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Sniper--He Changed in the Navy

By THEODORE A. ILIFF

EMPORIA, Kan. (UPI) — Persons close to New Orleans sniper Mark "Jimmy" Essex acknowledged that something had changed "the good Christian boy" while he was in the Navy.

Essex, the 23-year-old former Emporia resident, was identified as the sniper who killed six persons and injured several others in the New Orleans shootout at the Howard Johnson Hotel Sunday.

Neighbors near the one-story frame house of the Essex family characterized him as "a boy like all the others."

"He used to mow our yard," said H.J. Deskines, who lives two doors away from the Essex home. "We knew him as Jimmy. He was never in any trouble. The Essex children always played in their own yard."

But others who knew the young man killed Sunday said they noticed a change after he left the Navy. The clearest recollections came from Essex' pastor, the Rev. W. A. Chambers of the St. James Baptist Church.

Chambers said he saw Essex only once after his Navy stint and the pastor asked him why he had not been to church which he had attended regularly since childhood.

"He told me he thought Christianity was white man's religion. He had turned militant and he had a very severe hatred toward white people. Something probably happened in the Navy to cause it."

Donald E. Fanestil, operator of the Fanestil Meat Packing Company, employed Essex in the summer of 1968 and for four days in April, 1971. He said he noticed a "difference of attitude after the boy left the Navy."

Essex father, Mark Sr., is a foreman at the plant. Fanestil said the elder Essex has always been a "good, faithful worker."

Fanestil said after Navy service," Jimmy seemed a bit antagonistic. I don't know what it was, but something had changed him."

Renee Green, a friend who attended high school with Essex, said he went to some local parties after his return from the Navy.

She said at one party, "He was there, but he didn't party. He just stood there or sat there."

Previously, she said, he had been "outgoing, friendly and congenial."

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Russ Harney, said Essex joined the Navy in January, 1969, and spent two months in boot camp at San Diego. Afterward, he spent three months at Naval Air Station at Imperial Beach, Calif., where he served as a dental technician.

Essex was discharged Feb. 10, 1971, after 25 months service, receiving a general discharge for "unsuitability." Harney said the discharge was given for "character and behavior disorders" but did not elaborate.

A high school friend, John Collier, said he and Essex "went down to New Orleans first or second week in August last year."

Collier said he decided to "turn around and come home." Essex stayed and got a job." He said Essex was not a Black Muslim because "he didn't believe in them."

SNIPER ESSEX FIVE YEARS AGO

More Rain

REDWOOD EMPIRE — Mostly cloudy with rain tonight and tomorrow; southerly winds 5-15 mph, increasing tonight and tomorrow. Highs and lows: Ukiah 55 and 45; Santa Rosa 55 and 41. Extended forecast: rain. (Statistics, page 2.)

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The Redwood Empire's Leading Newspaper

HOME

10 cents

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA — The City Designed for Living — WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 10, 1973

SUPERVISORS ACT

Zoning Protection For Sonoma Valley

By GEORGE MANES

Nearly all of scenic Sonoma Valley—50,000 acres—was placed in a one-year "S" (study) zoning district yesterday by the Board of Supervisors.

The interim zoning carries a two-acre minimum lot size restriction designed to slow urbanization while a long-range land use plan is prepared.

In addition, supervisors placed "scenic design" zoning down the center of the valley, generally along the route of Highway 12. The second zoning does not affect land uses, but requires developers to submit their plans to the county to insure that architecture and landscaping do not despoil scenic values.

Yesterday's action will slow development in the valley.

Current zoning is mostly agricultural, which allows 20,000 sq. ft. lots, or rural residential, which allows 20,000 sq. ft. lots.

Since the "S" district carries a two-acre minimum lot size restriction, the current trend toward smaller lots will be halted.

However, landowners with existing lots smaller than two acres will not be prohibited from building.

All development other than single family residences will require use permits from the county, which includes a public hearing process.

Seventy persons attended the two and a half hour public hearing yesterday. About a dozen of those protested the interim zoning, mostly on the grounds that the two-acre minimum lot size restriction was a hardship.

During the next year, the County Planning Department will meet regularly with a series of citizens' committees in an effort to develop a detailed zoning and land use plan for the entire valley. When that plan is complete, it will be submitted again to supervisors for public hearings.

This procedure is identical to that used in recent rezonings of the 125,000 acres in Dry Creek Valley and 12,000 acres in Bennett Valley. A similar effort of 20,000 acres is in progress in the Windsor area.

According to Supervisor Ignacio Vella, the study zoning district was prompted by state law which requires land-use plans before Highway 12 can be designated a scenic highway.

Current state plans are to develop a four-lane, limited access parkway through the valley. But completion of the project depends on the county's success in

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MR. AND MRS. LOUIS ZAPATA
'Miracle That We're Still Alive'

What It Was Like in Managua

By PETE GOLIS

It was early in the morning of Dec. 23 when Gran Hotel in Managua began shaking violently, up and down, up and down.

The fifth floor of the hotel collapsed onto the fourth, and both onto the third.

In his second floor room, Louis Zapata was jolted from his sleep by the great shaking of the earth.

As he sat up in bed, a large construction stone flew from somewhere and struck him on the side of the head. He was knocked unconscious.

A few feet away, the violent motion tossed Mrs. Zapata from her bed.

Another large boulder crashed on to the pillow where her head had rested only seconds before.

It was the beginning of a nightmare for the 400,000 residents of the Nicaraguan capital, and for the two Santa Rosans who had returned to their native land for a vacation.

"It's a miracle," said Mrs. Zapata softly, "that we're still alive."

Very Grim

"It is," said Zapata, "a very grim story."

More than 70 per cent of Managua was demolished by tremors.

There have been varying estimates of the death toll. Some say 4,000; others, 10,000 or 12,000 or more.

"They'll never find out the number of people," said Zapata, himself a casualty of the disaster.

He and his wife experienced the devastation of the quake and the fires that followed it.

The Zapatas, who live at 1830 Montgomery Drive, returned home Saturday after a stay in San Salvador where Zapata convalesced from his injuries.

"Home, sweet home," Mrs. Zapata called it.

When the big quake ended, the Zapatas were trapped in their room.

Debris blocked the door and the hallways.

Zapata began pounding on the door with a stone.

Rescuers heard the noise and came to look for them. They knocked down the door and the

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No Sign Of Progress In Peace Talks

PARIS (UPI) — Peace negotiators Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam met for the third time this week today. Both Kissinger and Tho smiled and looked relaxed, but there was no indication they had made progress toward ending the Vietnam war.

The two sides started their meeting at 3 p.m. in a French government guest house in Gif-sur-yvette, 13 miles south of Paris.

For the first time since the new round of bargaining started Monday, the two Communist negotiators smiled broadly and waved cheerfully to newsmen as their cars arrived at the heavily guarded villa.

Kissinger also dropped his previous grim look, and wore a broad smile.

As in the past two days the negotiators did not meet at the courtesys to shake hands.

Associated Press Photo

Nude Girl's Body Found Near Willits

By Staff Correspondent

WILLITS — A nude girl's body was found at 8:30 a.m. today, but Mendocino County sheriff's deputies have not yet made a positive identification.

The dead girl is believed to be Barbara Stroud, 18, who has been missing since Sunday night.

The body was discovered by James Holmes, a reserve officer who was working with the county road department.

It was in a field, 300 yards north of U.S. 101 near the railroad tracks, about a mile from where Miss Stroud's car was found.

No clothing or other objects are believed to have been found near the body.

Miss Stroud's purse and shoes had been found inside her sports car.

The car was discovered Sunday night, parked near Outlet Creek Bridge north of Willits.

Miss Stroud was last seen at 10 p.m. Sunday when she dropped a friend, Bob Burke, at his home in Brooktrails after they attended a movie in Willits.

The car, which was found about an hour later, had damage to the left side door and to the cloth convertible top.

Deputies had said they thought the top had been slashed with a knife.

A spokesman for the Mendocino County Coroner's Office said today there is no information yet about the cause of death.

Miss Stroud's parents have been notified that a body was found and were requested to come to the sheriff's office in Ukiah to see if they can identify their daughter.

Miss Stroud's car was found on Apache Mill Road shortly after a search was launched by the Mendocino County Sheriff's office at 2:30 a.m. Monday, when she failed to return home.

Officials said it appeared the car had been struck by another car in the left door, which jammed it and made it impossible to open.

The slit in the cloth top was apparently done on purpose and officials speculated it may have

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MENDOCINO COLLEGE

First President Is Appointed

UKIAH — Peter D. DeVries, 45, vice president and dean of instruction at Butte College, has been appointed superintendent of the Mendocino Community College District.

The appointment was announced yesterday by Leo Cook, president of the district board of trustees.

DeVries will begin his new job Feb. 1.

"The action of the trustees and the confidence they have placed in me," DeVries said, "are both an honor and a challenge."

"I look forward to working closely and harmoniously with the board to develop a community college of which all the residents of the district can be very proud."

DeVries was the unanimous choice of trustees.

He was one of 94 persons who applied for the job.

Trustees went to Butte County last week to visit the college in Durham.

Present at yesterday's noon meeting was Albert A. Schlatter, president of Butte College, who has been acting as a consultant to the seven-member board in Mendocino County.

According to Schlatter, DeVries has "served with great distinction as a Butte College administrator. I know he will make an outstanding community college president."

The applications were reviewed by a professional screening committee, which included other California community college administrators.

The list was narrowed to seven finalists, and these candidates were interviewed by trustees.

DeVries became affiliated with Butte College in 1967 when he served as administrative assistant to the superintendent.

That year included intensive planning, since the college opened in September, 1968.

Mendocino Community College is expected to offer its first classes next September.

DeVries yesterday received authorization to begin recruiting for a new business manager, dean of instruction, and dean of student personnel services.

The trustees said they will continue to seek the advice of Butte College officials in setting up the new college.

The Flu Strikes Locally

No doubt about it, THE FLU is here.

And the illness with its accompanying sore throat, headache, sore muscles, and fever is apparently still on the increase.

One indicator was in the percentage of absent students at Santa Rosa High schools today.

It was 21.8 per cent at Santa Rosa High, 18.9 at Montgomery, and 19.0 at Piner — all three almost double the average.

Absences at Montgomery went up from 284 yesterday to 325 today, and from 190 to 219 at Piner.

For the second straight day, 500 students were missing when attendance rolls were taken at Santa Rosa High.

Absences among school staff people is also on the increase, officials said.

Similar reports came from local businesses and hospitals.

Among those struck down was Sonoma County's public health officer, Dr. Walter Clowers. He wasn't available for comment this morning.

Public health information officer Bobbie Adams said officials are surveying local schools, business and doctors to determine just how widespread is the illness.

She said it is not known whether the new English or

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Nixon Won't Address Congress

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The State of the Union address will not be delivered in person to Congress by President Nixon, White House spokesmen say.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said Tuesday no oral address was planned because the State of the Union message will follow closely Nixon's Jan. 20 inaugural speech. Ziegler said the date for the State of the Union report has not been set.

Presidents usually have made oral State of the Union messages since the Wilson administration, but last year Nixon chose to send Congress a written message.

Food Price Hike Rate To Increase

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Consumer hopes for a slowdown in food price inflation in 1973 have been dimmed by a new government forecast that prices in the first six months of the year will rise 50 per cent faster than predicted earlier.

As recently as November, the Agriculture Department had been predicting that January-June, 1973 supermarket prices would average only about 3 per cent above a year earlier.

Tuesday, however, the department's director of economics, Don Paarlberg, said in an interview that experts now believe the increase will be about 4.5 per cent. This means an increase as great as the one that brought loud consumer protests in the first half of 1972.

Paarlberg said the earlier 3 per cent prediction was made before economists knew of the impact of poor harvest season weather, which sent prices for grains and livestock soaring. That boom was reflected in a December raw farm product price report showing prices jumped 5 per cent for the month.

And it was confirmed Tuesday in a Bureau of Labor Statistics report showing wholesale food prices in December leaped 6.8 per cent, the biggest one-month jump in a quarter of a century.

4 Deaths --One Killer?

By BONY SALUDES

Is one killer-rapist responsible for the deaths of Kim Wendy Allen, Lori Kiess, Maureen Sterling, Yvonne Weber, and possibly Jeanette Kamahele?

Or were they victims of different killers?

Those questions are uppermost in the minds of investigators as they sift through a myriad of leads. The uncertainty makes the probes difficult and frustrating.

(A total $2,510 has been offered in the Secret Witness program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the disappearance or death of the five girls.)

Investigators would like to be-

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B OF A FORECAST

County's High Jobless Rate To Continue in Next Decade

Sonoma County can expect a continuing high rate of unemployment during the next decade, according to the Bank of America's Focus on Sonoma County. No relief is in sight.

"If present trends continue, total employment can be expected to reach 86,400 by 1980, a 10-year growth rate of nearly 30 per cent. The labor force is expected to continue to grow at a somewhat faster rate than employment.

"The work force should increase to an estimated 94,500 available workers by 1980, a growth rate of 30.5 per cent over 1970. A continuing high rate of unemployment is forecast," the study says.

Focus on Sonoma County was compiled by B. Gene Conaster, president and economic director of economic research at the bank's San Francisco headquarters, and was released to the press today.

Is Doubtful

The report says it is doubtful that by 1980 the industrial economy will be broad enough to absorb the acute unemployment problems of a labor force still heavily engaged in seasonal occupations.

"There will continue to be large numbers of unemployed youths, housewives, farm workers and untrained seasonal laborers unless there is a substantial increase in clerical and production jobs associated with manufacturing plants and office complexes," it continues.

"However, continued population expansion is expected to produce greater economic stability by creating a more diversified employment base. Current efforts to attract industry should result in some positive gains."

A table shows the average unemployment rate at 8.1 per cent for the county in 1970 and 6.6 for both 1975 and 1980, according to the bank's projections.

Government payrolls in the county have been expanding steadily, adding about 900 jobs a year between 1966 and 1971, now employing some 14,000, or 26.6 per cent of total employment.

"It is expected to continue to expand, but at a somewhat slower rate, adding an average of about 500 jobs a year through 1980. . . . Declining birth rates are expected to depress the growth of government payrolls.

"State and local government employment doubled in the period 1959-1971, rising from 6,000 to 13,200. State and local employment accounts for 95 per cent of the government sector. . . . The public education system, with 6,300 employees, makes up the largest portion of local government personnel. State government payrolls are dominated by Sonoma State Hospital and California State College, Sonoma. . . . Total government payrolls should approach 18,700 by 1980, an

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Prosecution Opens In Wiretap Case

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The prosecutor charged today that White House aide G. Gordon Liddy was provided $250,000 to finance a political intelligence operation for President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Earl J. Silbert, chief prosecutor in the Watergate bugging trial, said Liddy and his close friend and E. Howard Hunt Jr., who served at times as a White House consultant, were provided the money to recruit intelligence agents.

He alleged their aim was to provide advance information about possible demonstrations by "extremist groups either of the left or the right" during the presidential campaign.

In an opening statement to the jury selected Tuesday to try the case, Silbert said the government would prove that Liddy, Hunt and five men arrested at the Watergate building offices of the Democratic National Committee last June 17 conspired to steal

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MENDOCINO

Avila Heads The Supervisors

By Staff Correspondent

UKIAH — August (Augie) Avila, a 10-year-old Fort Bragg produce man, is the new chairman of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

The Fourth District supervisor, who was re-elected last June, will replace Ernest Banker.

Avila was the unanimous choice of the board at yesterday's meeting.

Supervisor Ted Galletti, a dairyman from Elk, serving his first term was elected vice chairman.

Avila and Galletti represent coastal districts.

Avila, called Banker "a born politician" who "handles controversial matters very well," predicted the board will face more controversy during the coming year.

He mentioned state and federal mandates and regulations the board will be required to implement and enforce.

He said the supervisors will be considering the county general plan, land use issues and the continuation of training programs such as Career Oppor-

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CHAIRMAN AVILA

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