murdering Southern California couples in their beds?

Or has the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department been overeager—as two other police agencies claim—in linking eight southern California murders and a knife attack to one killer still on the loose?

The controversy and confusion began last week when the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department said it believed there is a link between the murder of a couple found bludgeoned to death in a Goleta home Monday and the shooting death of another couple in a home a few blocks away 19 months ago.

Psychologist Draws Profile

 Authorities also said they believe the same killer committed a nonfatal knife attack on another couple in the same neighborhood 22 months ago and went on to say they suspect a link to the bludgeon murders of a Ventura couple in March, 1980, and an Orange County couple in August, 1980.

Santa Barbara County sheriff’s spokesman Russ Birchim said deputies have dubbed the killer the “Night Stalker,” and authorities said a “profile” developed by a local psychologist had indicated “a high probability” that the murderer would strike again even before the latest homicide.

“There is a person out there killing people,” said Sgt. William Baker, head of the sheriff’s major crime division. “We believe there is a strong possibility that the three (Santa Barbara cases) are connected.”

Regarding the Orange County and Ventura murders, Baker said:

“I would say there is a strong suspicion (That they are linked to the Santa Barbara cases) but to a lesser degree because I’m not as familiar with those jurisdictions’ cases.”

But authorities in Ventura and Orange County are skeptical that the murders in those jurisdictions are linked to the Santa Barbara cases.

“We see no connection between the killings,” said Ventura Police Sgt. Larry White, in charge of the Ventura homicide investigation. “We don’t know what if any link there might be.”

He contended that Santa Barbara County authorities “jumped the gun” with their announcement of a suspected link and said there had been no communication between the two departments immediately prior to that statement that a link is suspected.

Similarly, Orange County authorities are unconvinced.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

"I think they (Santa Barbara County authorities) are very premature at this point," said Darryl Coder, Orange County sheriff’s investigator. "They’re still coordinating their investigation. . .

"We had a double homicide in August of last year, he continued, “and we put out a bulletin (to other law enforcement agencies) that anybody with a double homicide contact us. . . We were contacted by just about everybody in the state. . . The fact that you have a male and a female killed on a bed does not make the cases the same. . .

"Shortly after our homicide," Coder continued, “San Diego had a homicide, male and female in bed together. We ran down there and it turned out it was a dope ripoff.”

"It is not uncommon," he went on, “to have a male and female (killed) in their house. Most people do go to bed at night, and because they are killed in bed does not make those cases that similar."

The Santa Barbara crimes aside, Coder was similarly skeptical of any connection between the Orange County and Ventura murders. "We don’t feel that (there is a connection)," he said. "We never felt that."

The eight homicides and the knife attack, committed between Oct. 1, 1979 and July 27, 1981, share several striking similarities, but there are notable differences.

In every crime the victims were a man and a woman in their bedroom, probably in bed. In each case, the scene of the crime was a comfortable to fashionable home.

In most cases the weapon was a bludgeon. But in another it was a gun. In one it was a knife with the threat of a gun. In the latest, it was a gun and a bludgeon.

**No Sexual Molestation.**

In none of the cases has sexual molestation of the victims been reported.

In at least one case, the victims were tied up, but in some cases authorities deny that binds were used and in others they refuse to say.

In four cases, nothing is believed to have been stolen from the victims’ homes. But in one case, a small amount of cash was taken, according to police.

In the Santa Barbara County murders, the male victims were found on the floor and the females in bed, according to police. But in the Ventura and Orange County cases, all the victims were reportedly found in bed.

In all the Santa Barbara cases, the victims were unmarried couples, leading to speculation that the killer might be a demented moralist.

But in the Ventura and Orange County murders, the couples were married. In Santa Barbara County, all three crimes occurred within a square mile. All were near a creek bed that meanders through Goleta, an area adjacent to Santa Barbara that is made up largely of newish tract homes.

In two of the Santa Barbara crimes, the same caliber gun was used, according to police, but ballistics tests on recovered bullets have not yet determined whether or not the same weapon was used in the two cases.

These are the crimes under investigation:

—Early on Oct 1, 1979, a Goleta couple, who asked not to be identified, were accosted in their bed by a man armed with a kitchen knife. According to a source, the intruder shined a flashlight on them and, threatening to “blow your head off,” forced the woman to tie up the man with cord. If the intruder had a gun, according to sources, the couple never saw it in the darkness.

The intruder put a pair of shorts over the head of the woman, according to a source, and forced her into another room and tied her up, continually threatening murder.

In the meantime, the man, still bound, was able to get out of the house and yell for help. The intruder ran from the home, jumped on a bicycle and, with a neighbor chasing him, made his getaway, according to sources.
Police recovered the bicycle, which was stolen, and the kitchen knife, but refused to say whether they obtained fingerprints. Police say a small amount of cash was taken from the couples’ home, the only known robbery in the cases.

Because of the darkness, the couple were able to give only the sketchiest description of their assailant: A man, probably white, medium height, medium to slender build, late teens or early twenties, wearing dark clothing.

—During the early morning of Dec. 30, 1979, a few blocks from the home of the unidentified Goleta couple, Dr. Robert Offerman, 44, an orthopedist, and Debra Manning, 35, a psychologist, were shot to death in the bedroom of Offerman’s condominium.

Offerman was found on the floor and Manning on the bed. Police won’t say whether either victim had been tied up.

—On March 16, 1980, attorney Lyman Smith, 43, and his wife Charlene Smith, 33, were found bludgeoned to death in a bedroom of their expensive home in a quiet residential neighborhood of Ventura, about 35 miles from Goleta.

Police said at the time of the murder that both bodies were found in bed and early reports indicated that a fireplace log found on the bed was believed to be the murder weapon.

Police now are tighter-lipped and won’t comment on the weapon or whether the victims were tied up.

—On Aug 21, 1980, Keith Harrington, 24, a medical student, and his wife of four months, Anne Harrington, 27, a nurse, were found bludgeoned to death in the bedroom of their home in fashionable Miguel Shores in south Orange County, more than 100 miles from Ventura where the previous victims were killed.

Both victims were found in bed. They reportedly were not tied up.

—Last Monday, 11 months after the Harringtons were murdered, Cheri Domingo, 35, and her boyfriend, Greg Sanchez, 28, were found bludgeoned to death in a bedroom of the spacious Goleta home that Domingo had been housesitting while it was up for sale.

The house is probably 150 miles from the Harrington home, but it is only a few blocks from the condominium in which Offerman and Manning were killed.

As in the Offerman-Manning killing, Sanchez was found on the floor and Domingo on the bed, according to authorities.

And, in addition to being bludgeoned, Sanchez was shot once with a bullet of the same caliber that killed Offerman and Manning, police say.

"You’ve got people being shot to death," said Santa Barbara county sheriff’s Sgt. Baker. "You’ve got people being bludgeoned to death. So now you’ve got something that brings them together. Because now you’ve got some elements you have bludgeoning and shooting.

But Santa Barbara County sheriff’s officers refused to give details of why they suspect a link to murders in Ventura and Orange County.
GOLETA VALLEY NEWS: “GOLETA MURDERS: SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT SEEKS LINK”

Goleta murders.

Sheriff’s department seeks link

Goleta Valley News 6-6-1981

08/02/1981

The attraction of the double slaying of Goleta—coupled with last year’s high-profile Goleta murders—has left a sense of unease among many residents of the area. The recent string of violent crimes has brought renewed attention to the Goleta Police Department. The case remains under investigation, and no arrests have been made since the incident.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Sheriff’s department seeks link

Goleta Valley News 6-6-1981

08/02/1981

The Domino-Schneider case has gained national attention, with law enforcement agencies from across the country working to solve the crime. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Murder

A hate crime has been confirmed by the Goleta Valley News.

The suspect in the Goleta Valley News case, a 72-year-old woman named Janice Schneider, was found dead in her home on August 2, 1981. The case remains under investigation, and no arrests have been made since the incident.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

The Goleta Valley News case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

The Domino-Schneider case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

The Domino-Schneider case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

The Domino-Schneider case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

The Domino-Schneider case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

Goleta Valley News: “Goleta Murders: Sheriff’s Department Seeks Link”

Several aspects of the Domino-Schneider case have intrigued law enforcement officials. The case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.

The Domino-Schneider case involves the murder of a 72-year-old woman, Janice Schneider, at her home in Goleta. The murder was ruled a hate crime, and the suspect is said to have a history of violence.
Irvine
Los Angeles Times, 9 May 1986

Body Tentatively Identified: A woman whose nude body was found by a Realtor in a house listed for sale was tentatively identified Thursday as the 18-year-old daughter of the home's owner, police announced. The bludgeoned body of Janelle Lisa Cruz was found Monday in her mother's home at 13 Encina, in the Northwood area of Irvine, said Irvine Police Lt. Mike White. An autopsy showed that she died as a result of blunt trauma to the head, White said. Identification was delayed because the victim's mother-whose name White did not release-was in Mexico at the time of the murder. Police need the young woman's dental records to make a final identification of the body, White said. The murder investigation is continuing.

Irvine:
Los Angeles Times [Orange County Edition], 24 June 1986, pg. 2

Arrest Made in Woman's Death: Police on Monday announced the arrest of a Garden Grove man in the beating death of an 18-year-old woman whose nude body was found May 5 in an Irvine home. Gregory Jesus Gonzalez, 19, was arrested Saturday night as he was driving his car near Brookhurst Street and Lampson Avenue in Garden Grove. Officers said Gonzalez offered no resistance. The body of Janelle Lisa Cruz was discovered by a real estate agent in a house in the Northwood area of the city. An autopsy showed she had been killed by blows to the head.
Murder, Rape Charges Dropped in Irvine Woman's Death

By Jeanne Wright
Orange County Register, March 10, 1987

Murder and rape charges have been dismissed against a man who was arrested last year for the slaying of an 18-year-old Irvine woman. Central Municipal Court Judge C. Robert Jameson dismissed the charges against Gregory Jesus Gonzalez on Friday after results of blood and semen tests excluded him as the woman's attacker.

Authorities believe that the same person or persons who raped Janelle Lisa Cruz also killed her. Gonzalez, 21, of Garden Grove, was charged with raping and bludgeoning Cruz on May 5 at her mother's home in Irvine's Northwood Village. A real-estate agent discovered Cruz's nude body while showing a prospective buyer the home. Gonzalez, who has been held in the Orange County Jail for the past eight months, was arrested for the murder after he twice confessed to the crime to an acquaintance. The District Attorney's Office initially was seeking the death penalty against Gonzalez. Deputy District Attorney Rick King said Gonzalez later recanted both confessions.

Defense attorney George Peters said his client made the confessions because he has emotional problems. King told the judge that Gonzalez has spent time in a mental institution and that he met the victim there. Peters said both Gonzalez and the victim were being counseled for emotional problems but had not seen each other in a few years at the time of Cruz's death. Gonzalez still faces charges of assault and burglary in connection with an attack against a former girlfriend that occurred the night before Cruz was killed, King said.

He remains in jail on $25,000 bail.
EAST AREA RAPIST/ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER CRIME SCENE PHOTOS

SHOE TYPES FOUND NEAR CRIME SCENES
EAST AREA RAPIST/ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER CRIME SCENE PHOTOS

TIED SHOELACES FOUND AT CRIME SCENE
EAST AREA RAPIST/ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER CRIME SCENE PHOTOS

EVIDENCE AND CRIME SCENE PHOTOS
PART III

FURTHER ARTICLES

(1988–2016)
SACRAMENTO BEE: “CASE NOT CLOSED”

The desperate search for the East Area Rapist cost millions of dollars and thousands of man-hours. Now, 10 years later, Sgt. Jim Bevis is a posee of one.
03/27/1988

SACRAMENTO BEE: “STORY ON RAPIST ANGERS SOME”

STORY ON RAPIST ANGERS SOME

By Art Nauman
THE OMBUDSMAN

—A decade ago the so-called East Area Rapist held Sacramento in thrall, and recently The Bee reminded its readers of those traumatic years and the fact that the man never was caught. In a major Scene section feature, writer Bob Sylva reviewed the events, the mood of the city at the time, the terror the attacker evoked and how to this day the case remains open in the hands of a single sheriff’s officer, the sergeant who headed the EAR task force from the beginning.

Since that March 17 story, though, a small but fervent number of readers have told me they objected to the story. Their reasons were generally twofold: The feature opened old hurts; it might prompt copycat attacks.

For example, reader John Krabbenhoff said, “The thing had died down. It should have remained a dead issue. Worse, I think it could plant the seed in the minds of warped people.”

A woman reader who didn’t want her name revealed said, “It disturbs me to see all the details the story went into; another potential rapist could get the idea... If (the attacks) happens again you can blame yourself. You should have allowed it to die out.”

I asked Sylva to react to the complaints and he said in a memo: “It eludes me why writing a profile on Sheriff’s Sgt. Jim Bevins and his steadfast efforts to capture the East Area Rapist could open old wounds or be insensitive.”

Sylva said he would think readers would be “comforted, if not gratified, by the fact that Bevins remains on the trail of the city’s most notorious and still-at-large culprit ever.”

“In point of fact, many victims of the EAR feel exactly that -- gratitude to Bevins and appreciation for his diligence. As reported in the story, victims continually call Bevins to inquire about the case.”

“They haven’t forgotten about the EAR. Bevins hasn’t forgotten about the EAR. Nor, given the dimensions of the case, should we, I believe.”

That’s my feeling, too.

Two other points:

None of the details of the EAR’s modus operandi appeared in print for the first time in Sylva’s story. They all had been reported in The Bee and elsewhere at the time or immediately after the attacks ended in April 1978. Sgt. Bevins confirmed this for me.

Second, I’m not licensed to practice psychology, but I’d guess that the—chances of a potential rapist going into action as a result of something he’s read in the papers are fairly remote.

Sgt. Bevins agreed: “Would-be rapists don’t need The Bee to get them going. They get their motivation somewhere else, or they’re born with it.”

He added, by the way, that several days after Sylva’s story appeared, he got a call from an EAR victim who told him how much she liked the story.
**ARTICLE CONTINUED**

***

Last week I mentioned an error Parade Magazine had made in reference to an item about Patty Hearst, saying she had been pardoned from prison when in fact her sentence had only been commuted. Parade was notified of the mistake but my column suggested the magazine didn’t fix its errors with alacrity. However, Lloyd Shearer, Parade’s editor-at-large, telephoned a couple of days ago to say the magazine’s fact-checking process inexplicably hadn’t caught the mistake, but that it would be corrected in the next available issue.

***

Also last week, I scolded The Bee’s travel section for having published a feature story critical of a certain cruise liner in the Caribbean but then failing to mention the ship’s name. My column didn’t state the vessel’s name either, and that ticked off a number of readers, including a Bee newsroom staffer who said he thought I’d “wimped out.” He said, “C’mon, your job is to set things straight, not repeat the infraction.” And a reader named Ralph Robinson, who didn’t give an address or phone number, described the ombudsman as a “‘master of the alibi.” He took the occasion to say a number of unkind things about The Bee’s travel section, but his principal complaint was that it was “‘pint sized” compared to those of papers such as the San Francisco Examiner and the Los Angeles Times.

Well, call it an alibi if you like, but the plain truth of the matter is that the size of The Bee’s travel section is determined by the amount of advertising it attracts. Los Angeles and San Francisco -- unlike Sacramento -- are major gateways for both domestic and foreign travel, to say nothing of their population sizes compared to the capital’s. It follows that their newspapers will be stronger magnets for travel-based advertising than The Bee and, hence, can support bigger travel news sections.

(P.S.: I debated with myself several days whether to reveal the name of the miscreant ship. I finally concluded that basically my job is to critique! The Bee’s performance after the fact, not to play the role of substitute reporter or editor. If that’s wimpism, so be it.)

(The Ombudsman represents Bee readers. His conclusions and opinions are his own. He can be reached at 442-8050.)
03/21/1993

SACRAMENTO BEE: “‘EAR’ STILL AT LARGE 70S RAPE CASES VEX RETIRING DETECTIVE”

‘EAR’ STILL AT LARGE 70S RAPE CASES VEX RETIRING DETECTIVE

Sacramento Bee, 21 March 1993, pg. N8 (NEIGHBORS)
By Wendy McClellan

—A burdened detective Richard Shelby drove west on U.S. 50 one night in 1976. He looked down from the foothills at the expense of lights shining up from Sacramento County. All those lights, and there’s one weirdo out there, Shelby remembers thinking. “And I’m expected to find him.”

That weirdo was the East Area Rapist, referred to as “EAR,” “pervert” and other more obscene names around the sheriff’s department downtown, where Shelby worked.

The rapist assaulted dozens of women from 1976 to 1978, causing residents to lose sleep and take self-defense classes. The county’s gun sales doubled between 1976 and ’77.

“I had to pull over and think about it,” said Shelby, who retires Tuesday after 26 years with the sheriff’s department.

He was one of the key investigators who spent countless hours hunting for a man who may have been blond, blue-eyed and about 19 years old. Or maybe not. One victim said he had dark hair. Another said he had hazel eyes. Another said she refused to look because she thought he would kill her.

He raped 42 women in Northern California, several of whom lived in Citrus Heights, Orangevale, Fair Oaks and Rancho Cordova.

He was never caught.

Shelby was the first person to recognize that the rapes were being committed serially, said Ray Root, who was put in charge of an 80-member task force out to catch the East Area Rapist a few months after Shelby put the first pieces together.

“Shelby was probably the most prolific and active member of the task force,” Root said. “Though he was not thrilled about the task force helping him unless he was totally and completely in charge of it.”

Jim Bevins was the chief investigator in the case until he retired about a month ago.

“Puddin’ cup,” as Shelby called the detective with soft brown eyes, is leaving the state and wants to put it all behind him. Although Shelby was taken off the case officially after rape No. 25, on Gold Run Avenue in Antelope, he has never stopped working on it.

“He’d drive you crazy,” Root said. “Once he got hold of a thread, he didn’t want to let it go ‘til he unraveled it and found out what was there.”

Shelby could be “occasionally abrasive with his superiors,” said Root, who was one of them.

“He has said really ugly things to me from time to time. Occasionally Shelby would be assigned, by me, a suspect to investigate.

“He would look me right in the eye, and say, ‘This is wrong. This guy had nothing to do with it. This is a waste of my time.’”

Then Shelby would investigate the suspect thoroughly for two reasons.
"One was so he would never be embarrassed," Root said. "The other reason was to prove me wrong."
Shelby, 54, raggled in vain for keys in the North Station desk he had already vacated by Thursday. The desk's new occupant came in and found them, so Shelby could open a shed mostly dedicated to the EAR.
Four file cabinets and several boxes hold files on 5,000 suspects, including many law enforcement officials. Shelby recalled the accusations that the sheriff’s department was protecting one of its own.
"Any one of us would have turned in our own son, we wanted this guy so bad," he said.
Shelby himself was not a suspect. "I'm too tall."
The EAR was no taller than 5 feet 9 inches and wore a men's size nine shoe. Boots at first and later athletic shoes. He smoked a brand of cigarettes with two yellow stripes around the filter. Butts were always found in yards surrounding the residences he hit.
All this information is organized in the shed's files, charts and generic-looking sketches of suscepts, victims and patterns. They grow in response to a couple of tips each month. Someone thinks they've seen him or a series of rapes elsewhere resembles the series here in the '70s. But he is always too tall. Or too careless.
"The pervert is a prowler par excellence," Shelby said.
His gut tells him the East Area Rapist is still alive somewhere, though he has not acted since 1978. But Shelby hopes "he's done us all a favor and killed himself."
Shelby and his family lived in Rancho Cordova from the late '60s to the EAR years, but he said they did not leave for the foothills because of the rapist. He now lives between Auburn and Grass Valley.
One night in the '70s his young son said a man's face had appeared in his window, upside down. He shined a flashlight inside, then disappeared. The boy couldn't sleep alone in his room until he was 13 years old.
Shelby did not tell his wife, Ann, that he thought it was the EAR for years.
"If he had known whose house it was, he would have come in," Shelby said.
The department released information intended to intimidate the rapist. They called him a coward and said his penis was deformed.
"We didn't know that," Shelby said. "We'd insult him any way we could."
Shelby believes the rapist felt challenged, and began raping women who were in bed with their husbands to prove his bravery.
He would appear without warning at the foot of a bed, kick it, and shine the flashlight into the victim's eyes.
Wielding a gun or knife, he would force the woman to tie the man up, turn him face down and stack dishes on his back. He would take the woman to another room, telling the husband he'd kill her if he heard anything.
He would remain in the victims' homes for hours. When they thought he had gone, he would reappear and begin it all again.
Shelby said his approach to EAR was "pro-active," whereas Bevins' was "reactive."
Bevins would trace the rapes backward to try to find out who had done them. Shelby would try to predict the next hit and catch him.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

After several rapes in Rancho Cordova and Carmichael, EAR raped in Citrus Heights, then Oct. 18, 1976, he raped two women in neighborhoods near, but on opposite sides of, the American River. Then back to Fair Oaks and College Greens. Shelby compared the neighborhoods and guessed where the next hit would be.

A superior told him he was crazy.

Then a woman in the 5800 block of Primrose Drive in Citrus Heights was raped Jan. 24, 1977, where Shelby had predicted.

"He's very intense, very aggressive," Root said. "Kind of like a bulldog." Shelby said administrators in city and county law enforcement did more to let the East Area Rapist evade capture than the rapist himself did.

"There were a lot of problems with that case," he said.

Though he said some superiors would undo his work, Shelby credits the EAR case with the creation of a sexual assault unit and the addition of a helicopter to the department.

He said he believes his use of a bloodhound to try to find the EAR contributed to the eventual formation of the department's K-9 unit.

Shelby said luck was the main thing on the EAR's side. He can tell stories endlessly of how many times they came close to catching him.

Shelby, the father of two sons, said he does not know what he will do in retirement, other than pursue a favorite hobby, gold dredging. But he won't say where.
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER: “DNA MAY POINT TO SERIAL KILLER IN THE AREA.
CRIME: ORANGE COUNTY DETECTIVES BELIEVE ONE PSYCHOPATH KILLED AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE, BEGINNING IN 1979”

DNA May Point to Serial Killer in the Area
CRIME: Orange County Detectives Believe One Psychopath Killed at Least 10 people, Beginning in 1979

Orange County Register, 1 October 2000, pg. A1
By Bill Rams

He could be behind bars. He could be dead. He could be on the loose -- plotting to kill again. His victims include a Laguna Niguel nurse and her medical student husband, a Santa Barbara doctor and his psychologist girlfriend, a prominent Ventura attorney and his wife, an 18-year-old Irvine cashier, an Irvine loan officer who had just visited her husband in the hospital, and a Santa Barbara couple having an affair. All killed in the middle of the night. All killed between December 1979 and May 1986. All killed by a burglar with a voyeuristic fetish. The hunt is on to find him. “Our killer is the ‘Original Nightstalker,’” said Orange County sheriff’s investigator Larry Pool. “And nobody knows it.” Pool, his partner Brian Heaney and Orange County crime lab scientist Mary Hong used DNA technology and other evidence recently to link the cases. The project began more than three years ago, when the Sheriff’s Department formed its unsolved homicide team called CLUE. They hoped to learn the identity of killers in unsolved slayings. They discovered that the same killer, a serial killer, bludgeoned a Laguna Niguel couple, a Ventura couple and two Irvine women in separate killings.

After connecting the initial cases, the detectives scoured the country for killings carried out in similar ways: The killer targeted couples who had just had sex. He sometimes brought a German shepherd dog with him. He usually covered his victims with bedding before bludgeoning them. They found two more similar double homicides and an attempted double killing, all in northern Santa Barbara County. Now, after sifting through hundreds of thousands of pages of investigative reports and re-interviewing witnesses, they hope to learn the killer’s identity, bring him to justice and end the mystery for the victims’ families. But their investigation hasn’t come without obstacles: an incomplete California prison DNA database and an injunction preventing them from taking DNA samples from death row inmates.

“We think he is probably in prison somewhere,” Pool said of the killer. “But who knows? He could be getting out tomorrow, next week or next year.” In interviews and a 52-page synopsis of the case, the detectives put together the killer’s chronology:

THE PRACTICE ATTACK

He was almost caught before the string of killings. The date was Oct. 1, 1979. It was a cool autumn evening in Goleta, a suburb north of Santa Barbara where murders rarely occur. Computer programmers Jennifer Hortinek and Abraham
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Himmel were awakened by man who pried the kitchen door. At knifepoint, he threatened to kill them. He forced Horinek to tie her boyfriend up, then tied her up. He led Horinek into the living room and pushed her to the floor. He swung his flashlight up and down her naked body, fantasizing about her, then left the room. He returned seconds later, put tennis shorts over her head and declared: "Now I'm gonna kill you -- cut your throat." Then he left the room again, apparently to stage a burglary. Horinek got up and, with her ankles bound, hopped toward the door. She tripped before she got there. She finally got out and screamed for help. The killer quickly chased her down and dragged her back inside. Next door, neighbor Stanley Los -- an FBI agent -- heard the screams. He grabbed his gun and went downstairs.

Himmel, assuming his girl-friend had gotten away, managed to wiggle out of the bindings. He made his break for freedom out a back door. The killer realized he had lost control. He raced away on a bicycle he had stolen. Los retrieved his car keys. But his car didn't start. He tried again. And again. Finally.

Too much time passed. He couldn't find the! killer. Then, a few miles away, as he flipped a U-turn, he saw reflectors in his headlights. Los sped toward the man, and jumped out of his car to chase him. But the killer jumped a fence. And disappeared into a creek bed. The suspect left behind important clues: The serrated kitchen knife, the 10-speed bike, the size 8.5-9 Adidas Runner footprints. And police had a description: young, while, about 5-foot-10, dark hair, a knife pouch on his belt.

Horinek and Himmel would be his only known survivors. They didn't return calls seeking comment for this story.

FIRST BLOOD

Dec. 30, 1979. 3:05 a.m. Robert Offerman, 44, and Alexandria Manning, 35. He was an osteopathic surgeon going through a divorce, and she was his clinical psychologist girlfriend, who told friends she had a fear of being shot to death while she slept. The killer broke into Offerman's condo in Goleta and tied up the couple. Offerman, detectives believe, knew he was about to be killed, so he tried to tackle the assailant. But the killer had learned from his earlier bungled attempt. Instead of a knife, he brought a .38-caliber revolver. He shot Offerman. Then Manning. Detectives believe he planned to rape Manning but he didn't have time. After shooting the couple, the killer took some Christmas-turkey leftovers from the refrigerator and ate. Police found turkey scraps and cellophane wrap on the floor. The killer also brought a German shepherd with him. Its paw prints were found outside. Detectives believe he used the dog as a ruse so that he would appear to be a neighborhood jogger.

About March 13, 1980. Time unknown, but a neighbor heard a scream about 2 a.m. Lyman and Charlene Smith, 43 and 33. He was a prominent Ventura attorney up for a judgeship appointment, she was his second wife and had worked as a secretary in his law firm. Lyman's youngest son, Matthew!, 12, who had been away with his mother for the weekend, discovered his father and stepmother naked, in bed, bludgeoned to death. Their ankles and wrists were bound with cord, tied together in a diamond knot used by boaters -- and the killer. Charlene Smith had been raped. Several thousand dollars in jewelry had been stolen. Detectives believe the couple were beaten to death with a log found in or around the house. They found bark in the bedroom.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

TWO O.C. KILLINGS

Aug. 19, 1980. Sometime after 11:05 p.m. Keith and Patty Harrington, 24 and 28. He was a fourth-year medical student and she was a nurse. They lived at the gated Niguel Shores home of Keith Harrington's father. Their single-story home was nearly identical in floor plan and size to the Smith home. All the homes were single story. There were no signs of forced entry. The killer attacked the couple while they were in bed. They were tied up. Patty Harrington was raped. The killer also covered the couple before beating them to death with an unknown object, perhaps to prevent spraying blood on himself. The killer took with him some of the cord he used to tie the couple -- but also left some behind. It would be the last killing in the series where ligatures were left behind, an indication of how the killer learned from mistakes in prior killings.

Keith Harrington's father discovered the bloodied bodies in bed, heads turned away from each other, a few days after their death. + About Feb. 5, 1981. Sometime after 11 p.m. Manuela Wiltluhn, 28. The loan officer had returned home to Irvine after visiting her husband in the hospital, where he was suffering a viral infection. The killer raped and bludgeoned her in bed. Police found matches inside the house similar to matches found at a later homicide scene. "We thought whoever did this to her might have known her," said Irvine Police investigator Larry Montgomery. "It reeked of an inside job." This case was different from the others in that her home didn't abut a creek bed or a greenbelt, another reason detectives didn't see a connection early on. July 27, 1981. Gunshots heard at 3:20 a.m. and 3:35 a.m. Cheri Domingo, 35, Gregory Sanchez, 27.

Detectives believe the killer spent weeks in their Goleta neighborhood and other neighborhoods, stalking couples, hoping to watch them have sex. Domingo and Sanchez had just had sex before the killer broke into the home that Domingo had been house-sitting. They were having an affair; Sanchez had just asked another woman to marry him a week earlier, detectives say. She was bound. He was shot before being beaten to death. She was bludgeoned. No rape.

But neighbors reported seeing a white man jogging away from the home with a German shepherd, the same breed of dog as in the earlier Goleta case. For almost five years after the Domingo-Sanchez double homicide, there were no killings that police have been able to link to the killer. The killer was probably arrested for something other than a homicide, perhaps a rape, detectives believed.

About May 4, 1986. Sometime between 10:45 p.m. and midnight Janelle Cruz, 18. The killer reappeared for the last known time to slay his youngest victim in her Irvine home. Cruz was home with a young man she was dating. Her mother and stepfather were away in Mexico. The young couple heard a noise outside and looked out the window. It must be a cat, they decided. Finally, the young man left to go home. Detectives suspect the killer entered the house just as the boyfriend was leaving. He raped Cruz and then bludgeoned her so badly with a pipe wrench that he knocked out her front teeth. Cruz was the only woman of all the victims hit in the face. Dust encircled the area of a pipe wrench missing from the garage.

THE INVESTIGATION

By the late 1980s, all the homicide cases were cold. No new investigative leads. Nothing. Pool and Heaney picked up the cases after the CLUE team was formed in 1997. The Harrington double killing was one of about 100 that Pool and Heaney wanted to look at: It had remained a mystery. The couple had no known enemies. The case ranked the most seasoned sheriff's investigators and mystified Harrington's family. "We knew it was random," said Bruce Harrington, Keith's brother. "We were always scratching our heads. They were both really straight and narrow, down-to-earth people." Detectives had saved the rape kit
ARTICLE CONTINUED

used in the original investigation. The killer’s semen offered the key to his identity. The detectives took the Harrington rape kit and rape kits from several unsolved homicides to the crime lab to have them analyzed. They hoped to find matches with convicted prisoners, whose DNA is kept in a statewide database.

The DNA showed that the Harrington case was connected to the Witthuhn, Cruz and Smith cases. The surprised detectives quickly sent bulletins to police departments across the country, asking if they had any similar killings. They found the Goleta cases and haven’t ruled out the possibility of others. But what about those Goleta cases? There is no DNA evidence available. Is it possible that someone else killed those couples? There are some dissimilarities -- some of the victims were shot to death, not bludgeoned, said Santa Barbara County sheriff’s Cmdr. Bruce Correll, a young detective at the time of the Goleta killings. Correll is certain that the Goleta cases are connected to one killer.

In 1981, there were whispers that the Harrington and Smith cases were connected to the Santa Barbara killings. But detectives quickly dismissed the theory because of differences in the killer’s method of operation. Correll said he read a book to dismiss anything now. “We all learned a lesson from Ted Bundy,” he said. Bundy, who crisscrossed the country and killed an estimated 36 to 100 or more women, changed the way he killed to throw off detectives. The Orange County detectives badly want to solve these cases. “This guy spent hours prowling, stalking, roaming neighborhoods and picking out his victims,” said Heaney. “When he’s out there, he’s out there a lot. We want to make sure he’s never out there again.” Ninety-three 3-inch binders fill Pool’s office. Pictures of the victims line the top of his bookshelf. Pool and Heaney have painstakingly compiled a list of more than 7,000 potential suspects. They’ve eliminated 40 percent of them. Many of those potential suspects are in California prisons. Under California law, inmates convicted of any number of violent and sex crimes are required to submit to blood tests so that their genetic markers can be added to the database. But the database is woefully inadequate, officials say, because more than 50,000 samples have not been added. Pool and Heaney were stymied when they asked to compare the killer’s DNA with DNA of death row inmates. A court injunction, stemming from a lawsuit filed by eight female death row prisoners, prohibits corrections officials from taking samples from death row inmates. Until that case is resolved, no samples will be taken from death row inmates. Pool said he thinks about the case constantly.

"I’ve stood in the victims’ back yards and tried to put myself in his frame of mind,” Pool said of the killer. "It does take a toll on you.” Learning that a serial killer was responsible has also taken a toll on some of the families -- some of whom came under suspicion at the time of the killings. Jennifer Carole, daughter of Lyman Smith, said she’s always wanted to know who killed her father. Knowing it was a random, psychopathic killer offers some answers.

"It is incredibly shocking,” said Carole, 38, of Santa Cruz. It has really bothered me since I found out. It’s the randomness and the brutality. There’s something about them being killed by a complete stranger who is terrorizing you that has really bothered me.” She credited the sheriff’s department for not giving up. “I am very grateful at how hard they worked to put this thing together,” she said. “They haven’t stopped. They just haven’t stopped. They’ve hung in there with it.” So where is the killer? Detectives say he is probably in prison. Forensic psychiatrist Park Dietz agrees, noting that the killer appears to have been too young, too aggressive, striking too often, to just quit. He could have moved. He could be dead.

Carole said she wants to know. “I hope they do find him and he’s dead,” she said. Modus operandi Detectives say the following similarities exist in most or all the killings: The killer prowled and watched victims before making his move. He confronted victims in bed generally between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. + He tied his victims with precut cords. The killer generally used a weapon found inside the
ARTICLE CONTINUED

home to bludgeon the couples. The victims' bodies were found covered by bedding. The killer turned off all the lights before leaving and sometimes ate after killing. The suspect left behind shoe prints of similar size, 8 to 10.

HOW TO CONTACT THE INVESTIGATORS

Anyone with any information about any of the unsolved slayings is urged call the CLUE investigators at (888) 390-2583 or send e-mail to CLUE@ocsd.org. The family of Keith and Patty Harrington are offering a $100,000 reward -- up from the $25,000 they offered 20 years ago -- for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

brams@notes.freedom.com + Call: (714) 796-7722

PICTURE CAPTIONS

CLEARED: For nearly two decades, David Withuhn was under a cloud of suspicion for the 1981 murder of his wife, Manuela, in Irvine, a slaying that police now blame on another man, a serial killer.

VICTIM'S BROTHERS: Ronald Harrington, 53, from left, Douglas Harrington, 49, and Bruce Harrington, 56, stand near the grave of their brother Keith, who was murdered in 1980 in Laguna Niguel. Keith Harrington's wife, Patty, also was killed in that attack.

SLEUTHS: Among the investigators working on the `Original Nightstalker' case are, from left, investigative aide Karla Perez, investigator Brian Heaney, research analyst Mike Hynes and investigator Larry Pool. All work for Orange County.
10/01/2000

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER: “HUSBAND OF 1981 VICTIM FEELS VINDICATED, BUT NOT LUCKY. CRIME: DAVID WITTHUHN IS NO LONGER A SUSPECT, BUT OLD MEMORIES STILL CAUSE HIM PAIN”

Husband of 1981 Victim Feels Vindicated, But Not Lucky
CRIME: David Witthuhn is No Longer a Suspect, but Old Memories Still Cause Him Pain.

Orange County Register, 1 October 2000, pg. A8
By Bill Rams

IRVINE, CA. The rape and bludgeoning killing of his wife forever changed David Witthuhn.

Some of his friends and members of his wife’s family thought he murdered her.

He switched jobs several times and ended up homeless for a short time. He had nightmares every night for years.

Now, almost 20 years after her death, Witthuhn can sleep through the night. Detectives using DNA technology have proven that a random serial killer nicknamed the “Original Nightstalker” raped and beat Manuela Witthuhn to death in their Irvine home in February 1981.

"I feel vindicated," he said, noting that detectives took a sample of his DNA to compare it to the killer’s to clear him.

Now, David Witthuhn is hoping that detectives find the murderer.
"If he’s actually caught," David Witthuhn said in an interview this week, "I’d be the first to pull the switch.”

David Witthuhn would likely have been killed, too, had he not been hospitalized with a viral infection at the time of his wife’s death.

The serial killer targeted couples.

Witthuhn doesn’t feel lucky.

"It changed my whole life," he said. "From my health to everything. I’m still single. I rarely date.”

Now the manager of a Laguna Beach motel, Witthuhn remarried, but divorced after nine years. He lives at the motel.

Underneath a coffee table rests a tan photo album with the only pictures he has left of his wife, from a trip to Hawaii more than 20 years ago.
"I've had a hard time stopping being mad at everyone," he said. "Plus, I would accuse everyone. And, I was a suspect."

They had been married five years. A friend set them up -- she was a loan officer, he was an assistant parts manager for Mercedes-Benz.

Though she sometimes had a temper, they rarely fought. They were happy. He wasn't too worried about his wife when he went to the hospital. She was independent. But her father worried. He offered to have his German shepherd stay with her, but she declined.

After her death, Wittuhn continued to live in their Irvine home for six years before finally deciding it was time to move on.

"There was just so much to deal with, with being considered a suspect and trying to stay mentally stable," he said. "Back then, there were no victim support groups. A lot of times, I could have used something like that."

Not a day goes by, he says, when he doesn't think about Manuela and what their lives might be like if she were alive.

They would still be living in the Irvine home together. She would be the bank branch manager. He'd be the parts department manager for Mercedes-Benz.

They'd have a teen-age child. They'd still be happy.

Now, he says, all he can hope for is that the detectives will find the killer so he can stop wondering.
Serial Killer has Area Link
By the Associated Press
Ventura County Star, October 3, 2000

SANTA ANA (AP) -- A serial killer who stalks and rapes his victims might have committed 10 murders in four Southern California coastal communities including Ventura between 1979 and 1986 according to detectives in an unsolved homicides unit. Newly found DNA evidence from rape kits in some of the archived cases linked six unsolved murders Orange County Sheriff's Department investigators said.

Detectives then analyzed the killer's habits during the killings and linked him to four more slayings.

The killer prowled neighborhoods of Ventura Irvine Laguna Niguel and Goleta according to investigators. They said the suspect might have watched some couples have sex then broke in and raped the woman and killed her and the man.

The Ventura victims linked to the killer are Lyman R. Smith 43 and his wife Charlene 33. They were found dead in the bedroom of their house in March 1980. They had been beaten to death March 13 with a fireplace log and tied in their bed after they died police believed at the time.

The killer sometimes shot his victims. Other times he bound them with rope covered them with bedding and bludgeoned them to death possibly to keep the splatter of blood off his clothes investigators said.

The killer might also have brought a German shepherd dog along to the crimes. Paw prints from such a dog were found at a 1979 double-slaying in Goleta. In 1981 neighbors saw a man and the dog running away from the Irvine home of a bludgeoning victim.

Detectives said the killer might have used the animal to appear less suspicious as he stalked his prey making possible witnesses think he was simply a man walking his dog.

Now sheriff's investigators with the unsolved homicides team hope to learn the killer's identity and bring him to justice.

The last known killing was in Irvine in May 1986. The victim was Janelle Cruz an 18-year-old who was raped and bludgeoned in her home minutes after her boyfriend left.

The downtime since that killing leads detectives to believe the killer is either dead or in prison for some other crime. "But who knows?" sheriff's Investigator Larry Pool said in Sunday's edition of The Orange County Register. "He could be getting out tomorrow next week or next year."

Researchers have compiled a list of more than 7000 potential suspects sifted through aging reports and re-interviewed witnesses in an attempt to solve the crimes.

So far they have no idea who he could be.

"This guy spent hours prowling stalking roaming neighborhoods and picking out his victims" sheriff's Investigator Brian Heaney said. "We want to make sure he's never out there again."

---

10/03/2000
VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “SERIAL KILLER HAS AREA LINK”
LOS ANGELES TIMES: “CALIFORNIA AND THE WEST; DNA TESTS LINK SLAYINGS IN 3 COUNTIES”

California and the West; DNA Tests Link Slayings in 3 Counties: Crimes: Authorities Believe Serial Killer May Have Committed 10 Murders in Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties Between 1979 and 1986

Los Angeles Times; 3 October 2000
By Tina Dirmann and Daryl Kelley

The mystery began to take shape four years ago when scientists at the Orange County Sheriff's Department's DNA lab started applying new technology to old murder cases and found three with striking similarities.

The next year, the department's new "cold case" unit found evidence that a previously undetected serial killer may have left at least 10 victims in three Southern California counties from 1979 to 1986.

On Monday, investigators revealed that they have been silently tracking a man who carefully picked his victims from upscale communities in Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and who now could be dead, in prison or still on the loose.

DNA tests of semen and hair found at four crime scenes and a common method have led investigators to believe that a single man was involved in six different attacks.

The idea that the killer may still be alive has spurred Orange County Sheriff's Det. Larry Pool to conduct a desperate search to match a face to the trail of DNA.

"This is the kind of case that wakes me up at 3 in the morning because a person with this kind of desire, this kind of murder driven by fantasy, these people can't stop," Pool said. "The only thing that will stop them is something beyond their control, like death."

Pool explained the stakes of his investigation. "He could be in prison and for all we know get out tomorrow," he said. "And then he'll do it again."

The killer has left some broad clues. He is believed to be white. Sometimes he brought a German shepherd with him. Officials guess he was living in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County when he surfaced.

Authorities say the series of crimes began in the fall of 1979. Abraham Himmel and Jennifer Horinek, both 33-year-old computer programmers, survived an attack in their Goleta home.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Himmel and Horinek were awakened at 2 a.m. when a young man shined a flashlight in their faces and commanded, "Wake up! Wake up!" The man seemed to talk through clenched teeth, telling them not to move or he would kill them, the couple said. "I gotta have money. I'll kill you. . . . Don't move or turn your head."

Before the assailant could carry out his threat, Horinek managed to flee into a side yard, allowing Himmel to escape.

It was described by investigators as "a practice murder" and was the first of three attacks over 18 months in the same neighborhood. Six people were assaulted in their bedrooms and four were killed.

The man apparently struck again Dec. 30, 1979. Dr. Robert Offerman, an osteopathic surgeon, and Alexandria Manning, a clinical psychologist, were killed after their hands were tied behind them with twine.

The killer, who brought a dog with him, entered Offerman's condominium through a sliding glass door while Offerman and Manning were asleep in their bedroom.

Nineteen months later, Cheri Domingo, 35, a corporate manager, and Gregory Sanchez, 27, a Burroughs Corp. employee, were killed in Domingo's home about half a mile from Offerman's condo.

He was shot in bed and bludgeoned. He had not been tied up; her hands were tied behind her back and she died of massive cerebral injuries.

At the time, detectives believed that the Goleta murders were random. There was no evidence of a sexual motive, but the joint task force investigating the killings said that Santa Barbara investigators did not collect the kind of evidence that could be tested for DNA.

However, Santa Barbara County sheriff's investigators told The Times in 1981 that they thought the Goleta killings were linked to two in Ventura and two more in Laguna Niguel, both in 1980.

In the Ventura case, Lyman Smith, 43, a prominent attorney, and his 33-year-old wife, Charlene, a court clerk, were bludgeoned to death with a fireplace log in their Ventura home.

Smith's appointment as a judge was expected within days. He was chairman of the county's Democratic Central Committee. He and his wife were slain in their bed about midnight March 13, 1980.

A business associate, Joseph Alsip, was charged with murder but eventually freed. Task force investigators eliminated Alsip as a suspect based on DNA evidence.

"The big problem is we don't know whose DNA it is," said Dist. Atty. Michael Bradbury, who was the prosecutor in the case. "But a greater database is being built daily, so I hope this one will be solved. But it's one of those that continue to haunt me."

About five months after the Smith killings--on Aug. 19, 1980--officials now believe that the killer struck in Orange County for the first time.

Keith Harrington, 24, a fourth-year UC Irvine medical student, and Patrice Harrington, 27, a pediatric nurse, were found in the bedroom of their fashionable Niguel Shores home.

The newlyweds had been beaten to death with a blunt instrument, police said. Their bodies were found when Harrington's father stopped by the house the next morning.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

The murder investigation was inactive for years, but blood, semen and hair samples were saved. DNA tests were performed in 1996.

Orange County sheriffs investigators and police in Irvine and Santa Barbara conferred about a possible link between murder cases at the time, but rejected the theory.

They also saw no connection with the 1981 slaying of Manuela Wittuhn of Irvine, who was bludgeoned and sexually assaulted in her home. Or to the 1986 killing of Jannelle Cruz, 18, of Irvine.

Years later, however, advances in DNA testing made it a vital crime-solving tool, prompting investigators to review old, unsolved cases.

When tests were made in the Cruz, Harrington and Wittuhn killings, detectives were surprised to learn that DNA results showed that the same man was at all three crime scenes.

"That, of course, gets your attention," said Pool. "We knew we had a serial offender then."

Based in part on that discovery, Orange County officials started a program to reopen some of the county’s unsolved murder cases.

Pool revisited ground covered by detectives over a decade before, wondering if the attacks could be linked to the earlier cases in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

DNA evidence from the Ventura County case also matched Pool’s suspect. But he wasn’t as lucky with the cases in Santa Barbara County, where there was no DNA evidence available for analyses.

Still, Pool said, the method of operation is so similar, he is convinced that the attacks are the work of one killer.

Santa Barbara County authorities, however, have doubts, he said. Investigators there think the Goleta killer could be another person because of differences in how the earliest crimes were carried out.

Motivated by the break in the case, Pool said, he has spent countless nights and weekends poring through old sexual assault murders looking for a pattern and for a face to give his unknown killer.

The search took him and partner Brian Heaney to San Quentin prison, where more than 60 inmates occupy death row. But the two hit a legal hurdle. An injunction prevents investigators from taking DNA samples from California inmates on death row.

The detectives turned to the possibility of matching the suspect’s DNA with samples from convicted prisoners entered in the state’s growing database. But California’s DNA lab remains backlogged with more than 50,000 samples that have yet to be entered in the database.

Still, family members of those slain said they are taking some comfort in the knowledge that authorities may be closing in on a killer at long last.

Doug Harrington, whose younger brother was among the murder victims, said his family has enjoyed some relief in the wake of the breakthrough in the case.

"At least now we have some knowledge about what happened," said Harrington, a Newport Beach psychologist. "Up until now, we had no idea why this happened. For 20 years we’ve been living with that mystery."
10/03/2000

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “SERIAL LINK EXPLORED IN OLD MURDERS: GOLETA, ORANGE COUNTY CASES SIMILAR”

Serial Link Explored in Old Murders: Goleta, Orange County Cases Similar
Santa Barbara News-Press, 3 October 2000
By Dawn Hobbs

Two Goleta double murders that have remained unsolved for two decades may be the work of a serial killer, according to Orange County sheriff’s detectives. They say the same person who killed two Goleta couples and tried to kill a third also may have killed a husband and wife in Ventura, a Laguna Niguel couple and two Irvine women -- all between 1979 and 1986.

While Santa Barbara sheriff’s detectives say there may be a connection between the Goleta killings, they are not convinced the same person is responsible for the others.

“There was DNA evidence in our investigation that does not match the DNA from their killer,” said Lt. Mike Burrige, spokesman for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department. “We obviously would like nothing more than to solve these homicides. There are still surviving victims, and surviving and grieving family members who would like to see these cases resolved.”

But while there are similarities among the cases, there are just as many inconsistencies, Burrige said.

“I would say that it is not outside the realm that they could be connected,” he said. “It’s also not outside the realm that they are separate killers.”

While the Orange County detectives say a serial killer is responsible for these slayings, they have not yet identified a suspect.

They hope DNA evidence pointing toward a killer will soon turn up in a prison or sex-offender registry database.

The Orange County detectives began to look into the unsolved homicides in 1997, when they received funding to form a “cold-case team.”

“Our crime lab in Orange County began looking at sexual assaults and homicides and analyzing the evidence,” said Orange County sheriff’s Detective Brian Heaney. “In doing that, we discovered that the two single murders that occurred in Irvine had the same DNA contributor as our double-murder in Laguna Niguel.”

After looking into the 1980 murder of the Laguna Niguel couple, the detectives then began to examine other unsolved double-murders -- particularly those involving a husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend.

That’s when they came across the attempted murder of a Goleta couple in October 1979 and three other double-murders that occurred over a seven-year span.

In December 1979, Robert Offerman, 44, and Alexandria Manning, 35, were shot to death in a condominium at 767 Avenida Pequena in Goleta.

Three months later, Lyman Smith, 43, and his wife, Charlene, 33, were found bludgeoned to death in their Ventura home.

Then in July 1981, Gregory Sanchez, 27, was shot and then he and Cheri Domingo, 35, were beaten to death at their home at 449 Toltec Way in Goleta.

From the beginning, Santa Barbara sheriff’s detectives say they saw similarities between the Goleta attempted murder and the double-murders.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

News accounts from August 1981 indicate detectives thought there may be some link between the Goleta murders and the ones in Ventura and Orange counties. But then information also surfaced that showed inconsistencies. However, authorities in Orange County maintain there are enough similarities to consider the serial-killer scenario.

"All of these neighborhoods either back up to a park or a greenbelt area, allowing for a casual prowl of these one story-homes," said Heaney, adding that the killer may have waited to watch each of the couples have sex before breaking into their homes and attacking them.

"We can't turn away from the Goleta murders," Heaney said. "We can't ignore them. We have no conclusive evidence to say they aren't related or they are." But he says the progression from the unorganized nature of the first murders to the more organized slayings of the Orange County people indicate the killer perfected his technique. They believe the sudden stop in the murders in May 1986 was only because the killer was either killed himself or ended up serving prison time for another crime.

"He could be doing time for murder, rape or robbery," Heaney said. "What's disturbing if that if he was sentenced 20 years ago, he could soon be looking at parole."

Anyone with information about these homicides may call the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department at 681-4100 or the Orange County Sheriff's Department at 1-888-390-2583.
Los Angeles Times: “Hope, Pain for Murder Victims’ Families; Crime: Loved Ones Respond as DNA Evidence Revives Probe of O.C. Serial Killings Dating Back 20 Years”

Hope, Pain for Murder Victims’ Families; Crime: Loved Ones Respond as DNA Evidence Revives Probe of O.C. Serial Killings Dating Back 20 Years

Los Angeles Times, 5 October 2000
By Jack Leonard

The killer—who detectives dub “the Original Nightstalker”—carefully selected his victims from upscale communities in Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

More than five years later, DNA evidence links the same killer to a final victim: Janelle Lisa Cruz, an 18-year-old restaurant cashier who lived in Irvine.

The DNA testing—along with distinct similarities between the attacks—helped investigators link the same killer to three others in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Those attacks claimed four more lives between 1979 and 1981.

It was a painful, reluctant gathering—one that opened old wounds that had never fully healed.

But relatives of two victims of a recently identified serial killer went public Wednesday, hoping their voices will bring justice—and help detectives in the intense hunt for a suspect sought for as many as 10 slayings nearly two decades ago.

Family members spoke of recent breakthroughs in the case. Of a $100,000 reward. Of the devastating loss that still feels fresh today.

“Perhaps it would have been easier not to relive this nightmare, especially in public,” said Ron Harrington, whose younger brother Keith was among the victims. “But hopefully—even after 20 years—hopefully this matter can be resolved.”

The pleas followed an announcement earlier this week that a team of “cold case” investigators at the Orange County Sheriff’s Department had used cutting-edge technology and a thorough review of case files to link six separate murder scenes to a single suspect.

The killer—who detectives dub “the Original Nightstalker”—carefully selected his victims from upscale communities in Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Investigators said they have followed hundreds of leads and considered thousands of possible suspects in their hunt for the unknown killer. But without a name, detectives acknowledge they have no idea whether the assailant is dead, incarcerated or still on the loose somewhere.

For relatives of the victims, the last few months have been bittersweet. On the one hand, they have learned that detectives are closer than ever to solving the killings. But they also have discovered gruesome details about the violent deaths of their loved ones, and they are grappling once more with the loss they first experienced more than a decade ago.

"We were very close—we told each other everything," said Michelle Cruz of her older sister Janelle, who was 18 when she was murdered at her home. "She was like my twin. When she died, it was like I lost a part of my identity."

Until recently, investigators withheld details about the crime scenes from everyone, including relatives. It was only in recent months that the Harrington family learned about the ordeal Keith Harrington and his wife went through during the last minutes of their lives.

The couple were married only three months when an intruder slipped into their Laguna Niguel home through an unlocked door the night of Aug. 19, 1980. The pair were tied up. Patti was raped. The killer then bludgeoned them to death.

"It's ghoulish," said Doug Harrington, one of Keith's three brothers, all of whom attended Wednesday's news conference. "I can't believe what my brother and his wife went through."

The killings devastated the Harrington family. Thanksgiving, once a festive holiday, became a time of painful memories. "Every Thanksgiving, my dad would always say a prayer and remind us that there was someone missing," Harrington said.

With few clues and no suspects, the family was left only to speculate. Doug Harrington said his father sometimes questioned whether his daughter-in-law might have been the target of the attack that also claimed his son. The father died a few years ago—and never knew about the new DNA evidence, which proved the killing was random, bringing the family some small comfort.

"We never could understand how this could have happened," said Bruce Harrington. "Now that we have DNA, we're hoping that it will finally answer the questions we've had for more than 20 years."

Patti and Keith Harrington were the killer's first Orange County victims. The next was Manuela Wittuhuhn, a 28-year-old student killed in her Irvine home Feb. 5, 1981.

More than five years later, DNA evidence links the same killer to a final victim: Janelle Lisa Cruz, an 18-year-old restaurant cashier who lived in Irvine.

The murder investigations were inactive for years, but blood, semen and hair samples were saved. Four years ago, advances in DNA testing prompted Orange County sheriff's investigators to review old, unsolved cases.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

The DNA testing—along with distinct similarities between the attacks—helped investigators link the same killer to three others in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Those attacks claimed four more lives between 1979 and 1981.

An FBI-trained profiler at the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department suggested that the killer was probably driven by anger aimed at someone close to him—perhaps his mother or a stepmother, Orange County Sheriff’s Det. Larry Pool said.

“He probably targets the woman because she reminds him of the target of his rage,” Pool said. “The profile would say that he would essentially have no conscience.”

The killer is believed to be white and was in his early 20s when he first struck. Sometimes he brought a German shepherd with him. Officials guess he was living in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County when he surfaced.

Though disturbing, the news that a serial killer might be responsible for her sister’s death has at least renewed hope for Michelle Cruz that Janelle’s killer might be found.

“Maybe's there more evidence out there,” Cruz said. “I'm hoping that this will help get someone with information to come forward.”

The families of the victims have put up a $100,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case. Sheriff’s officials are asking that anyone with information call (714) 834-2583.

Until then, family members said they will have to learn to deal with their loved ones’ deaths once more.

“It had faded, but the memories have rushed forward,” said Doug Harrington as he passed around a photograph of his brother and sister-in-law taken before their wedding. “It's been a very difficult week.”
VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “DNA FINDINGS THROW NEW LIGHT ON OLD CASE”

DNA Findings Throw New Light on Old Case
By Aron Miller
Ventura County Star, October 8, 2000

Lyman and Charlene Smith's lives were lifted from the pages of a screenplay. At 43 he was the big-shot criminal defense attorney with a future on the Superior Court bench whose business dealings with Iran raised eyebrows. So did she the 33-year-old wife with the cover-girl looks. She played the trophy who sold lavish jewelry kept their upscale hillside home spotless and had a lover on the side.

A murder mystery would hint at a number of suspects as this case did. When his 12-year-old son found them in bed March 16 1980 bludgeoned to death with a fireplace log rumors flew.

Some suspected his former business partner. Others pointed to her boyfriend. Police even considered his 18-year-old daughter for a few days.

But nobody expected what authorities announced last week regarding one of Ventura County's most well-known murder cases -- a serial killer is to blame. Investigators with the Orange County Sheriff's Department's cold-case unit have linked the same person's DNA -- a human's genetic blueprint -- to four repulsive slayings between 1980 and 1986: two in Irvine one in Dana Point and the Smiths in Ventura.

They also believe based on the modus operandi that the killer struck three times in Santa Barbara County although they don't have DNA to connect those homicides to the others and Santa Barbara detectives are not convinced. So the cops are closer than ever to cracking the case. But because DNA doesn't come with a name tag the mystery remains. The suspect could be in prison or dead. Or he could be roaming the streets scouting his next victim.

Jennifer Carole Lyman Smith's daughter who was 18 when he died always assumed an acquaintance had killed her father and stepmother. The recent news about a serial killer wasn't exactly comforting.

“I realized how vulnerable we all are” she said from her Santa Cruz home. “For me it's been a big deal. It woke it up and made it a new murder.”

Suspicions abound

Gary Smith was 12 years old two decades ago when he walked to his father's house at 573 High Point Drive to mow the lawn. He arrived about 2 p.m. March 16 and went inside to find Dad.

The ringing of an alarm clock broke the calm of a Sunday morning. Gary didn't see his father or stepmother so he went to the bedroom.

There he discovered them lying in bed covered with blankets. The clock's clanging intensified the moment.

“I could see forms I could see blood but it wasn't as dramatic as something you would see on TV” said Gary now 32 during a phone interview last week from San Francisco.

He lifted up a corner of the bedding and saw his father's head and shoulder. That was enough to know something very bad had happened.

He called his mother who notified police. Officers arrived within minutes and found a grisly scene -- a prominent couple beaten to death and tied up in bed a bloody fireplace log lying nearby and crimson splattered on the walls. Detectives soon discovered the killer had raped Charlene Smith before pummeling her to death.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Gossip spread quickly about who might have done it. Everyone figured the killer knew the couple including Hal Barker.

"I had the suspicion it was somebody who knew him and somebody who hated him" said Barker a former Santa Paula cop and one of Smith's best friends. He is now El Dorado County sheriff.

Barker and Smith became friends through law enforcement. Barker would arrest the bad guys and Smith who first worked as a Ventura County prosecutor would get them convicted. Their children played together and their wives were friends. They served as back-to-back presidents of the Santa Paula Rotary Club.

When Smith became a defense lawyer he actually questioned Barker a few times on the witness stand.

Smith turned to the livestock business in 1977. He and two other men started Maverick International Inc. a cargo airline that sent Holstein heifers calves Brahma bulls and horses to the Middle East and Iran. "The world's greatest bullshippers" was printed across their plane's fuselage.

"Lyman had a very simple life that got very complex and the complexities were caused by Lyman" Barker said. "He was trying to be all that he could be. He was driven frankly to really excel."

The pinnacle of his ambition was expected about the time he was killed -- an appointment to the Superior Court bench.

So when the murders occurred police had plenty of potential suspects. Carole was questioned because of her tenuous relationship with her father. But police soon dismissed her.

There was Rick Atwood Charlene's lover. He received a sizable chunk of money from her will in which she called him her "faithful and understanding friend." He remained under suspicion for years but had since been ruled out.

And there was Joseph Alsip Jr. the former business partner who later allegedly told his pastor Lyman deserved to die because he had swindled him on a real estate deal.

Almost two years after the crime Alsip was arrested charged and taken to a preliminary hearing after which District Attorney Michael Bradbury decided not to prosecute him further because there wasn't enough evidence to convict. After spending 189 days in jail Alsip was freed.

His DNA was tested in 1997 and it did not match the semen found at the Smith crime scene.

Former Deputy District Attorney Pete Kossoris who prosecuted Alsip said he was relieved to hear that.

"If there's anything I regret it's that we prosecuted him at all" said Kossoris now supervisor of appeals writs and training for the District Attorney's Office.

Alsip could not be reached for comment for this story.

'We knew we had a serial killer'

As years passed leads on the case thinned the mystery increased and frustration mounted for people like Richard Haas. He was one of the murder's prime investigators for the Ventura Police Department.

"There was nothing indicative of this being a serial killer" said Haas now deputy chief investigator for the District Attorney's Office.

A few years after the murders Ventura police sent out a teletype to other law enforcement agencies statewide. It described the Smith case in detail. The hope was that other detectives would see it and relay information about an unsolved case that matched.

Orange County authorities saw the teletype. They were investigating the August 1980 beating deaths of Keith and Patty Harrington 24 and 26 of Dana Point. She had been raped.

The two teams met and decided it likely wasn't the same killer Orange County sheriff's Investigator Larry Pool said.

In 1994 when DNA technology became more prevalent Poole used semen from three homicide scenes to link the killings to one person Pool said. Then he revisited other similar cases including the Smith murders.

"At that point we knew we had a serial killer" he said.

Ventura connection
ARTICLE CONTINUED

In 1997 Pool came to Ventura to retrieve physical evidence from police. A test of semen from a vaginal swab showed a match to three Orange County cases the last of which was the rape and beating death of Janelle Cruz 18 of Irvine in May 1986.

Pool also drove to Goleta to check out evidence from the killings of two couples and the attempted murder of another all between 1979 and 1981. There was no DNA match but the deaths were similar to the Orange County and Ventura cases.

"It’s very compelling that it’s the same subject" Pool said.

Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Lt. Mike Burridge disagrees.

DNA of a suspect taken from one of the women killed in Goleta does not match the serial killer’s he said. And the Santa Barbara County cases aren’t carbon copies of the others.

"There are just as many dissimilarities and inconsistencies as there are similarities and consistencies” Burridge said.

Still authorities believe the Smith murders and those that occurred in Orange County are the work of the same person. But while they have the DNA finding whose it is could prove difficult if not impossible.

Pool said he believes the killer is either in prison or dead. His department is trying to match the DNA to a prisoner but as of March the state’s outdated database only had 6000 of a possible 145000 samples properly categorized he said.

-- Aron Miller’s e-mail address is amiller@insidevc.com.

Victims of a serial killer?

Orange County detectives say DNA tests confirm the same killer struck in these cases:

March 13 1980: Lyman and Charlene Smith 43 and 33 of Ventura found dead in bed by Lyman's 12-year-old son from his first wife. They had been beaten to death with a log. Charlene Smith had been raped.

Aug. 19 1980: Keith and Patty Harrington 24 and 28 of Dana Point found dead in bed by his father. She had been raped. They had been beaten to death.

About Feb. 5 1981: Manuela Witthuhn 28 of Irvine raped and bludgeoned to death in bed.

About May 4 1986: Janelle Cruz 18 of Irvine raped and beaten to death with a pipe wrench.

Detectives believe one break-in and other killings have enough similarities to the ones above to have been done by the same man:

Oct. 1 1979: Jennifer Hornek and Abraham Himmel tied up in their Goleta home by an intruder who said he intended to kill them. They escaped.


July 27 1981: Cheri Domingo 35 and Gregory Sanchez 27 killed in the Goleta home that Domingo had been house-sitting.

-- Orange County Register
04/04/2001

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: “DNA LINKS ‘70S RAPES TO SERIAL SLAYING CASES
UNKNOWN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA KILLER WAS ‘EAST AREA RAPIST’”

DNA Links ‘70s Rapes to Serial Slaying Cases
Unknown Southern California killer was ‘East Area Rapist’

San Francisco Chronicle, 4 April 2001
By Erin Halissay and Charlie Goodyear,

The East Area Rapist forged a trail of terror from Sacramento to San Ramon in the late 1970s, randomly breaking into women’s homes and raping them while their husbands were kept silent.

Just as suddenly as he began his spree of 40 rapes, the attacker disappeared at the end of the decade without ever being identified.

Now, through recently analyzed DNA evidence, the Contra Costa County crime lab has linked the notorious East Area Rapist with an elusive serial killer who murdered 10 people in Southern California coastal communities between 1979 and 1986.

The rapist-killer’s identity is still unknown, but police say it is clear that the same man, described in police records as methodical, sexually deviant and with above-average intelligence, committed all the crimes. It is a finding that has relieved investigators, who thought they’d never solve the cases, and also has worried them because the man remains unidentified.

"This guy is about as bad as you can get," said Frank Fitzpatrick, director of the Orange County crime lab, which analyzed the genetic profile on the serial killings. "The speculation is that he was either arrested (for a different crime) or died or moved out of state."

Retired Sacramento County sheriff’s detective Richard Shelby, who investigated the East Area Rapist cases, said yesterday he thought the suspect was still alive and might have a family.

"He called one of the victims," Shelby said. "It was 1990 or 1991. She talked to him for a minute. She could hear kids in the background and a woman."

Shelby believes the East Area Rapist first struck in 1974 with a burglary in which he violently beat a dog to death. Two years later, a couple of sexual assaults in the Sacramento area convinced police a serial rapist was at work.

"In all the cases, he tied them so tight their hands would turn black," Shelby said. "He always used a new pair of shoelaces to bind them." In most cases, he was armed and wore a mask -- a welder’s mask in one case.

RAPIST MOVES TO CONTRA COSTA
ARTICLE CONTINUED

By 1978, the rapist started hitting Contra Costa County, attacking women in Concord, Danville and San Ramon.

"He would go into nice homes, usually occupied by a man and a woman," said Karen Sheldon, director of the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Department crime lab. "He would tie up the male. He then put dishes or something on his back so there would be noise if the guy moved while the suspect was committing the rape. I think he liked to have a man present. He enjoyed the risk."

The rapist frequently threatened to kill both the man and woman if the dishes fell off and broke.

A task force was formed to try to solve the crimes, said District Attorney Gary Yancey, but leads fizzled out, and, although some suspects were investigated, no one was charged.

For years, women throughout the Bay Area were fearful of his return, keeping their windows locked and worrying about break-ins, but the criminal never struck again.

Last year, the crime lab, which was reviewing old cases, prepared a genetic profile of the rapist. Investigators remembered an old rumor that the suspect might have moved to Southern California, so on little more than a hunch they began contacting police in Santa Barbara and Irvine and ended up at Orange County’s crime lab.

In January, the DNA profile of the East Area Rapist was matched to the unidentified killer.

MURDERS SHARED CHARACTERISTICS

The murders in Laguna Niguel, Ventura, Goleta and Irvine shared characteristics. Police believe the assailant picked his targets carefully and, after breaking in, committed a "blitz" attack. Police have definitively linked six murders to the same suspect as the East Area Rapist, but they believe he may have killed four others in similar attacks.

In several cases, the murderer broke in at night while a couple were sleeping and tied them up before bludgeoning them to death. In at least one case, he raped the woman while the husband lay helplessly bound nearby.

The behavioral profile that police had already assigned to the Orange County slayings suggested the killer chose victims in upper-middle-class to affluent communities, that he was a skilled burglar and that his previous sexual relationships involved bondage and sadism.

Orange County officials are still seeking a suspect who matches the killer’s genetic profile. Fitzpatrick said the DNA work had been sent to the state Department of Justice’s DNA lab in Berkeley, where a genetic databank of known felons is being compiled. No match has been made yet, but Fitzpatrick is hopeful that as more criminals are entered into the system, a suspect will be identified.

If a match is made, the man could not be charged with the Northern California rapes because the statute of limitations has expired. But Sheldon said it was worth it to go through old cases to try to identify the perpetrator.

"It was good detective work," Sheldon said. "It's not common. It was a challenge just getting people interested in a case that had passed a statute of limitations."
ARTICLE CONTINUED

And Yancey, who was on the task force 20 years ago as a deputy prosecutor, said knowing that a suspect had been identified could bring closure to the victims.

"I think it's very important for the peace of mind for those individuals," Yancey said.

Last week, Attorney General Bill Lockyer encouraged police and prosecutors throughout California to review unsolved sexual assault cases without suspects and unsolved rape-murders to determine whether DNA testing of biological evidence could allow them to target a suspect.

Even if the statute of limitations in old cases has expired, preventing the suspect from being prosecuted, there's still a benefit to doing the DNA work, said Contra Costa Deputy District Attorney Paul Sequeira, who heads the sexual assaults division.

"I like the idea of knowing who the guy is," Sequeira said. "I think it's better that (the victims) know who he is. It's scary to know there's this Mr. X out there. At least if they knew who it was, they could keep tabs on him."

What Are The Odds?

Chances that two randomly selected people would match DNA found at crime scene:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of DNA matches:</th>
<th>Odds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 in 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 in 200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1 in 300 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13(x)</td>
<td>1 in 100 trillion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(x) Used by FBI's national database
Rapist Linked to O.C. Killings
Crime 23-year-old DNA Evidence from Three Bay Area Assaults Could Help Solve Six Homicides Investigated by Local Authorities.

Orange County Register, 4 April 2001, pg 1
By Jeff Collins and Bill Rams,

An Orange County serial killer dubbed the "Original Nightstalker" has been linked by DNA evidence to the notorious "East Area rapist" who sexually assaulted 40 Northern California women in the late 1970s, officials said. The breakthrough occurred when 23-year-old DNA evidence from three Contra Costa County rapes was compared with DNA from six homicide cases being investigated by the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The identity of the suspect remains unknown, but officials say the added details may help solve the slayings. "I'm not a bit surprised," retired Sacramento County sheriff's Lt. Richard Shelby said of evidence that the serial rapist he tracked had graduated to homicides. "This is incredible," said David Witthuhn, whose wife was raped and killed in Irvine. "It opens up new leads and gives the detectives more stuff to work with." The East Area rapist began the attacks in a neighborhood east of the state Capitol and later raped women in Davis, Stockton, Concord, Danville and San Ramon.

Lock and gun sales soared, porch lights were left burning, and burglaries fell 80 percent as a result of residents being on alert, officials said. Nearly all the assaults involved couples who were awakened and tied up before the woman was raped. The rapist stacked dishes on the men, and couples were warned they would be killed if the dishes broke. Shortly after the rapes ended, a series of assaults and slayings occurred from 1979 to 1986 in Goleta, Ventura, Irvine and Laguna Niguel. The methods were similar, except that 10 of the assaults ended in homicides -- six of them linked by DNA evidence.

Contact Collins at (714) 796-7734 or jcollins@ocregister.com
Contact Rams at (714) 796-7722 or brams@ocregister.com
04/05/2001

SACRAMENTO BEE: “NEW LEAD FOUND IN SERIAL RAPES: AFTER DECADES, DNA LINKS THE EAST AREA RAPIST TO CRIMES IN ORANGE COUNTY”

New Lead Found in Serial Rapes: After Decades, DNA Links the East Area Rapist to Crimes in Orange County.

Sacramento Bee, 5 April 2001
By M.S. Enkoji and Ralph Montañó

For a time, he was the most hunted, feared man in Sacramento County.

Terrified men and women flooded hardware stores, shooting ranges and alarm companies in desperate attempts to ward off the East Area Rapist.

From 1976 to 1978, the rapist preyed on dozens of people, many of them sleeping couples in the county’s eastern neighborhoods, often tying up the male before raping the female. Anyone who could read knew about how the intruder balanced dishes on the bound men and threatened more violence if the crockery tumbled and broke.

And just about anyone knows he slipped away, leaving 36 rape victims after a two-year reign of terror, on to unsuspecting towns, leaving behind baffled and frustrated ranks of authorities.

Now, his trail may have been unearthed. New scientific evidence appears to link him with a string of killings in Southern California and has renewed the hunt for a killer-rapist. The killings, some involving couples, began in 1979 and ended in 1986. An elaborate chain has linked the same murder suspect to three Contra Costa County rapes, which have long been linked to the East Area Rapist by the crimes’ similarities.

Anyone behind a badge in Sacramento County then had hoped one day to see the East Area Rapist in jail, and the newest discovery rekindles that possibility.

“I would love it,” said Richard Selby, who investigated sexual assaults as a Sacramento County Sheriff’s deputy before he retired in 1993.

Though DNA evidence has produced a biological profile of a suspect, no match has been found among the hundreds of thousands in the state databank, though the state has lagged in putting in criminals’ DNA profiles, said Frank Fitzpatrick, director of Orange County’s Forensic Laboratory. His lab discovered a link among three murder cases -- a couple and two women, he said.

The other murders were a couple in Ventura County, also linked by DNA, and two couples in Santa Barbara County linked by similar patterns in the crimes.

Authorities said all law enforcement agencies with linked cases are going to meet later this month to discuss evidence. The hope is that together they can find a key that will lead them to a suspect.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

“We are going to see what we can do to assist with their investigations,” said Sacramento County Sheriff’s spokesman Sgt. James Lewis.

Lewis said evidence from the Sacramento County cases has never been tested for DNA because the statute of limitations had expired, meaning no charges could be filed if a suspect is caught. The state time limit to charge someone with rape was six years.

“We may try to do it now,” Lewis said of the DNA. “That’s part of what we will discuss in the meeting.”

Recent changes in the law extend the time limit for rape cases when DNA evidence is available.

Lewis said in light of new developments, investigators are looking for what may have been the rapist’s first murder.

On Feb. 2, 1978, Sgt. Brian K. Maggiore, a 21-year-old administrative specialist at Mather Air Force Base, and his wife, Katie, 20, were walking their dog on a quiet residential street in Rancho Cordova. They were attacked and fatally shot, but no apparent motive has ever been found.

“It’s kind of a long-shot,” Lewis said, but the timing of the shooting and because it involved a couple has left deputies with the suspicion that the killing might be linked to the rapist.

Efforts to link serial murder cases in Orange County with rapes in Northern California began four years ago, officials said.

Paul Holes, a criminalist at the Contra Costa County crime lab, said a local detective noticed a similarity to the Orange County murders, many involving couples, and asked the lab to check out the hunch.

At the time, the DNA tests being done in Contra Costa and Orange counties were not very comparable because of different technologies.

Meanwhile, Orange County authorities were doing their own tests. In October, they announced the murders were linked and developed a profile of the killer, describing him as an intelligent, methodical planner, who scouted victims scrupulously, choosing middle-class to affluent neighborhoods.

Contra Costa authorities again heard about the case and asked for a DNA profile, this time using comparable technologies, Holes said. The DNA from the East Bay rapes matched the DNA from Orange County.

“We knew he was potentially violent from the first rape he did,” Selby said.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

He was investigating sexual assaults for the department when the East Area Rapist first struck in Rancho Cordova. Selby believes he was looking for a teenager who was more lucky than smart, but who was cunning enough to plan his escape when he entered homes and chose victims after studying their habits.

When Selby lived in Rancho Cordova, he said his son saw someone shining a flashlight into his house and believes it was the man he spent months trying to capture. "I have no doubt it was him," said Selby, though he doesn't know if he was being watched because of his investigation or as a potential victim.

The serial rapist, who was armed with a gun or knife, used a flashlight to keep his victims blinded, which caused a range of suspect descriptions.

One of the last connections Selby had is a call the rapist made to one of his victims in 1991.

The suspect said, "Do you know who this is?" She recognized his voice," Selby said. The woman heard children crying in the background, leaving authorities to wonder if he has a family.

The hunt for the rapist amassed huge overtime burdens on the department and involved more than a dozen investigators.

"We were all over the place," Selby said. "We were like a day behind him."
05/24/2001

SACRAMENTO BEE: “NEW HOPE IN HUNT FOR RAPIST”

New Hope in Hunt for Rapist

Sacramento Bee, 24 May 2001
By M.S. Enkoji

The rapist had invaded household after household with terrifying stealth, leaving behind dozens of devastated victims, frustrating Sacramento detectives for almost two years.

He held eastern Sacramento County hostage from 1976 to 1978: Women feared nightfall; men were edgy in their own homes.

As the East Area Rapist grew bolder and crueler, sheriff’s investigator Carol Daly knew one thing for sure. “We really feel he was getting ready to kill,” said Daly, who interviewed all 36 of his victims in Sacramento County.

Apparently that’s exactly what he did.

Because of similarities in his attacks, authorities linked him to 45 rapes, first in Sacramento County, then in the Bay Area.

And now a criminalist in Contra Costa County, using long-shelved DNA evidence, has connected him to a series of Southern California murders – the killings of four couples and two women in Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties from 1979 to 1986.

Armed with a DNA profile, authorities in Southern California met recently with Sacramento and Contra Costa county law enforcement to renew their effort to find the rapist-turned-killer.

Even if they come up with a suspect, he will never go on trial for the Northern California rapes because the time limit for arresting him has long since expired. Murder has no time limit.

Though rape evidence was typically tossed after the time limit, criminalists in Contra Costa County held on to evidence, believing he would surface.

“It had always been set aside in a special place in our lab,” said Paul Holes, supervising criminalist at the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Crime Laboratory.

Holes contacted Southern California authorities to follow up on earlier theories that the rapist had moved south. The string of murders and sexual assaults there seemed similar to the Northern California attacks. Early attempts several years ago to match DNA from both crime sets were inconclusive, but newer, better methods paid off recently with a match.

Now, additional evidence from Northern California, besides the DNA, could lead Southern California investigators to the killer, said Jim Amormino, an Orange County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

He declined to say what the evidence was. "We're just optimistic that it will lead to an identification of a suspect," he said.

A name and face would end a mystery that has haunted investigators involved in the most expensive manhunt in Sacramento County.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

There was nothing like it before, and nothing since, former investigators said.

"If I had to hear one more woman tell me how this man treated her," said Daly, 61, who retired as the department’s undersheriff.

After the rapist left town, Daly left sexual-assault investigations. "I can’t do this anymore," I said. I hated what men could do. For a time, the only man I liked was my husband," Daly said.

She and other investigators have carried around details in a mental catalog, still waiting for that final purchase.

They remember roosting in trees, hiding in ditches, and at times, bending the Constitution attempting to find a cunning, evil, methodical rapist.

"It was a bad time to be a young man going to work at 4:30 in the morning," said Ray Root, 65, a retired Sacramento County Sheriff’s lieutenant who headed a task force that racked up $2.5 million, mostly in overtime.

Investigators have no clear picture of the armed man in a ski mask who snared at victims through clenched teeth and blinded them with a flashlight. Their best description is a white, slender man, light-haired, probably in his late teens or early 20s.

With no positive description, the phone lines buzzed, said Richard Shelby, a retired detective who first linked the series of rapes. Tipsters implored deputies to check out neighbors, relatives and former boyfriends.

The rapist cased his victims with eerie diligence, which led some to believe he had military or law enforcement training.

Sometimes, he would first slip into their homes, swiping a photograph, or other small items that barely raised suspicion. He would gather details, like the floor plan, how the garage door operated, how an outside light timer worked or the names and schedules of occupants. At one home, he removed bullets from a gun tucked under a mattress, then put it back.

In later rapes, he grew more violent, more forceful in his threats, Daly said.

"This man was really out to terrorize and control," she said.

In Southern California, he also invaded quiet neighborhoods. He chose women who were alone: an 18-year-old girl whose family was on vacation and another woman whose husband was in the hospital.

Or he chose couples. He would sometimes prowl beforehand, then slip in through unlocked windows or doors. He would bring his own cord to tie up victims. He would sexually assault the women before bludgeoning them to death.

In Sacramento County, the rapist seemed to taunt a swarm of investigators, who often thought they were closing in, only to be derailed. "He practically knew where we were going to work," said Ted Daly, Carol’s husband, a retired deputy.

The rapist was bold. He would telephone victims after the attack and seemed to know which lines were tapped. At town-hall meetings set up by authorities, as many as 700 people would jam inside. At one, Carol Daly recalled, a couple got up to speak, raising doubts about the rapist’s methods, questioning his existence.

"They were the very next victims," said Daly, who is sure he was there, watching.

Sacramento County sheriff’s investigators got conventional help from the FBI and California Highway Patrol and less-conventional help from dozens of psychics, trackers who picked up trails in riverbeds, scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, tree-top cameras from the state Department of Forestry used to catch arsonists and military movement detectors used in the Vietnam War.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

"None of it worked," Root said.

Altogether, 5,000 suspects -- names on 3-by-5 cards -- were checked and eliminated. Among the groups closely looked at were delivery people, military, deputies and police officers.

Those who lived in targeted areas took up guns, barricaded windows and doors, hired private security, brought dogs inside and lived in fear. The rise in gun sales coupled with hair-trigger tensions prompted deputies in unmarked cars to wear uniforms as they patrolled at night.

Coming home from her night shift, Lisa Ward remembers that as a 19-year-old, she would sit paralyzed by fear in the driveway of her parents' Orangevale home, too afraid to get out of the car and lift the garage door open.

"I would sit there and sit there and wait to get the courage to open the door. I was almost hyperventilating because I didn't want to get out," said Ward, who occasionally baby-sat for one of the victims.

Inside, her mother stayed awake, waiting for her, and her father kept a Remington 10-gauge by his bed.

"It was a weird time," said Ward, a state worker who lives in Placer County.

She had lived off Main Avenue in a new neighborhood of ranch homes and worked nights for the state Department of Motor Vehicles when the East Area Rapist hit across the street and a block behind her.

Ward refused to sleep. She watched TV until test patterns popped on, running to the window at every noise. She would doze, then jerk herself awake.

As dawn broke, relief would wash over her. She had made it through the night. She would sleep until noon, but she never felt rested.

Her father, Edward Barbero, now 72, installed a garage-door opener, then drilled holes for pegs in all the window frames and the patio door. His house still has bolted windows.

Even though the closeness of the attacks unnerved him, Barbero remembers feeling guilty about his relief. "Thank God it didn't happen here," said Barbero, who has two other daughters.

The couple Ward used to baby-sit for soon divorced and moved away. "It just tore them apart," she said.

That's what happened to many of the victims, said Daly, who became confidant and counselor for most of the victims who ranged from their teens to the 30s. Without an arrest, some of them couldn't move on, she said.

Even with the prospect of an identified name and face looming after so many years, Daly is skeptical about how science linked the rapes and murders. She wants to make sure.

"I'd want to be cautious," she said, "I'm not sure what I would feel. Doubtful, maybe."
02/14/2002

KCBS LOS ANGELES: “TO CATCH A KILLER: A CBS 2 SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT”

To Catch A Killer
A CBS 2 Special Assignment

KCBS (Los Angeles) 14 February 2002

ORANGE COUNTY - One Orange County Sheriff's Detective is on the trail of a killer who could be one of California's most notorious criminals. The killer could be dead, or could be already locked up in prison. The question: can the investigators catch the killer before he can kill again?

CBS 2's investigative reporter Drew Griffin has the story.

Special Assignment: "To Catch a Killer" aired Thursday February 14, 2002 at 11 p.m.

Robert Offerman and Alexandra Manning, hands tied in a rare diamond knot, tortured, raped and beaten to death, were the first to die at the hands of a particular killer who takes his time.

Detective Larry Pool says, "He's spent up to four hours in a house raping and re-raping."

The first killings took place on Dec. 30, 1979. For the next 7 years, the killings would continue, one almost every six months. The killer always struck during a midnight break-in, surprising a couple asleep in their bed.

The victims included: Charlene and Lyman Smith in Ventura; Patty and Keith Harrington, Liguna Niguel; Manuela Lithune, Irvine; Domingo and Gregory Sanchez, Goleta.

Then came a five-year gap, before the killer struck for the last known time. Her name was Jannelle Cruz, murdered in Irvine on May 4, 1986.

At first the murders in separate towns were thought to all be separate crimes, carried out by separate killers. But Orange County Detective Larry Pool says what brought them all together came from the bodily fluids the killer left behind, stored away and saved, until DNA technology has now caught up with him.

The samples just last year were sent off to a crime lab and came back with startling results. Not only is the killer connected to each and every one of these murder victims, he is in fact the worst serial rapist that Sacramento has ever known. He is a killer who began as a rapist with more than 50 victims.

Jennifer Smith, who’s father is one of the murder victims, was stunned when she learned the news. "It’s blown my mind because we didn’t have any idea who killed my father and we certainly didn’t expect what we found," Smith tells Special Assignment.

"At the time we thought it was someone from his inner circle. To find out it was absolutely random from someone clearly sick, it was shocking."

The trail of this rapist-turned-killer is left behind in volumes of crime books, stacked like a personal library in Detective Pool’s Santa Ana office.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Over his head hangs the only known sketch developed from a victim who lived, and there is something else: the voice of the killer caught on a message machine.

It is the voice of a man further terrorizing his victims. On it you hear the threat, "I'm gonna kill you, I'm gonna kill you."

According to Pool, this is the voice of "the most brazen serial killer that I've ever looked at."

Since 1986 there hasn't been a trace. He could be dead, he could be disabled, or Pool believes, he could be locked up in California's prison system, serving time that is running out.

Detective Pool: "And of course the question is how long does he sit there. Does he get out next year, next week? That's why we are racing to catch him."

Pool's best chance to catch him may not be in prison, but across the San Francisco Bay, inside a non-descriptor office building where, everyday, blood samples are arriving. It is the blood of California prison inmates -- sorted, labeled, fingerprinted and then entered into a growing database, which aims to link prisoners with unsolved crimes.

If this serial killer's blood comes through this lab, the deadly puzzle will be solved. But there's a hitch. Inmates are being asked if they want to give their blood, and a growing number are simply saying no. State law says prisoners must give their blood, but doesn't force them.

The State Department of Corrections will not draw blood from an unwilling inmate, and inside prison walls the word is getting out to just say "no."

More than 900 so far have kept their blood out of the system. They are the hardcore criminals that most likely have something to hide.

For Jennifer Smith, who has waited 22 years for her father's killer to be caught, the bureaucratic tie-up that allows inmates to thumb their nose and blood at the law is an insult to every victim left in this killer's trail.

"It's frustrating to think if there was somebody out there who committed a crime and they are in prison, they were actually convicted, and we are still blocked from getting this information; it's a law that needs to be changed," Smith tells Special Assignment.

There is an attempt by the state's district attorneys to get the law changed, or at least get the Department of Corrections to force all inmates to give blood. But so far legislators have moved slowly, and right now inmates can still "just say no" to complying with the law.

Instead, the department tries to counsel inmates on the law, take away rights if they still refuse, but more than 600 still say no, and are getting away without giving up their blood.

Anyone of them could be the killer that Larry Pool is hoping to catch.

The state's District Attorney's Association wants the prison system to quit asking prisoners for their blood samples, and simply take them.

But the Department of Corrections says it won't force inmates to give blood unless there is a court order or a new law stating that force is permissible.

In the meantime, the number of those inmates refusing to give blood appears to be growing, and detectives fear they may be running out of time.
04/23/2002

THE NATIONAL EXAMINER: “CALIFORNIA COUPLES KILLER QUIET SINCE 1984... BUT POLICE FEAR HE COULD STRIKE AGAIN”

California Couples Killer Quiet Since 1984... But Police Fear He Could Strike Again.

The National Examiner, 23 April 2002, pg. 34-35. [issue devoted to “America’s Greatest Murder Mysteries”]

Death Count: 10

The California Couples Killer hasn’t struck since 1984 [actually 1986], but cops are haunted by the idea that he could resume his deadly rampage at any time.

“Serial Killers don’t just stop,” declares Larry Pool, of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

Thanks to advances in DNA testing, detectives in southern California recently linked 10 homicides [to get 10 they must be including the 4 Goleta murders. In reality the DNA count is 6 murders and three non-murder rapes] between 1979 and 1984 [1986] to one man, and Pool has been leading the search for the killer.

He fears he’s in prison for a lesser crime, counting the days until he is released. “He could get out tomorrow and do it again,” says Pool.

The couples killer first struck in 1979. Abraham Himmel and Jennifer Horinek, both 33, were sound asleep in their home near Santa Barbara when they were awakened by the man. Shining a bright light into their eyes, he ordered them to keep perfectly still.

As he stared at her naked body, Horinek bolted from the house. Himmel also ran to safety. They escaped, but the next couple wasn’t so lucky.

Several weeks later, the killer broke into the home of Alexandra Manning and Robert Offerman, who were found bludgeoned to death [they were shot].

Eight more couples [actually even counting Goleta there were only three more couples and two single women victims—a total of eight victims, not couples] -were bludgeoned to death, always with something the killer found in their home.

In 1980, Charlene and Lyman Smith were beaten to death with a log from their fireplace in their Ventura County home. A short time later, newlyweds Keith and Patrice Harrington were murdered in Laguna Niguel.

While cops don’t know who he is, they’ve concluded that the Couples Killer is out for revenge: He feels he’s been wronged by a woman and wants to punish her and the man in her life.

The killings stopped in 1984 [1986]. Maybe the killer is in prison or an accident left him unable to kill again. “He might have fallen from a motorcycle and become a paraplegic,” says Pool. “But it’s very doubtful he would have just stopped.”
04/28/2002

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS: “DNA LEGISLATION LINKED TO LOCAL KILLINGS ‘CORNFED’ SCHNEIDER’S REFUSAL TO GIVE SAMPLE SPAWNS BILL”

DNA Legislation Linked to Local Killings
‘Cornfed’ Schneider’s Refusal to Give Sample Spawns Bill
By Dawn Hobbs
Santa Barbara News-Press, 28 April 2002

A string of unsolved homicides between Orange and Santa Barbara counties two decades ago -- possibly the work of a serial killer -- led to a proposed state law that would allow authorities to use "reasonable force" to take DNA samples from inmates.

State prison and local jail officials would not need court orders to take samples from convicted felons by force under SB 1242, a bill advanced Tuesday by a Senate committee.

The bill requires officials to videotape any forceful efforts to take the samples. Other safeguards would include developing a definition of reasonable force, guidelines for local jailers and requirements that supervisors approve any forced testing.

The legislation was prompted by an inmate, Paul “Cornfed” Schneider, who refused to provide samples for the state's DNA database. Mr. Schneider gained recent notoriety after two San Francisco attorneys, convicted last month in a dog-mauling case, adopted the then 38-year-old inmate at Pelican Bay State Prison shortly after last year's fatal attack.

In October 2000, Orange County detectives announced that the same person who killed two Goleta couples and tried to kill a third also may have killed a husband and wife in Ventura, a Laguna Niguel couple and two Irvine women. The Goleta cases involved the killing of Robert Offerman and Alexandria Manning in their Avenida Pequena condominium in 1979 and the double-murder of Gregory Sanchez and Cheri Domingo at their home on Toltec Way in 1981.

Detective Larry Pool, who works on the Orange County department’s “cold-case” team, said his quest began with Mr. Schneider, who is serving a life sentence on state charges of robbery and attempted murder.

“I was conducting a series of studies in 1998 looking at violent offenders in Orange, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties,” said Detective Pool. “During that study, I found that Mr. Schneider was convicted of violent crimes in the Irvine area around the time of the Irvine murders. When I checked to see if he had blood taken and the DNA entered into the databank, he had not.”

Detective Pool requested a sample and Mr. Schneider refused. The detective said he became interested in other potential suspects and didn’t push the issue.

But he returned to Mr. Schneider in February 2001 and made another request, which also was refused.

If there is enough evidence to link a suspect to a crime, authorities can obtain a warrant for his blood. However, the results of those tests may not be entered into the state's database to determine whether the suspect is responsible for any other crimes.

When the detective’s request was refused again, he took his case to state Sen. James Brulte, R-Rancho Cucamonga, who authored the bill.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

"We've now looked at over 7,000 people in this case and there are many we are currently seeking, aside from Mr. Schneider," said Detective Pool. "But the fact of the matter is that he qualifies to have his blood taken. It's absurd that violent felons sitting in prison can thumb their nose and say that you're not taking their blood. "We identified this as a problem and a hurdle that we needed to get over and .... the Senate bill has come out of that," he said.
Santa Barbara sheriff's detectives concurred that there was likely a connection between the Goleta killings, but were not convinced the same person was responsible for the other killings because DNA collected in their investigations did not match DNA from those others.
Detective Pool says he would be "a bit surprised" if Mr. Schneider's DNA came back as a match for the unsolved homicides. He now suspects that killer is also the "East Area Rapist" believed responsible for committing 50 rapes in Northern California in the mid- to late-70s. Mr. Schneider does not match that person's age and height.
However, Detective Pool said that whoever the killer may be, he has linked three of the double-murders by DNA.
"Those six murders are also potentially linked to the two double-homicides in Santa Barbara by virtue of method of operation and the suspect's physical and behavioral description," he said.
These murders are then linked, he said, to three of the 50 rapes in the Sacramento and Contra Costa county areas by DNA, and to the remaining 47 rapes by method of operation.
Meanwhile, authorities at the Santa Barbara County Jail believe the legislation, if passed, would have little effect on their operation.
Three years ago, the creation of a statewide DNA database was approved. Sheriff's Lt. Dominick Palera set up a local program that began with the collection of samples from registered sex offenders, and later other types of offenders.
"If someone is going to be housed at our facility, we run a criminal history and flag the ones that qualify," said Lt. Palera. "We wait until we have at least three or four people and then have someone come in and take the sample."
So far, officials at the County Jail have had no refusals.
"Everyone's been cooperating," he said.
"People in County Jail don't want to make waves because they have things pending ... Most people coming in here do have something to lose. At state prisons, they generally don't."
A DNA test has eliminated one of California's most notorious criminals as a suspect in the 1980 slayings of a Ventura couple.

Paul "Cornfed" Schneider's genetic fingerprint did not match evidence in the bludgeoning deaths of Lyman and Charlene Smith, according to Larry Pool, an investigator with the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

In 2000, Orange County detectives discovered a DNA link between the Smith killings and homicides in Irvine and Dana Point in the early 1980s.

Pool heads a task force searching for the killer, known as the Original Night Stalker. Schneider caught his attention because he lived in Orange County at the time of the killings and is a violent felon.

Serving a life sentence at Pelican Bay State Prison, Schneider made headlines when a pair of Presa Canario dogs he gave to his former lawyers mauled to death Diane Whipple in a San Francisco apartment house in January 2000. Those attorneys -- Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller -- await sentencing on involuntary manslaughter convictions in Whipple's death.

The 41-year-old Schneider, a member of the white supremacist prison gang the Aryan Brotherhood, is under federal indictment in the Midwest for arranging the murders of other inmates.

After Schneider declined to supply blood for DNA analysis, the Orange County District Attorney's office sought and was granted a court order to force him to comply.

His blood was taken in May, and he was eliminated as the possible perpetrator in these serial killings last month.

Lyman Smith was a prominent attorney who was in consideration for a judgeship when he and Charlene were found dead in the bedroom of their hillside home in March 1980.
11/28/2002

VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “DO YOU KNOW THE ‘ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER’?”

Do you know the 'Original Night Stalker’?

By Colleen Cason, ccason@insidevc.com
Ventura County Star
November 28, 2002

Based on victims’ descriptions of the East Area Rapist, the suspect who killed Lyman and Charlene Smith might have shown these characteristics in 1980:

A white male in his 20s or early 30s.
Medium height, husky build with a muscular upper body.
A tattoo of a bull on either forearm.
Blond or light brown hair.
A high-pitched voice.
Seemed middle class in his manners.
Jogged with a white German shepherd.
Drove a white ’70s Pontiac.
Mentioned he once lived in Sacramento, Davis, Contra Costa County or Goleta.
Preferred bondage or sadomasochistic sexual practices.
Showed proficiency in tying ornate knots.
Gave gifts of jewelry.
Showed unusual interest in the Smith murder investigation.
Inexplicably was absent in the late hours of the night.
Showed contempt for authority, tendency to blame others.

If you have information, you can report it to the Orange County Sheriff's Department at (714) 834-2583, or at www.ocsd.org/SerialKiller/LeadSheet.asp.
Or to Detective Sgt. Jerry Thurston, Ventura Police Department, 339-4400.
11/28/2002

VENTURA COUNTY STAR: “THE PATH OF THE ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER”

The Path of the Original Night Stalker

By Colleen Cason
Ventura County Star, November 28, 2002

Cases linked to DNA evidence:

SACRAMENTO, CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES: 1976-1979
Known as the East Area Rapist.

Victims: At least 36 female victims living in middle- and upper-middle-class neighborhoods. At first preyed on women; then targeted male-female couples. Manner of entry: Usually pried sliding-glass doors with a screwdriver.

Bound?: Always with pre-cut lengths of rope or shoelaces. Had the woman tie up the man and he tied up the woman. Usually took jewelry and driver’s licenses. None of the items were recovered. Detectives believe he kept them as souvenirs. The rapist’s quirks: After the man was tied up, he put dishes or perfume bottles on him, threatening to kill everyone in the house if they rattled. Prowled in neighborhoods before he committed the rape. Ate food out of the victims’ refrigerator.

VENTURA: MARCH 13, 1980

Victims: Lyman Smith, 43, an attorney; Charlene Smith, 33, sold gold jewelry and did interior designs.

Found: By Lyman Smith’s 12-year-old son, Gary, in the master bedroom of the single-story house on High Point Drive, overlooking the ocean.

Cause of death: Both were bludgeoned.

Murder weapon: Fireplace log found on the bed.

Manner of entry: No sign of forced entry.

Bound?: Yes, with pre-cut lengths of drapery cord, left on the bodies.

Sexual assault: Charlene was raped. Evidence collected at the scene stored and later analyzed for DNA.

Of note: House was ransacked; only Charlene Smith’s personal jewelry was missing.

The killer’s quirks: Fibers of an unknown origin found on Lyman’s ankle. A length of cord was left on the bed.

NIGUEL SHORES: AUG. 19, 1980

Victims: Keith Harrington, 24, a medical student at UC Irvine; Patrice Harrington, 28, a nurse. The Harringtons were newlyweds.

Found: By Keith’s father, in their bedroom in a single-story house in a gated community on Cockleshell Drive, overlooking the ocean.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Cause of death: Both were bludgeoned.

Murder weapon: Blunt instrument, not found at scene. Never recovered.

Bound?: Tied with cord. Suspect took knotted rope but left lengths of cord on the blanket.

Manner of entry: No sign of forced entry.

Sexual assault: Patrice was raped. Evidence collected at scene stored and later analyzed for DNA.

Of note: Nothing was stolen; the house did not appear to be ransacked.
The killer’s quirks: A single burned wooden match found inside the home.

IRVINE: FEB. 5, 1981

Victim: Manuela Witthuhn, 28, a loan officer. Alone in the house; her husband, David, was hospitalized with a viral infection.

Found: By her parents, in the bedroom of the single-story house on Columbus, a cul-de-sac, with parks on each end.

Manner of entry: Unknown, but a rear sliding-glass door had pry marks. A screwdriver was found nearby. The sliding-glass door was open when the body was discovered.

Cause of death: Bludgeoned with unknown object not found at crime scene. A nine-pound lamp and crystal carving were missing, as were her answering machine and jewelry.

Bound?: Wrists were bruised as if she had been tied but ligatures gone.
Sexual assault: Manuela was raped. Evidence collected at scene later DNA was analyzed.

The killer’s quirks: Wooden matches were found in the house, some burned almost to the end, some lighted and immediately blown out. A ball of fibers was found on her spine.

IRVINE: MAY 5, 1986

Victim: Janelle Cruz, 18, a restaurant cashier.

Found: By a real estate agent, the house was on the market with a “for sale” sign in the yard. She was in a bedroom of the single-story house, on Encina, 1.5 miles from last Irvine crime scene. The house backed up to a community playground.

Manner of entry: Unknown. A male companion who left the house shortly before the slaying said he heard a garage door shut. Cruz told him it was the washing machine.

Cause of death: Bludgeoned, probably with pipe wrench discovered missing after the crime.

Bound?: Her wrists showed abrasions as if they had been restrained by the suspect’s hands or perhaps a bath towel.

Raped: Evidence gathered at the scene, later analyzed for DNA.

The killer’s quirks: Cruz was struck in the face, instead of on the skull as were the other victims. Cruz bore a resemblance to Charlene Smith.

Detective Larry Pool believes the following cases are linked to the Original Night Stalker by the method of operation:
ARTICLE CONTINUED

GOLETA: OCT. 1, 1979

Victims: Jennifer Horinek, 33; Abraham Himmel, 33, both computer programmers.

Found: Alive by neighbors, around their single-story home on Queen Anne Lane, across the street from San Jose Creek.

Manner of entry: Kitchen door pried open.

Weapon: Serrated knife.

Bound?: Yes. Pre-cut cord and nylon twine.

Sexual assault: No. Horinek believes the suspect may have been stimulating himself.

Of note: Their attacker unplugged a TV but did not steal it. He fled the scene on a stolen bicycle.

GOLETA: DEC. 30, 1979

Victims: Robert Offerman, 44, an orthopedic surgeon; Alexandria Manning, 35, a clinical psychologist.

Found: By a friend, dead in the bedroom of a townhouse on Avenida Pequena, adjacent to San Jose Creek.

Manner of entry: Pried sliding-glass door.

Weapon: Gun.

Bound?: Both with white, braided twine.

Sexual assault: No.

Of note: Shoe prints linked this slaying to the attack on Horinek and Himmel. Killer's quirks: Brought a large dog to the crime scene. Ate leftover Christmas turkey out of the refrigerator. Left a length of unused cord on Manning's body. Green material was found on Manning's leg and back. Manning bore a resemblance to Charlene Smith.

GOLETA: JULY 27, 1981

Victims: Cheri Domingo, 35, an office manager; Gregory Sanchez, 27, an employee at Burroughs Corp.

Found: By a real estate agent in the bedroom of a home on Toltec Way, a cul-de-sac that abuts San Jose Creek.

Manner of entry: Attacker likely reached through a window to the knob of a door off the master bedroom.

Weapon: Gun and blunt object, probably a pipe wrench missing from a shed after the murders. Sanchez was shot in the face, but the fatal wound was from a blunt instrument.

Bound?: Domingo was bound with shipping twine, which had been removed. Sanchez was not bound.

Sexual assault: No.

Killer's quirks: Fibers of an unknown source were found on Domingo's torso. Partially burned matches found in the fireplace were similar to those found at the Witting foundation crime scene. She bore a resemblance to Patrice Harrington.
12/08/2002

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS:
“ELUSIVE BEDROOM KILLER HAUNTS DETECTIVE. EX-PRIVATE EYE TAKES NEW LOOK AT GOLETA SLAYINGS”

Elusive Bedroom Killer Haunts Detective
Ex-Private Eye Takes New Look at Goleta Slayings

Santa Barbara News-PRESS, 8 December 2002
By Camilla Cohoe

A serial killer who preyed on couples in their bedrooms in Goleta 20 years ago was never caught.

And that keeps retired private investigator Russ Whitmeyer up at night.

Standing just feet from the Avenida Pequena condominium where physician Robert Offerman and psychologist Alexandra Manning were shot to death Dec. 30, 1979, Mr. Whitmeyer said cracking the case has become his obsession.

“This case is so fascinating ... the brutality is incredible. Solving it would really be a life achievement,” said the 56-year-old retired Ventura County sheriff’s deputy who became a private investigator 20 years ago. Back troubles forced him to leave the Sheriff’s Department in 1976.

A resident of Ojai for 25 years, he’s spent the last couple of months conducting interviews and reviewing details of two unsolved double homicides, and one attempted killing, that all occurred in the same Goleta neighborhood, around Cathedral Oaks Road and Patterson Avenue, between 1979 and 1981.

On July 27, 1981, two years after the murders of Drs. Offerman and Manning, Gregory Sanchez and Cheri Domingo were killed in the same fashion at the Toltec Way home where Ms. Domingo was house-sitting.

The killings bear a chilling resemblance to an attack on another Goleta couple. On Oct. 1, 1979, Jennifer Hornek and Abraham Himmel were asleep in their Queen Ann Lane home when an intruder tied them up and threatened to kill them. They managed to escape from the man who investigators believe is the killer of the other two couples.

Around the same time, Lyman Smith and his wife, Charlene, were found bludgeoned to death in their Ventura home.

Now retired from private investigator work as well, Mr. Whitmeyer said boredom caused him to take an interest in the slayings. He worked the Ventura homicide when he was still with the Sheriff’s Department, but didn’t realize the connection back then. A string of clues, such as similar methods of operation, has led Mr. Whitmeyer, and sheriffs investigators in Orange County, to believe the Goleta killer is also responsible for a series of murders in Ventura and Orange counties that occurred over a seven-year span, up until 1980 when the crimes stopped.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Those cases have also been linked through DNA to a string of at least 50 rapes committed in east Sacramento in the mid-1970s.

"By assuming the cases are connected, by solving one you solve them all," Mr. Whitmeyer said. "But I'm focusing on the Goleta cases, because that's where all the major clues are.

"These victims were in their beds and late at night or early in the morning, they were savagely beaten ... and the suspect would tie them up using this very special knot, and it's this special knot, and the way the victims were tied up and beaten, that connects them all," Mr. Whitmeyer explained.

Witness descriptions of the killer -- a white male in his late teens or 20s who attempted to disguise his voice by making it sound deeper and wore a distinct Adidas running shoe -- also link the cases, he said.

Mr. Whitmeyer believes somebody around here knows something that would help crack the case. By establishing a reward, and circulating brochures that detail major clues in the case, he believes someone may come forward with information.

"After the last murder in 1986, the killer just disappeared," Mr. Whitmeyer said. "It's possible this person might still be living in Goleta. You never can tell."

He said an anonymous donor in Ventura put up a $100,000 reward, but recently backed out. Now he's hoping someone else interested in seeing the cases solved will come forward with a $100,000 reward, and another $20,000 to create mailers that would be circulated throughout Goleta to help trigger residents' memories.

Santa Barbara sheriff's deputies say they are still working the case as well.

"Those cases are currently under active investigation, assigned to two detectives," said sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Phil Willis. "We're constantly reviewing technology and how it might impact how we solve this and other unsolved crimes."

Santa Barbara sheriff's detectives have said they are not convinced, but have not ruled out the possibility, that the Goleta killer is connected to the other cases.

"There was DNA evidence in our investigation that does not match the DNA from their killer," Lt. Mike Burridge told the News-Press in October of 2000.

It was the Orange County sheriff's "cold case" investigative team that announced two years ago that the cases were all linked. The office pushed for legislation allowing DNA samples to be taken of death row and prison inmates in an effort to crack unsolved cases like this one.

Orange County sheriff's investigator Larry Pool, who has worked this particular serial killer case exclusively for several years, described the killer he believes is responsible for 10 murders and 50 rapes along the state.

"He is a cat burglar rapist who prowls and selects his victims and targets couples, and it is his desire to have a man and woman that he takes on at the same time," he said. "He brings pre-cut ligatures to the scene to tie them up, may bring a flashlight, a firearm, covers his face with a ski mask.

"In my opinion, he's the most brazen serial killer in American history," Mr. Pool said. "In each of these cases, the suspect enters the victim's world, which makes it high risk for him. He's choosing to have a male present as well, which means this guy is extremely bold and arrogant, and even more dangerous."

Mr. Whitmeyer and Detective Pool agree the killer is either dead, in prison, or out there in society somewhere. He would be in his mid-30s to mid-40s now.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

"I’m open to him being the quiet guy next door who neighbors only saw on Saturday mornings when he mowed the lawn,” Mr. Pool said.

"I think everybody who comes into contact with this case is haunted by it,” he added. “We have a body count here that needs to be solved.”

YOU CAN HELP

The Orange County Sheriff’s CLUE team is seeking tips from anyone who might have known or currently knows the killer. Call Investigator Larry Pool at 1-888-390-CLUE.

Locally, call the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Department at 681-4100, or private investigator Russ Whitmeyer at 640-1480.
03/10/2003

KNBC LOS ANGELES: “ORIGINAL NIGHT STALKER: SUSPECT BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR STRING OF ATTACKS”

Original Night Stalker
Suspect Believed Responsible For String Of Attacks

KNBC (Los Angeles) 10 March 2003

LOS ANGELES -- Newlyweds Keith and Patrice Harrington were just about to start their life’s journey together. He had just finished medical school. She was a pediatric nurse. Their journey ended Aug. 19, 1980. The couple, in their early 20s, never locked the door to their Niguel Shores home.

Detectives believe the killer simply walked in, wearing a long-sleeved jacket, a mask over his face and gloves on his hands. His victims’ bodies were left with care in their own bed and were discovered by Keith Harrington’s father.

"Hands were tied...heads towards each other...tucked under the sheets," said the victim’s brother, Doug Harrington.

In hindsight, investigators say the attack on the Harringtons was the ultimate sign of power. He not only killed them in their own home, but in a community that is gated with guards around the clock.

Now, more than two decades later, Orange County investigator Larry Pool is searching for the man he calls "the original night stalker." The Harringtons, it turns out, were not his only victims.

"I like to see what they looked like in life...just for me," said Pool. There were, by Pool’s account, 10 murders from Orange to Ventura to Santa Barbara counties that date back to 1976, when it’s believed the same suspect terrorized women near Sacramento as a serial rapist who struck dozens of times.

"He was prolific," said Pool. Pool believes the man may have struck up to 50 times by July 1979.

No one has ever seen the suspect’s face. He’s described as just under 6 feet tall, medium build and Caucasian. Investigators think they have, however, heard his voice. A chilling phone call was recorded by one of the rape victims, a year after she was attacked.

On the tape you can hear a man breathing heavily. He tells the rape victim, "I could kill you...I could kill you."

Then suddenly in 1986, the killings stopped.

"Now he’s either doing life or facing parole. He could get out next week for all I know," said Pool.

Pool wonders if the night stalker is already behind bars. Last month, 619 death row inmates were forced to give blood to have their DNA analyzed. The State Department of Justice creates a profile from the samples. The information is then entered into the combined DNA index system -- called CODIS.

Pool has the night stalker’s DNA. He’s hoping for a cold hit -- a match.

"To date, I’ve looked at 8,000 subjects," said Pool.

Doug Harrington fears the system may let him down, because analysis can take six months.

Profilers suggest the night stalker is an angry man, abused by a girlfriend or mother. Or, they say, it’s possible he disappeared because he’s just like the guy next door.
Decades-old Cold Case Catches Fire
By Colleen Cason
Ventura County Star, March 3, 2004

Twenty-four years after their slayings, Lyman and Charlene Smith have a surprise avenger in an unexpected arena. The charismatic couple was discovered bound and bludgeoned to death in their hillside home March 13, 1980. The slayings of the 43-year-old attorney and his younger, Miss America-beautiful wife remain among the most baffling unsolved crimes in Ventura’s history.

The Smiths are gone, but the effort to bring their killer to justice found new life two weeks ago.

A middle-age Orange County businessman has a deep interest in seeing the Smiths’ killer caught.

Bruce Harrington also has deep pockets. He has put up a million dollars of his own money to qualify an initiative for the November ballot to expand and upgrade the state’s database of criminals’ DNA. Backers of the measure have until April 16 to gather more than 373,800 valid signatures.

The DNA Fingerprint, Unsolved Crime and Innocence Protection Act would require anyone convicted of any felony in California to provide a DNA sample. Under current state law, a felon convicted of any of a dozen violent crimes must give up a sample. The measure proposes increasing criminal penalties to pay for upgrading the state’s DNA typing equipment and database.

Harrington’s campaign is born of hope burned away to ash and then revived. His brother is the victim of an unsolved homicide. Newlyweds Keith and Patty Harrington were found bludgeoned in their hillside Laguna Niguel home in August 1980.

Harrington’s tie to Lyman and Charlene Smith transcends the accidental kinship of families who have lost loved ones to violence.

The Smiths and the Harringtons died at the hands of the same man. Four years ago, Orange County criminals matched DNA from the rape of Patty Harrington to evidence found on Charlene Smith.

Eventually, the genetic material from those homicides matched that of the vicious and prolific East Area Rapist. In the late ’70s, he terrorized couples in upscale suburbs of the Bay Area.

That DNA, however, did not match any sample in the current database from a known criminal.

Orange County investigators theorize the killer -- dubbed the Original Night Stalker -- is either dead or in jail, because no similar crimes have been committed for almost two decades.

Harrington had despaired that his brother and sister-in-law’s murders would ever be solved. Then, the investigator’s call about the DNA match “opened up the door to the possible emotional closure,” he told me on Tuesday.

But he grows impatient with the haphazard way the state has proceeded with testing of felons in the prison system.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Other states, he points out, solve almost 40 percent of the crimes in which DNA samples are entered into a statewide system. California closes about 5 percent of cases with DNA-driven evidence.

His crusade has drawn criticism from civil libertarians. They argue the DNA database is intended only for violent felons, not lower-level criminals. Harrington counters with statistics that indicate 75 percent of serial rapists and killers begin their criminal careers breaking into homes.

Civil-rights concerns sank a bill similar to Harrington’s proposed ballot measure in the statehouse. That inspired Harrington and a contingent of law enforcement officials to draft the initiative.

Harrington is a seasoned veteran of the forensic DNA wars. Two years ago, he traded verbal volleys with powerful state Sen. John Burton over a bill that would have permitted prison officials to take a DNA sample by force from prisoners who were required by law to give one but who just said no. After their well-publicized exchange, Burton stood down and agreed to the bill with a few alterations. It is now state law.

Harrington argues DNA is just the high-tech equivalent of finger and palm prints — something routinely taken from criminals.

With six weeks to go, the initiative has garnered more than 70,000 signatures and the endorsement of several high-ranking state officials. Ventura County District Attorney Greg Totten backs the measure.

Bruce Harrington hopes Californians will join him in his crusade to avenge the deaths of the Smiths and his brother with that powerful weapon — a ballpoint pen applied to a petition.

On the Net: To view the complete text of the measure, go to http://dnaYES.org

-- Colleen Cason’s e-mail address is ccason@VenturaCountyStar.com. Her telephone number is 655-5930.
10/01/2006

REDDING RECORD SEARCHLIGHT:
“KILLER LINKED TO AREA: INVESTIGATOR FOLLOWS SERIAL RAPIST’S TRAIL TO SHASTA COUNTY, RAY CASE”

Killer linked to area

Investigator follows serial rapist's trail to Shasta County, Ray case

By Ryan Sabalow, Record Searchlight
October 1, 2006

Russ Whitmeyer is hunting a monster.

From 1976 to 1986, a man went on a rape and killing spree from Sacramento to Orange County, raping at least 50 women and killing at least 10 and maybe as many as 17 people.

The killer was never caught.

Whitmeyer, a 63-year-old private investigator from Southern California, believes he’s found the killer’s trail -- a trail he says leads to Shasta County.

And Whitmeyer believes a 30-year-old unsolved murder that recently was resurrected from the Redding Police Department’s cold case files may be connected.

He says there’s a remote possibility that Terri Lynn Ray, the 15-year-old Anderson High School student found stabbed to death in a creek near her mother’s south Redding home in 1976, may have been one of the killer’s first victims.

Police say advances in DNA technology could help them learn who killed Terri.

Hair evidence -- long thought to be useless -- found at the scene of Terri’s death is to be examined at a California Department of Justice crime lab in Sacramento, police said.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Patterns of evil

Whitmeyer, a former Ventura County sheriff’s detective, has spent the past six years of his retirement trying to find the serial killer now known by two monikers: the East Area Rapist and the Original Night Stalker.

He says he gets no money from his investigation and his only motivation is to solve the crime.

“There are just so many victims and so many victims’ families that have been affected by this serial rapist and murderer,” Whitmeyer said. “Somebody should try to find him.”

The serial killer is thought to have begun his criminal career as a rapist in Sacramento in 1976, earning himself the name East Area Rapist because many of his attacks occurred in the Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights and Orangevale areas east of Sacramento.

The man would later become known as the Original Night Stalker, because his crimes started before those of convicted serial murderer Richard Ramirez, known as the Night Stalker.

Ramirez was convicted in 1989 for killing 13 people in similar home invasion attacks in the Los Angeles area.

Ramirez is on death row awaiting execution. He’s been cleared of crimes connected to the East Area Rapist, the FBI said.

The East Area Rapist attacked at least 50 women between June 1976 and July 1979 in a path from Sacramento to Contra Costa counties, according to press reports and an FBI alert issued to law enforcement in 2002.

Originally, he attacked single women, often after prying open sliding glass doors or windows of their homes with a screwdriver.

He haunted upper-middle-class neighborhoods, prowling at night looking for unlocked doors.

The FBI describes the man as most likely being white with fair to light olive complexion and dark hair. He stood between 5 feet 7 inches and 5 feet 11 inches tall. He would now be in his late 40s or early 50s. He wore a size 9 shoe.

The rapist frequently wore a ski mask and would often carry pre-cut lengths of shoelaces or twine. He would tie his victims up with an intricate sailor’s knot, called a diamond knot, which is incredibly difficult to tie and points to a possible naval background, Whitmeyer said.

His victims weren’t just women. In 1977, he started attacking couples in their homes.

Detectives hosted town hall meetings after the Sacramento rapes to address residents’ concerns. At one meeting, a man stood up and boldly proclaimed that he could protect his wife from the rapist, Whitmeyer said.

The couple were the rapist’s next victims, Whitmeyer said.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

The rapist would break in, often waking the victims by shining a flashlight on them or speaking.

He would separate the woman from the man, often having the woman tie up her companion.

Speaking through clenched teeth in a whispering falsetto voice, he would tell the bound man he was going to kill him and the woman if he heard a sound.

His warning came after he'd place perfume bottles or dishes on the man's back. He'd then leave to rape the woman in another room.

He left DNA evidence behind.

The East Area Rapist had other quirks, including eating food from the victims' refrigerators and telling his victims all he wanted was food and money. He would rarely take anything of value, but occasionally would grab jewelry as a memento.

In 1979, the rapist turned even more violent.

He started targeting couples in Southern California coastal communities in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Orange counties. He wasn't picky about his weapons and would shoot, stab or bludgeon his victims -- both men and women. The rapist frequently held a knife to his victims' throats.

In May 1986, Janelle Lisa Cruz was found bludgeoned to death in her home in Irvine.

Police think it may have been the last time the East Area Rapist struck.

A hiatus

"A serial killer doesn't usually stop," Whitmeyer said. "He's most likely incarcerated, or he's deceased."

But Whitmeyer said there's a chance the killer is still loose.

In 2001, the San Francisco Chronicle quoted retired Sacramento County sheriff's detective Richard Shelby as saying the rapist called one of his victims in 1990 or 1991.

Shelby told reporters the victim heard children in the background and a woman speaking, possibly indicating the rapist had a family.

The media's interest in the case was piqued in 2001 after crime labs in the Bay Area and Orange County connected the East Area Rapist to the Southern California homicides through DNA evidence.

He's now known as California's most prolific at-large serial offender, Whitmeyer said.

The private investigator says the killer once may have called Shasta County home.

He said he's "almost 100 percent sure" the killer either had family here or lived here at some point.

As evidence, he cites a Sacramento Bee article from December 1977, reporting Sacramento County sheriff's deputies chasing a suspect wearing a ski mask on a bicycle through the same area the rapist was known to stalk.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

The deputies never caught the man, but they found his bike. It had been reported stolen from the Redding area, the article said.

The bike rider wasn't the rapist, the cops said in the story. But Whitmeyer isn't so sure -- after other crimes, the rapist fled on a bike.

"Just because they had a profile years ago doesn't mean that with years of further investigation that that profile was correct," he said.

Whitmeyer is sure the bike links the rapist to Shasta County. He claims to have other credible evidence, although he would not be specific.

He asks anyone with information about the case to call him at (805) 432-0054. He said he would forward tips to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Whitmeyer hopes that renewed interested in the case -- and reward money he's gathering -- will get residents thinking, specifically about unreported or unsolved rapes and murders in Shasta County.

Murders, he said, like the case of Terri Lynn Ray.

Possible hope

Whitmeyer says the timing of Terri Lynn Ray's death puts her eerily close to the East Area Rapist's original reign of terror in Sacramento County. On July 8, 1976, Terri's body was discovered by a pair of children in Clear Creek near her mother's home on Canyon Road in south Redding.

The girl had been stabbed 15 times.

Whitmeyer says Terri's murder falls within weeks of the rapist's attacks in Sacramento, the first of which was reported on June 18, 1976.

But a coroner's exam found that Terri had not been sexually assaulted, something her mother, LaVerne Ray, 79, was quick to point out when asked by a reporter about a possible connection to the rapist.

DNA may be the key to discovering a connection, if one exists, says Capt. Peter Hansen of the Redding Police Department.

Hansen said around a month ago, investigators sent a hair sample found at the Ray crime scene to be examined by Department of Justice forensic scientists.

The hair had been in Terri's file for years, but was long thought to be useless because it didn't have a root attached. Advances in DNA technology mean there's the chance the rootless hair can be sampled, Hansen said.

This is a boon for investigators because other clues, including blood samples from the scene, were found years ago to be corrupted, and suspicious flowers left mysteriously on the girl's headstone recently turned out to be dead ends, Hansen said.

If DNA is found, it will be added to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System, a national database of criminals' genetic markers, and cross-checked with other DNA in the system.

Hansen said that presumably would include what was left behind by the East Area Rapist.

LaVerne Ray said she's optimistic, but she has been down this path too many times in the 30 years since her daughter's death to be overly hopeful.

"I'll wait," she said. "That's all I can do."
On the trail of a killer

Ojai man uncovers evidence of serial rapist and murderer

Mike Yokaishi
myokaishi@ojai-valley.com

It's been almost 27 years, but Russ Whittemeyer is seeing this thing through to the end. Along with his wife, Lisa, Ojai's Whittemeyer has dedicated himself to finding the man who is responsible for what he claims is the largest unsolved serial murder and rape case in California history: 13 brutal murders and 56 rapes committed between 1976 and 1986. DNA and forensic work now shows these crimes are all linked to the same man, Whittemeyer said.

The Whittemeyers don't know the killer's name, his age, his sex, or even whether he's still alive, but they're offering up $500,000 in reward money for information that links the suspect's DNA to the crimes. They're hoping to find someone who will help fund the reward in exchange for money and look alike.

"But if no one's willing to help me," Whittemeyer said, "I'll sell the house to pay for the reward." His dedication to the issues began in 1986, four years after he'd retired as a detective with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and started his own private investigation company. He was called to investigate the case of Lyman and Charlene Smith, who were murdered in their Ventura Hills home as they lay in bed. Although Whittemeyer had an emotional attachment to the case — he'd gone to Camarillo High School with Charlene — he began to work as a private investigator for the defense.

"I interviewed Alsip, and I didn't think he was guilty. So I was glad to work the case," said Russ Whittemeyer. Feeling a solid lead, Whittemeyer rushed north to check the Sacramento County records. What he found was heartbreaking: like so many other sheriff's departments, Sacramento County had long purged the records of that particular case. So again, the Whittemeyers were back at square one.

But Russ Whittemeyer isn't going to give up. "Period. From the very beginning it's been a goal I've set. I don't plan to give up until I identify this guy." So he's placing ads in local newspapers, tracing down leads, and is sending out 90,000 information packets to Sacramento County residents in a few weeks.

"He could be alive, he could be dead, he could be in jail," said Whittemeyer. "When the suspect was younger, he might've made more mistakes, perhaps telling someone or not being careful enough to cover up all tracks, explained Whittemeyer. That's why he's starting with Sacramento County. Those who have information can place a call to Whittemeyer anonymously and be assigned a code number, he added. "Someone knows something. I feel confident that the 90,000 mailers will result in the identification of this suspect."
02/08/2007

VISALIA TIMES-DELTA: “RETIRED OFFICER LOOKING TO SOLVE 1975 COLD CASE: ‘RANSACKER’ LINKED TO MURDER, MULTIPLE CRIMES”

A retired police detective says his six-year obsession with a string of California rapes and murders has led him to the conclusion that they started in Visalia.

Private investigator Russ Whitmeyer, in his quest to identify the so-called “Visalia Ransacker” who terrorized the city more 30 years ago, says letters he is sending to every address with a Visalia zip code should be arriving in mailboxes Feb. 19.

Whitmeyer is asking Visalians to help him discover the identity of the person who killed a College of the Sequoias teacher in 1975 and may have committed other crimes, including rapes and murders.

The two-page letter contains a vague physical description of the suspect, whose face was always covered by a ski mask during his crimes, a summary of his crimes, the reward offer for the tip that leads to the correct identification of the man and where he was thought to have lived during the span of his criminal career.

Whitmeyer, a retired Ventura County sheriff’s deputy turned private investigator, has made finding out the identity of the prolific criminal his full-time job since retiring from his own private investigation company in 2000.

Whitmeyer left the Ventura Sheriff’s Department in 1976 after a work-related injury.

“People don't understand that it is basically like a hobby in retirement to solve the case,” Whitmeyer said. “I set a goal in retirement that I would solve the case.”
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Whitmeyer said the man, who would be in his late 40s to early 50s now, has been linked to at least 20 murders, 70 rapes and 200 burglaries across the state. Law enforcement officers have not made such a firm connection between all the crimes.

In Visalia, Whitmeyer said consistency in the crimes’ circumstances has led him to believe the man committed at least four murders, 10 rapes and more than 125 burglaries.

The man is a white male, about 5-feet, 10-inches tall with a stocky build and brown hair. He wore a size-9 shoe.

Because he used an unusual knot, called a diamond knot, to tie his victims, Whitmeyer thinks the suspect had a military background, particularly in the Navy or Air Force.

Whitmeyer believes the Ransacker is the same man also known by the monikers the “Original Night Stalker” and the “East Area Rapist,” for crimes he is believed to have committed in Southern California and east Sacramento.

Visalia police Sgt. Allyn Wightman said he has talked with Whitmeyer and has provided him with information.

One notable case that Whitmeyer believes was committed by the Ransacker was the murder of College of the Sequoias journalism professor Claude Snelling in 1975.

Snelling was shot trying to prevent the kidnapping of his 16-year-old daughter after a man broke into their Visalia home.

Wightman said the Visalia police do not have any physical evidence to connect the man Whitmeyer is looking for with Snelling’s killer, but that the killer’s method did appear similar to cases that Whitmeyer is investigating in other cities.

Wightman, who spoke to Whitmeyer as recently as Wednesday, said Whitmeyer told him he was close to identifying someone.

"Whatever we can produce for him, we will assist him," Wightman said. "There were similar circumstances, but that was it."

Wightman said if Whitmeyer identifies the man the police will seriously look into whether he could be the same man who murdered Snelling.

A few months after Snelling was killed, Whitmeyer said, Visalia police Officer William McGowen caught up with the Ransacker while he was breaking into a house.

The Ransacker shot at McGowen, hitting his flashlight, and eventually got away. That is when the crimes of that particular nature stopped in Visalia.

His crimes didn’t stop altogether though, with several murders and rapes attributed to him in east Sacramento and Southern California after he was believed to have left Visalia. The crimes mysteriously ended in 1986, leading
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Whitmeyer to think that he is either dead or was incarcerated for other crimes.

Whitmeyer said he will pursue the identity of this man as long as it takes. He said he is trying to raise $250,000 as a reward for correct information that leads to the identification of the man who terrorized several California communities for more than 10 years.

"This particular suspect is probably the biggest serial killer and burglar in California history," Whitmeyer said. "I don't know of any other cases that include this many murders, rapes and burglaries. I just want to identify this killer. It is a goal that I have set, and I want to accomplish this goal."
KSBY SANTA BARBARA: “SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE GETS NEW LEAD ON 1981 HOMICIDE CASE”

By Lindsay MacLeod

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office is asking the public for help getting information on a 32 year old homicide investigation called the Original Night Stalker case.

Back in 1981, 36-year-old Cheri Domingo and 27-year-old Gregory Sanchez were murdered while they were house-sitting at a home in the 400 block of Tolles Way in Goleta. 18 months earlier, 44-year-old Dr. Robert Offerman and 35-year-old Alexandria Manning were also murdered in a condo in Goleta. Officials believe both homicides were linked to the same person.

In May of 2011, investigators found DNA evidence at the Domingo and Sanchez homicide scene. Officials say that DNA has been linked to several rapes in northern California, including the ones committed by the East Area Rapist in Sacramento County in the late 1970’s. The DNA is also linked to the Original Night Stalker who murdered people in Ventura and Orange County in the 1980’s.

Officials say they have the DNA evidence, but they still haven’t identified a suspect.

Investigators were able to determine that there were traces of paint in two of the rape cases and at one of the homicide scenes.

Officials believe the suspect may have been travelling around the state to work at construction sites, possibly as a painter.

Investigators found that a strip mall section at 8801 Calle Real and a Longs Drug store at 8875 Calle Real in Goleta had a building permit issued to a developer from Sacramento at the beginning of 1979. Officials say the building was being finished during the same time frame as the Offerman and Manning murders. Typically, painting would happen towards the final stages of the project.

If you know anyone who worked on the construction site or has information about the people who worked on the project, call the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Criminal Investigations Bureau at (805) 681-4150 or leave an anonymous tip at (805) 681-4171.

Officials say it is important not to confuse the Original Night Stalker with serial killer Richard Ramirez, who was referred to as the Night Stalker during a deadly crime spree in 1984 and 1985.
CBS SACRAMENTO: “NEW EVIDENCE IN ‘70S EAST AREA RAPIST CASE COULD LEAD TO POSSIBLE SUSPECT ARREST”

By Cambi Brown

SACRAMENTO (CBS13) ◆ A decades-old DNA match now links the man known as the “East Area Rapist” to four murders near Santa Barbara.

He attacked at least 50 women in the Sacramento area in the late 1970s, and new evidence is possibly shedding light on unsolved cases in the Central Valley.

With the new evidence, investigators may possibly know why the crimes stopped in Sacramento and moved to the Southern California area.

“This is a guy who absolutely terrorized communities through Sacramento,” said Sacramento County sheriff’s Sgt. Jason Ramos.

Sacramento investigators say in the 1970s the East Area Rapist attacked 50 women in the Sacramento area before moving on to Southern California, where he’s thought to have killed almost a dozen people.

In the Santa Barbara area, he’s known as the Original Night Stalker. More than three decades later, his identity is still unknown.

“I think it adds to the intense interest people feel about the case, especially in light of potential new evidence or a new lead,” said Ramos.

With DNA advances, four more murders in the Santa Barbara area have been connected to Sacramento’s East Area Rapist.

Another key piece of evidence was found at the Santa Barbara crime scenes ◆ traces of paint.

Was the serial rapist and killer always on the move as a painter, contractor or developer?

“In more than one of our cases there was evidence of paint,” said Ramos.

Recently, the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Department found a strip mall with a building permit from a Sacramento developer. That strip mall was finished around the same time a few people were killed. Now, investigators are cautiously optimistic about this new possible paint connection.

“It could be another factor that points in the direction, another common denominator that helps link the pieces together to solve the very complex puzzle,” said Ramos.

It’s a connection the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department says could finally put a face on a rapist and killer.

“We have to temper our excitement for the fact that this case isn’t going to be solved on one piece of evidence,” said Ramos.

CBS13 contacted the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department about who the Sacramento developer is, but officials say they aren’t ready to release that information at this time.
09/09/2013
LA MAG: UPDATE: “INVESTIGATORS HAVE A NEW LEAD ON THE GOLDEN STATE KILLER”

By Michelle McNamara

Will 37-year-old paint flakes lead to his capture?

Santa Barbara Sheriff’s investigators have released information to the public about a new lead in the Golden State Killer case: Traces of paint were evident in three crime scenes in Irvine and Sacramento previously tied to the killer, sheriff’s spokeswoman Kelly Hoover said over the weekend. It’s a detail that has led Santa Barbara detectives to believe the suspect, who is linked to as many as four murders in Goleta between 1979 and 1981, may have traveled to that area to work on a construction site, possibly as a painter. That the killer might have a background in construction or real estate development has long been theorized, as many of his victims lived near construction sites, among other clues. The discovery that a Sacramento developer was constructing part of a strip mall in Goleta near the time Dr. Robert Offerman and Alexandria Manning were murdered warrants closer examination, and I’m happy investigators are asking the public to search their memories for who might have worked on the project. It’s always been my feeling that the combination of old-school, shoe-leather detective work and cooperation from the public is what’s going to break this case wide open. The Golden State Killer was organized, careful and very, very lucky. Thirty-seven year old paint flakes might be where his luck runs out.
IRVINE ◆ The investigation has stretched past its third decade, but recently reviewed details from an Orange County crime scene are helping authorities follow a new lead in the search for one of California’s most notorious serial killers.

The Original Night Stalker has never been identified despite a prolific criminal history spanning the late 1970s and mid-’80s. The killer often targeted couples, breaking in and tying them up before raping the women and then killing both. He is believed to be responsible for at least 10 murders, including the deaths of a newlywed couple in Dana Point and two women in separate homes in Irvine.

In 2001, DNA evidence first linked multiple Southern California killings as well as dozens of sexual assaults near Sacramento. That breakthrough showed the killer was the same man as Sacramento’s East Area Rapist and also provided a DNA profile to assist authorities.

In 2011, Santa Barbara investigators linked DNA from the 1981 slayings of a couple in Goleta to the unknown killer. The same man is also believed to be responsible for a 1979 double homicide in the area. The new DNA link prompted the department to comb through associated crime reports from other areas. In the files, they found that traces of paint were present at the scenes of two rapes near Sacramento and a homicide in Irvine.

That made investigators consider a new possibility: that the killer came to the area to work on a construction site, perhaps as a painter, said Kelly Hoover of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office.

Now, investigators are seeking information on anyone who worked on construction sites at a strip mall at 5801 Calle Real and the Longe Drug at 5875 Calle Real, both in Goleta. Around the time of the Goleta killings, a developer from Sacramento was involved in a project there. The final stages of the project, which would have included painting, took place around the time of the first Goleta slaying in 1979, Hoover said.

Gary Kitmann, a sheriff’s cold case investigator, said he came to the new theory after considering why someone might spend several months at a time in various regions of the state. A longtime Goleta resident, he remembered several construction projects in the area at the time of the homicides. The several instances of paint at various crime scenes ◆ plus the discovery of a 1979 building permit in the neighborhood of the killings archived on microfilm ◆ made him consider more seriously the possibility that the killer worked in construction.

“It’s a huge case, and there’s a lot of information,” he said.

Putting together an employee list 30 years after a construction project will be a challenge, but officials are committed to identifying the killer and bringing him to justice, Hoover added.

“He terrorized our community and he terrorized many other communities,” she said. “He destroyed families and brought a great deal of fear and heartache to our community.”

Larry Pool, a retired Orange County detective who began working on the case in 1997, said investigators have chemically analyzed paint in the past as one of the many details in the case. Now an investigator for Broadcom, Pool continues to follow leads and work with authorities in his spare time.

“It’s one of those cases you want to see solved before you breathe your last,” he said.

SCREWDRIVER MAY BE KEY

A screwdriver with five types of paint on it was found near the 1981 Irvine crime scene, he said.

“It may be very relevant,” he said. “It may not be.”
ARTICLE CONTINUED

At the time, Pool said, investigators questioned whether the paint-stained screwdriver could mean the killer worked in construction. The screwdriver could also have been stolen and simply used as a burglary tool, he said.

“You start revisiting things over the years because you’re looking for meaning in everything,” he said. “Sometimes you get that meaning, sometimes you don’t.”

The possibility that the killer spent time at the Goleta strip mall carries more weight in light of a hand-drawn map and writings recovered after one of the Original Night Stalker’s rapes in Northern California. The pieces of loose-leaf paper were discovered at the end of a bloodhound trail from the crime scene, Pool said, but then sat in evidence storage as “miscellaneous papers” for more than 20 years.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office crime lab rediscovered the papers in 2011, and officials made them public earlier this year. An essay that begins “Mad is the word” shows handwriting and turns of phrase that Pool said may spark recognition in a friend or family member of much the way Unabomber Ted Kaczynski’s published manifesto was recognized by his brother.

“The right person is going to see it, then we’re going to get the right call that leads to the suspect,” he said.

HAND-DRAWN MAP

The hand-drawn map also shows a freeway, shopping complex and residential neighborhood that resemble the Goleta center that’s now the focus of the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office investigation. The area is not far from a riverbed that connects the two homes the stalker victimized. It’s not an exact match, and Pool said he believes the map to be a mix of the killer’s memories and fantasies.

In the drawing, homes of varying sizes line curving streets and surround a lake. Several of the streets end in cul-de-sacs with planters in their middle—a fairly distinct development feature that Pool said was present in the neighborhoods of the killer’s victims in Irvine and Dana Point as well. The cul-de-sacs are just one of the small, puzzling details of the case that Pool said investigators begin to understand as they learn more about their unknown suspect.

“I think that’s fairly key,” he said.

On the back of the map, the word “punishment” is scrawled. It fits with the anger he showed in each of his crimes, Pool said.

“That’s stuff that comes right out of a creep show,” he said.

Not long after killing two couples in Goleta and Ventura, the Original Night Stalker made his first foray into Orange County, killing newlyweds Keith and Patsy Harrington in Dana Point in 1980. He returned in February 1981, striking the Irvine home of Manuels Wittuhn. After again killing a couple in 1981, he dropped off the map for several years. Authorities believe he may have been locked up for another crime, perhaps a rape. But in May 1986, he was back in Irvine, where he raped and killed 18-year-old Janelle Cruz.

LAST KNOWN CRIME

The death of Cruz was the killer’s last known crime. He received his nickname for the crimes’ similarities to those of Night Stalker Richard Ramirez. Ramirez, who died in June of natural causes while on death row, began his spree of nighttime killings later in the decade. The fate of the Original Night Stalker and why the killings stopped remains unknown.

Investigators believe he may already be incarcerated, perhaps in a state where DNA testing of prisoners is handled differently. Pool said it’s also possible that he became disabled or aged to a point where he no longer felt compelled to kill. The killer may also be dead.

In spite of the decades that have passed, Pool said he’s sure the homicides are solvable. Even if the killer has died, investigators could perform DNA tests on remains, personal belongings or family members to determine a match.

“The grave is not too far for him to be identified,” he said.

Investigators will continue to look at the case from different angles and seek the public’s assistance, Pool said.

“I just think it’s a matter of getting the information we have in front of the right eyes, and for those people to speak up.”
09/21/2013

SACRAMENTO BEE: “INVESTIGATORS EXPLORE NEW LEADS IN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY EAST AREA RAPIST”

By Cathy Locke

Highlights: Decades after the East Area Rapist/Original Night Stalker was linked to rapes and homicides statewide, Santa Barbara County sheriff’s investigators say new leads suggest the suspect may have followed construction jobs from Sacramento to Southern California.

Nearly 36 years after the last case linked to the “East Area Rapist” in Sacramento County was reported, Santa Barbara County sheriff’s investigators are pursuing a new lead indicating that the suspect might have worked in construction and followed jobs from the Sacramento area to Southern California.

The East Area Rapist, who terrorized Sacramento County residents from 1976 to 1978, is believed to be the same man known as Southern California’s “Original Night Stalker.” The case is unrelated to convicted murderer Richard Ramirez, who was dubbed the “Night Stalker” and died of cancer in June while awaiting execution.

The Original Night Stalker has never been found. He is believed responsible for homicides in Ventura and Orange counties in the 1980s. He was linked to at least 30 rapes and one homicide in Sacramento County, where he was dubbed the East Area Rapist because most of the crimes occurred in the county’s eastern area, including Rancho Cordova, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Orangevale and Arden Arcade.

In May 2011, the California Department of Justice DNA laboratory in Santa Barbara matched DNA evidence from the 1981 slaying of a couple at a Goleta residence with the DNA profile of the East Area Rapist/Original Night Stalker Gary Kitzmann, a retired sheriff’s lieutenant who works part time with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department investigating cold cases, said the same suspect is believed responsible for the Dec. 30, 1979, slaying of another couple who were killed in a Goleta condominium not far from the site of the 1981 slaying.

In reviewing crime reports from other agencies, he said, investigators discovered traces of paint were found in two rapes and one of the homicide scenes in Irvine, evidence believed to have come from the suspect in all three cases. As a result, he said, investigators are exploring the possibility that the suspect may have come to the area to work at a construction site, possibly as a painter.

Investigators also found that a section of a strip mall and a Longs Drug Store on Calle Real in Goleta initially had a building permit issued to a developer from Sacramento at the beginning of 1979. The final stages of the project, which would have included painting of the buildings, occurred during the same time frame as the 1979 homicide, he said.

Kitzmann said he has contacted the developer, who he declined to name but said is still in business in the Sacramento area. “I’d like to find out who the subcontractors were and come up with a list of their employees,” he said.

Kitzmann said he would be interested in talking with anyone who knows of friends or neighbors who worked in construction in the Sacramento area in the late 1970s and moved on to jobs in Southern California.

Irvine police Lt. John Condon said some paint was found on a tool left at the scene of one of the Original Night Stalker homicides his department investigated. “We’re not sure how it arrived at the scene or the circumstances,” he said. “Over the years, there have been a lot of different theories.”

There were no witnesses in the Irvine and Santa Barbara homicide cases, and investigators said they have relied on suspect descriptions from Sacramento and other Northern California law enforcement agencies.
ARTICLE CONTINUED

Detective Ken Clark of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department said the last case in California linked to the East Area Rapist (Original Night Stalker) was reported in 1986. Although decades have passed, “we have a working group with agencies that have these cases,” Clark said, adding that representatives from sheriff’s departments in Sacramento, Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties, the Irvine Police Department and some Bay Area agencies meet in person about once a year and communicate regularly through a website set up for them by the FBI.

Traces of blue paint were found in three back-to-back East Area Rapist cases in Sacramento County in 1979. Clark described them as microscopic chips of blue architectural paint that likely came from someone who had been using a paint sprayer. In the late ’70s, he said, paint sprayers typically were used only by professional painters, leading investigators to focus on someone engaged in the building trades.

Residential and commercial building was booming in eastern Sacramento County communities, and Clark said there was some overlap of firms operating here and in other jurisdictions where cases have been linked to the East Area Rapist.

In all, agencies have identified more than 10,000 suspects, and many have been cleared as a result of DNA and other evidence, Clark said. With so many suspects, “it’s real needle in a haystack,” he said, but he still believes the case can be solved.

The East Area Rapist targeted homes of lone women and couples. When couples were involved, the men were tied up and the rapist often placed dishes on them, threatening to kill the women if he heard a crash. He then took the women elsewhere to rape them.

The rapist typically wore a ski mask. But a witness who saw a man fleeing the scene of the fatal shooting of Brian and Katie Maggiore in Rancho Cordova in 1979, the one Sacramento County homicide linked to the East Area Rapist, saw the suspect unmasked and provided a description used to generate a composite sketch, Clark said.

Thought to have been between 22 and 27 years old when he was active in Sacramento County, he was described as white, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-11, weighing 150 to 175 pounds, with an athletic build and wearing a size 9/12 to 11 shoe. He would be in his late 50s or early 60s now.

Out of consideration for the victims, Clark said investigators avoid recontacting them if possible. But as new leads emerge, he said, he would be happy to speak with any of the victims who might want to review their statements or who think they could provide additional information. Included, he said, are burglary victims who were told by sheriff’s investigators at the time that the break-ins were believed to have been committed by the East Area Rapist.

“We don’t want them to think that they are forgotten,” he said.

Anyone with information can call the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department at (916) 874-8477.
Although four decades have passed since a prolific serial rapist and murderer terrorized California communities from Sacramento to Orange County, the FBI and local law enforcement announced a national publicity campaign today—and a significant reward—in the hopes of locating the suspect and finally bringing him to justice.

Between 1976 and 1989, the violent and elusive individual known as the East Area Rapist, and later as the Original Night Stalker and the Golden State Killer, committed 12 homicides, 45 rapes, and more than 120 residential burglaries in multiple California communities. His victims ranged in age from 13 to 41 and included women home alone, women at home with their children, and husbands and wives.

At a press conference today in Sacramento, the FBI and local law enforcement agencies announced a $50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer along with a nationwide multimedia campaign to once again bring the case to the public’s attention.

“Regardless of the amount of time that has passed,” said Sgt. Paul Bell, the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department detective assigned to the case, “the sheriff’s department never gave up on the investigation. This person ruined a great number of lives, and he should be held accountable.”

The FBI and its law enforcement partners are seeking the public’s assistance with information about an unknown individual known as the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer (EAR/GSK). Between 1976 and 1986, this individual was responsible for approximately 45 rapes, 12 homicides, and multiple residential burglaries throughout the state of California.

During the time he was operating in Sacramento, between 1976 and 1979, the East Area Rapist struck fear and anxiety into the community. “Everyone was afraid,” said Special Agent Marcus Knutson, who was born and raised in Sacramento and now heads the FBI’s portion of the investigation. “We had people sleeping with shotguns, we had people purchasing dogs. People were concerned, and they had a right to be. This guy was terrorizing the community. He did horrible things.”

If he is still alive, the killer would now be approximately 60 to 75 years old. He is described as a white male, close to six feet tall, with blond or light brown hair and an athletic build. He may have an interest in training in military or law enforcement techniques, and he was proficient with firearms.

Detectives have DNA from multiple crime scenes that can positively link—or eliminate—suspects. This will allow investigators to easily rule out innocent parties with a simple, non-invasive DNA test.

“Just like any homicide investigation,” Bell said, “our lifelines are people who give us information. It all boils down to people helping.”

He added that the $50,000 reward could motivate someone to come forward. “It may push somebody over the edge who knows something. It could provide us with that one tip we need.”

Investigators are urging the public to provide law enforcement with any information, no matter how insignificant it may seem. If someone knows a person in the right age range who lived in the area at the time and who seemed suspicious or who may have had some involvement, “we can determine where they are living,” Bell said. For those who come forward, he added, “we are very discreet about privacy and confidentiality.”

It is known that the East Area Rapist took things from crime scenes—coins and jewelry in particular. The public is asked to be mindful of that. “We know that our guy took items,” Knutson said. “So if for some reason people—whether their family member is deceased or they’re cleaning out a storage unit—come across a weird collection of items such as women’s ID’s, rings, earrings—anything that’s out of the ordinary—it could be significant.”

In addition to supplying the reward money, the FBI is assisting local investigators by following leads all over the country, Knutson said, ruling out suspects based on DNA tests and other evidence. When the crimes were committed, DNA testing was not available, nor was other technology such as cell phones, neighborhood surveillance cameras, or, in many areas, the 911 emergency call system.

Burglaries and rapes began occurring in the eastern district of Sacramento County—hence the name East Area Rapist—in the summer of 1976. The subject ransacked homes and took coins, jewelry, and identification. Neighborhood burglaries were often followed by clusters of sexual assaults. Then, on February 2, 1978, Eileen Maggiore and his wife, Katie, were on an evening walk with their dog in their Rancho Cordova neighborhood when they were chased down and murdered.

Ray Biondi, a retired Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department detective, investigated the double homicide, which was quickly linked to the East Area Rapist. “This threw a whole different light on the rape series,” said Biondi, who spent 17 years as a homicide detective and investigated hundreds of murders.

One of his few regrets about retirement, Biondi said recently, was leaving the cases I didn’t solve. “What strikes him about the Maggiore murders and the East Area Rapist is how the subject has managed to elude capture. ‘It is mind-boggling that he committed so many crimes without a slip up,’ the veteran detective said. And yet, one of Biondi’s first homicide cases decades ago was recently solved through DNA evidence. So it is entirely possible, he said, that the East Area Rapist can be brought to justice. "That would elate me."
ARTICLE CONTINUED

After his crimes in the Sacramento area, the subject continued primarily in the East Bay Area of Northern California, where his activity escalated into rapes and homicides along the California coast. He would attack couples, tie up both victims, rape the female, and then murder them. After July 1981, no associated incidents are known until 1986, when an 18-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Irvine, California—the last known crime associated with the subject.

“It is mind-boggling that he committed so many crimes without a slip up,”
Ray Bond, a retired Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department detective

Krutsot, too, believes that capturing the East Area Rapist is still possible. “Sometimes it’s just one call that makes a difference,” he said. “If we get that one call and we are able to compose DNA and say, ‘Yes, it’s him,’ then we have him. But it starts with that one call, and that’s why we are seeking the public’s assistance.”

Being a Sacramento native makes this case even more meaningful for Krutsot. “This is my home,” he said. “This is where I’m from. The fact that he did his crimes here I take personally, and I’m proud that I’m able to work with the local sheriffs’ offices to investigate this case and try to get this guy in custody.”

We need your help. Individuals with information are urged to call 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324). Information may also be submitted online at tips.fbi.gov.

REWARD
The FBI is offering a reward of up to $50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual known as the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer.

REMARKS
The East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer (EAR/GSK) is described as a White male, currently thought to be between the ages of 60 and 75 years old, and approximately 5’10” tall. He may have had blond or light brown hair and an athletic build. He may have had an interest in the military, or had some military training, leaving him familiar and proficient with firearms.

DETAILS
The FBI and its law enforcement partners are seeking the public’s assistance with information about an unknown individual known as the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer. Between 1976 and 1986, this individual was responsible for approximately 45 rapes, 12 homicides, and multiple residential burglaries throughout the State of California.

Beginning in the summer of 1976, burglaries and rapes occurred in Rancho Cordova and Carmichael, California, both suburbs of Sacramento. The EAR/GSK gained entry into the homes of his victims by prying open a window or door while they slept. He would then shine a flashlight into the face of his victims, tie up the female victim, and, if a male victim was present, tie him up as well. The EAR/GSK then ransacked the residence and raped the female victim. He often took small items from the residences including coins, cash, identification, and jewelry. Some victims reported receiving telephone calls from the suspect after the crimes.

In 1978, a couple was shot and killed while walking their dog in Rancho Cordova. Evidence left at the scene was indicative of the EAR/GSK. After this crime, the EAR/GSK committed rapes in Stockton, Modesto, Davis, and the East Bay Area of California. Between 1979 and 1981, he was involved in the rape and murder of several individuals, including couples, in Southern California. These victims were tied up in the same manner as the Sacramento area rapes and their homes were also ransacked. After July of 1981, no additional incidents related to the EAR/GSK were reported until the rape and murder of an 18-year-old girl occurred in Irvine, California, in May of 1986. This was the last known incident related to the EAR/GSK in California.

All EAR/GSK crimes have been linked via DNA and/or patterns used in the crimes.

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS
If you have any information regarding this case, please contact the FBI's Toll-Free Tipline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324), your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate. You can also submit a tip at: tips.fbi.gov

Field Offices: Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco
This magazine was made possible by our Patreon supporters. The Casefile team would like to thank each and every one of you.

Jenni Mills
Megan Schmelzenbach
Matthew McRae
Carol Forrey
Chelsea Gallash
Nikki Innis
Michelle Cleland
Outi Karvinen
Patrick Wood
David Lea
Nicholas Coleman-Hicks
Bradly McGarr
Julie Flaherty
Clare Jeans
Dylan Holmes
Andrew Eastwood
Nicholas Boyle
Vinnie Boyle
Lisa Vinton
Sara Sedore
Cat Adams
Meredith Weipert
Caroline Walker
Danielle Renteria
Elisa Rivera-Boyles
Melissa Williams
Holly Soall
Jill Sheahan
Lisa Stevens
Manjari Mohandass
Tiffany Gustavson
Amanda Yost
Jennifer C.
Rachael Schmidt-McCleave
Nicole Abiad
Marina Dos Santos
Stephanie
Samantha Stefanizyn
Pamela Wilks
Joanna Shaw
Justine Kelly
Frankie Bell
Hannah Renea Cloe
James Zimmerman
Claire Sleap
Kerstin Fleming
James Duuer
Emma Kendrick
Nicholas Plionis
Doris Duggan
Kimberly Swygert
Julie Esson
Alexandra Graham
Michael Brodie
Martha Fischer
Dave Scott
Kristi Hackenmiller
Felicity Pietersz
Elouise O’Toole
Samara Griffiths
Sammi
David Le
Angela Welch
Justin Snider
Meredith Willis
Laurie Evans
Sandy Baldwin
Catharine Madeley
Kym McCauley
Sandra Sanchez
Charmaine Estelle
Scott Wyler
Adam Murphy
Laura Bagnell
Natalie Wells
Marianne Childs
Olivia Barnes
Ellie Clarke
Van Hayman
Jennifer Konikowski
Sharon Hastie
Renae Schaak
Catherine Ford
Sonia
William Pullen
Dana Hunter
Melissa Rush
Anthea Grace
Nickie Perger
Aaron Zachariusz
Tracy Crawford
Tobias Taylor
Stephanie Speirs
Hannah Maybery
Richard Kreitz
Gabriela Rodriguez
Mathew Hance
Red Bastien
Janet Chappell
Halley
Jennifer George
Imogen Paul
Glenn Tucker
Jane Gillham
Kyle McMake
Jim Harrington
Peter Hinchley
Josh Roberts
Manjari Mohandass
Michael
Luke Carroll
Dan Lynch
Kyleen Santomauro
Nick Cowling
Crystal Hibner
Eduardo Batres
Ashlee McEwan
Joel Carlson
Crystyanne Podesta
Mishelle Taylor
Julie Ruse
Oniba
Lisa Allison
Sarah Breilev Vinther
Christine Ranningen
Janna Reumerman
Yvonne Constantine
Mishelle Taylor
Mithch Wilson
Katrina Willingham
Missy Jaronesia
Laura Meade
Jeremy Zeller
Bree Tisdell
Lesley Boyd
Corryn Barnes
Aspen Laneman
Gemma McErlean
Jenafaer
Grace Halligan
Amanda Blackburn
Kimberley Camera
Linda Willcox
Rod Butler
Jessica
Joanne Tilbrook
Audrey Adams
Didy Wenzke
Ric Allen
Sarah Batchelor
Jo McDonald
Paula Small
Graham Hand
Simon Kindall
HelpFind Ajax&Stamp
Samatha Andrasko
Kee Sardi
Jane Young
Tony Plagens
Heather Robinson
Meaghan Grover
Adam Payet
Dana Hunter
Tom Kerr
Dan Jones
Megan McLaren
Kate Gardner
Jeffrey Wyler
Ryan Beattie
Jessica Moreno
Lyman Green
A M B
Mikki Echtinaw
Mikki Reed
Ann Straus
Megan Butterworth
Anne Joroch
Picodesal
Nancy Moon
Carrie Mizrahi
Danielle Ward
Julie Zaring
Connor Zarecki
Isabella Parsons
Luke Colgan
Robyn Hoare
Julie Accetturo
Meredith K. Morrill
Beth McDougall
Nicole Moore
moonmothman
Anita Mitchell
Dylan Buckle
Michael Dalzotto
Forrest Thomas
Crystal Stern
Mrs Anonymous
Charlene G
Katie Turner
Allan Au
Kris Thresher
Sukhmeet Khalar
Jessica Martinez
Stephanie Forrest
Marcus Elliott
Nicole Tirado
Daniel Robertson
Ali Koeing
Michael O’Brien
Matt Hollinshead
Tracy Timmerman
Matt Howdershell
Leslie Kidd
Elliot K.
Shannon Culpepper
Steph Anderson
Mikey Singer
Sophie Brewster
Sumesh Thakur
Lo Kay
Roxann Hirst
Laurah
Mark O'Reilly
Mat Patterson
Trinity Harrison
Tor Hansen
Timothy Stratton
Kimberley
Leah Crowell
Akezia Jainaraine
Alan
Amber Lockridge
Kevin Underhill
Aimee-Marie East
Ginger B.
Cindy Neagle
Jan Roberts
Jen Lovas
Gray Bouchard
Trish Wootton
Ti
Zoey Koontz
Sarah Taylor
Britnie Johnston
Kate Melb
Paul Cole
Kevin May
Tammy Anthony
Louisa Booth
Paige Kristen Minton-Edison
Jules Chester
Alejandro Alvarez
Sarah Gallagher
Mark Derriman
Katherine Steele
C Id
Ariel Melton
Leigh
Laura Taylor
Barry Tessier
Hillary Hood
Vera Lucia F Silva
Trish Blue
EJ Kirby
Chihana
Janine Madden
Lauren Erickson
TJF
Annie Youchah
Grouchylib
Ben Wilson
Christopher Boland
Gerry Kennett
Nickie Preston
Emma Reynolds
Vanessa Nelson
Wren Nicholson
Vivian
William Larkin
Steve C.
Emily Duncan
Bethany Nine-Lawson
Pickett
Danielle Blackburn
Andrew Brooks
Amity B.
Scot Mize
Susannah Ross
Troy Stillwell
Kendra Rutledge
Vonny Wallace
Erin Littlefield
Fraser Lawrie
Elaine Murtagh
Emmet Dunne
Charlotte Watt
Heather Dsenisi
Haydon Harrell
Steve Salem
Evan Williams
Steven Stacy
Stacy Williams
Katharine Davis
Caryn Requejo Rosenstein
Matthew Riot
Leanne Toby
Stacey Kimmel-Smith
Eugenia Grieff
Emma LM.
Ami Loyd
Inayail De Leon Persson
Bv Chen
Gary Dugdale
Shannon Patterson
Andrew Brooks
Natasha Emmerson
Erika Ocananza
Margaret Noonan
Sonia Gavidia
Georgia Blackburn
Cari
Laura Gâs
Karyn Schultz
Podcast Addicted (Jemma)
Robyn Winters
Julie Smallman
Benjiman Thomas Sutton
Liane Abe
Jim Griswold
Josh Alton-Jones
Skye
Paul OHara
Kathryn Gearheard
Amy Shebeck
John Kite
Ian Gill
Kathryn Wuersti
Laura Delgado
Erika Martinez
David Roberts
Mary Van Ravenswaay
Laura Jenkins
Patrick Bracken
Craic McIntyre
Melinda
Valerie Baggott
Kirby Reycraft
Katy Maydon
Lee Courto
Jill M Shaheen
Terra
Jody Carroll
Sarah
Adjowah Keilman
Alex Parker
Ron Peterson
Xintong Li
Shane Stornanti
Cassie Mowbray
Colleen Finney
Lynn 'Perez Perfecto' Innis
Katherine Lux
Sarah Hawkridge
Angie Neal
Katy McGowan
Wendy Sanders
Darren Hopkins
Ben Cording
Kelly
Cdzign
Ashley van der Pouw Kraan
Jake
Rachelq Harman
Reagan Marley Brown
Mary!
James Meli
Joanna Fulton
Kim Schjang
David Evans
Michael Romero
Ryan Harbel
Chantal Wall
Kimberley Schlinke
Amanda
Cate Horne
Karen Underwood
Adelaide Owen
Josh Marhoff
Chloe
Toni Duder
Suzanne August
Sinthya Holmes
Darby Jones
Richard Loughridge
Louise Lewisson
Kelli
Matthew Watson
Shannon Mead
Erin Burke
Annedretti
Thank you to the following sponsors for supporting Casefile. Be sure to take advantage of the exclusive discounts on offer for listeners of Casefile.

**Hunt A Killer**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for 10% discount
- [HUNTAKILLER.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Harry’s**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for a free post shave balm
- [HARRY’S.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**ZipRecruiter**
- Click the link to post jobs for free
- [ZIPRECRUITER.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Blue Apron**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for 3 meals free on your first order
- [BLUEAPRON.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**MVMT**
- Click the link for 15% off free shipping and return
- [MVMTWATCHES.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Audible**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for a free 30-day trial & free audiobook
- [AUDIBLE.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Thirdlove**
- Click the link for 30 days free trial
- [THIRDLOVE.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Backblaze**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for a free 15 days trial
- [BACKBLAZE.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Loot Crate**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for $3 off any order
- [LOOTCRATE.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Carnivore Club**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for 10% off your first order
- [CARNIVORECLUB.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**Casper**
- Offer code ‘casefile’ for $50 off any mattress
- [CASPER.COM/CASEFILE](#)

**SimpliSafe**
- Offer code ‘safety10’ for 10% off all new systems
- [SIMPLISAFE.COM/CRIMINAL](#)
To support Casefile visit our Patreon page. You will get access to Casefile magazines, our beautifully designed scripts from every case, and other exclusive awards.

Thank you for listening and helping out, you are the best!