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Is 'Zodiac' slaying young women?

By JAMES R. REID

Does a cunning, psychotic killer stalk the western United States, playing a cat-and-mouse game by leaving a trail of rotting, young girls' bodies for myopic homicide investigators in various areas?

Sheriff Don Striepeke is convinced a solitary "loner" killed six young girls whose remains were found in Sonoma County in 1972 and 1973.

But he now says the same killer may be responsible for the deaths of some 30 or more girls in the western states since 1969.

Striepeke was quoted in a Bay Area newspaper today as saying the killer "makes Juan Corona look like a piker."

(Corona was sentenced to state prison in 1973 after being convicted of killing 25 farm laborers in the Yuba City area.)

And because of the killer's diabolical, taunting attitude toward law enforcement, Striepeke said, "I think he could definitely be the Zodiac."

Here and in Washington, the remains of 10 young women were found in three common gravesites — as though the killer enjoyed rubbing the evidence of his murders in lawmens' faces.

The Zodiac uses references to astrology in his cryptic messages to Bay Area authorities, but he also refers to Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and talks of making "slaves" of his victims in an after life.

Striepeke has released information on a witchcraft symbol made of sticks, found at the spot near Devil's Kitchen in Franz Valley where the body of Carolyn Nadine Davis, 15, was found July 31, 1973 — the same place where the remains of Yvonne Weber, 13, and Maureen Sterling, 12, were found Dec. 28, 1972.

The sign, two crude rectangles joined by a stick, is an old English witchcraft symbol which Striepeke says was used in connection with death rituals, meaning "to hurry the spirits on" to the after life.

"The last messages we got from the Zodiac indicated he was going to continue his killings, but vary them. And he bragged about collecting slaves for his use in the next world," Striepeke said.

Two psychological profiles, based on information collected by Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Butch Carlisdt, have been developed by a psychiatrist and behavioral scientist to give an insight into the killer's personality.

Striepeke plans to release information on these studies at a news conference this Friday, along with photographs and details on the Sonoma County homicides.

Dr. Edward E. Shev, San Francisco psychiatrist, says the Sonoma County killer apparently slays his victims slowly "for the necessary gratification" and considers the young girls "garbage to be dumped along the side of the road and not even receive a decent burial."

But he also seems compelled to keep items of clothing and jewelry from his victims, which Shev says could be "for purposes of worship" or to display "the notches on his gun."

The killer may regard himself as a kind of messiah, Shev went on.

He has a personality similar to the religious fanaticism of the Manson family type, and believes he "can resolve and cleanse the world of these 'fallen women'" Shev said.

Both Shev and Howard D. Teten, of the FBI behavioral science unit in Washington, D.C., believe the person responsible for the Sonoma County slayings lives in this area or at least is quite familiar with its more remote areas, where he disposed of his victims.

But Carlisdt is working on the theory the killer circulates throughout Northern California.

His investigation into the murders here uncovered details of some 28 other young girls who were killed in Northern California in the past six years, and their bodies disposed of in isolated areas, or empty school yards during the weekends.

Then in October, lawmen found the remains of seven young women at two gravesites 1.7 miles from each other, east of Seattle, Wash.

Carlisdtl spent two days there discussing evidence with the 16-man team of investigators assigned to the homicides, and came home convinced a connection exists between the Washington murders and his own six cases.

"They had a psychological profile done up there on their suspect, and you can take it and almost overlays it with ours down here," Carlisdtl said.

"And remember, our killings stopped here in December, 1972 — and they began occurring in Washington in January, 1974.

The Washington killings stopped around July last summer, but Carlisdtl said similar murders were reported about that time at Salt Lake City, where the bodies of three nude, young women were found in remote gravesites.

Since the first of the year, the body of a nude young woman was found in a snowbank near Aspen, Colo., and authorities are looking for a young female ski instructor who disappeared at Vail, Colo.

Carlisdtl and Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Erve Ballinger are presently in Colorado working with homicide investigators to determine if a suspect can be identified there who will tie in with the Sonoma County slayings.

Striepeke also noted that one of Zodiac's last communications was a postcard sent to the San Francisco Chronicle, in which he told lawmen to look in the snowbanks near Lake Tahoe, where he said he disposed of the body of a young nurse who disappeared on her way home from work.

"Now, back in Colorado they have a young nurse on her way home from work, who drops out of sight and is found a few weeks later buried in a snowbank.

"We can't help but think there is a similarity."

Carlisdtl is also curious about the pattern shown on a map of the Western United States if a line is drawn tracing the spots where the bodies of young girls have been found in California, Washington, Utah and Colorado.

The trail forms two-thirds of a giant "Z" — the signature commonly accompanying messages from the Zodiac.

If Carlisdtl's theory is right, the trail may point north from Colorado in the near future.

At his news conference, Striepeke candidly plans to ask for assistance from Northern California news media in efforts to uncover any information that might help solve the Sonoma County homicides, while emphasizing at the same time the cases may well be connected to similar murders in other counties.

Since the killings began here in February, 1972, when Maureen Sterling and Yvonne Weber disappeared from the Redwood Empire Ice Arena, five other young women have disappeared. Four victims were found dumped over rural road embankments, near small streams.

Kim Wendy Allen, 18, was last seen hitchhiking north from San Rafael March 4, 1972, and her body was found the next day off Enterprise Road southeast of San-

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Cloudy, showers

REDWOOD EMPIRE — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers; southerly winds 15-30 mph. Highs and lows: Ukiah 55 and 47; Santa Rosa 58 and 48. Extended forecast: showers through Friday. (Statistics are on page 34.)

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT
The Redwood Empire's Leading Newspaper

Final
15 cents

SANTA ROSA, CALIF., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1975

Unusual weddings? Ministers fill need

MARRIAGES Performed anytime. $20. Call Bel. 4-11 A.G. 525-0966.
WEDDINGS. Creative Personalized. By Unitarian Minister. 762-3616.

BY JOHN PURDY

Two dissimilar men have found a need and filled it, using the Personals listing in The Press Democrat's want ad section.

The Rev. Ike ("That's my name"), 27, who says he was ordained in 1972 at the Non-Denominational Church Training Center at Charlotte, S.C., is the one who says the vows for $20.

(The Rev. Ike of Sonoma County is not the minister of the same name who often is seen on television talk shows.)

Guy Meyer, 60, who reports he was ordained in 1942 at the Meadville Theological School, which is associated with the University of Chicago, is the Unitarian and he charges on a "sliding scale."

They've been pretty busy, the Rev. Ike performing "roughly 22" weddings since he placed the ad last January and he's got about 10 more booked through June 28.

Meyer began his ad the week of March 16 and has done four weddings and five more are scheduled.

Meyer has had the most unusual one by far — it was in a maternity ward on April 1.

Why advertise in the paper?

The Rev. Ike, who describes himself as "non-denominational, Protestant and an evangelist," says:

"... As a convenience to the public. Some people don't want to get married in church, for one reason or another. With the change of times, people like to get married in the woods, in a house, where they are free to do what they want."

Meyer who notes Unitarians are "not specifically Christian," but "more humanistic" in their orientation, tells it this way:

Last summer while substituting for a Unitarian minister he discovered that "a lot of people had been looking around "for somebody like him because they didn't want conventional Christian weddings."

GUY MEYER

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130,000 Viet, Cambodian refugees may come to U.S.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Ford administration is contemplating resettling up to 130,000 South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in the United States and is looking for homes for others elsewhere.

State Department officials said today that the United States has been seeking to turn the resettlement problem into an international undertaking and has approached a number of unspecified, friendly governments for help.

U.S. representatives also have been in touch with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and the U.N. high commissioner for refugees and the International Committee for European Migration.

The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved in closed session Tuesday an administration request to resettle up to 130,000 South Vietnamese and Cambodians to the United States.

The committee, following previous action by the House Judiciary Committee, gave its consent to the use of Attorney General Edward Levi's "parole authority," a legal process through which refugees can be admitted quickly without red tape.

Such authority also was used to admit about 450,000 Cubans into the United States after Fidel Castro created a Communist government in Cuba, and 31,000 Hungarians after the 1956 uprising.

The resettlement effort is being developed by the new Interagency Coordinating Committee for Indochina headed by Ambassador Dean Brown.

State Department officials said the placing of South Vietnamese and Cambodian evacuees would be handled, however, by U.S. voluntary agencies such as Church World Service, the U.S. Catholic Conference and other groups.

"They will go where they can find jobs, and homes. Some may go to U.S. war veterans where they already know. In any case, the government won't decide where they will go, but only how many will be admitted to the United States," one official said.

Sen. John G. Tower, R-Tex., told newsmen Tuesday that the Ford administration had ruled out a sealift of South Vietnamese refugees and was planning to run a mass air evacuation if and when the time comes.

Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., urged that "high risk" South Vietnamese should be brought out now.

If the United States intends to take out large numbers of Vietnamese who fear for their lives, let us get them out by air and see this week," he said.

UPI Facsimile
REFUGEE AIRLIFT SHIFTED TO GUAM
These from Saigon Last To Arrive in Philippines

COALITION

Saigon offer to VC

SAIGON (UPI) — South Vietnam appealed today for a cease-fire and negotiations and ranteed to give the Viet Cong a share of power in the South Vietnamese government.

Maj. Phuong Nam, the Viet Cong press officer in Saigon, said he had not yet seen the government offer and that there would be no official Viet Cong comment until the Communists had studied it.

However in Paris, site of the begged down Saigon-Viet Cong negotiations, a spokesman for the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government rejected the call for an immediate cease-fire and peace talks.

An official PRG mission spokesman said "we consider this demand as unacceptable since it does not meet the conditions necessary for a true settlement of the Vietnamese problem."

Top Viet Cong officials in Saigon told the UPI they were "absolutely ready" to negotiate if Saigon is actually ready to bargain and not just making propaganda statements, and that they would talk with a successor to resigned President Nguyen Van Thieu who really desired peace.

The new leadership of President Tran Van Huong was working frantically to set up a cabinet acceptable to the Communists at the bargaining table.

Political sources said Huong had asked former Supreme Court justice Tran Minh Tiet, widely respected as an honest political neutralist, to head the Saigon team destined to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the war.

The sources said Huong, who took over as president after the resignation of Thieu on Monday, has also asked former Supreme Court justice Tran Minh Tiet, widely respected as an honest political neutralist, to head the Saigon team destined to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the war.

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DOUBLE TROUBLE

Family burned out

ANNAPOLIS — Members of a Sonoma County family may be wondering who's next after a fire left an Annapolis family of eight homeless but unhurt yesterday.

The family of Archie and Jean Cabaniss was burned out about 6 p.m. after their son, Cary, 17, noticed flames around the fuse box at the rear of the home at the corner of Soda Springs and Annapolis roads.

On March 1, Mrs. Cabaniss's sister, Patricia Sams and her eight children were burned out of their Dutton Avenue home in Santa Rosa. Mrs. Sams and her children have relocated following a call for help in The Press Democrat and other media.

Mrs. Cabaniss, daughter of Daisy Carr of Healdsburg, said Division of Forestry was called but never arrived. The home was burned to the ground.

In Santa Rosa, a Forestry dispatcher had no information about the fire and was checking the information.

Mrs. Cabaniss said the three-bedroom rental was owned by Jay Baker, who resides on the same Annapolis ranch property. She said the home, garage and sheds were destroyed along with family belongings.

The Pacific Gas & Electric office in Annapolis confirmed the fire, saying a call was received at 6:30 and a crew responded.

The Cabaniss have moved in temporarily with Mrs. Cabaniss's sister, Delores Schumacher, another Annapolis resident.

Mrs. Cabaniss's husband is a maintenance employe with Sonoma County's Road Department. Her children range from 18 years to nine days old.

In Healdsburg, Mrs. Carr said donations of clothing and furniture may be arranged by calling her, 433-6283, or by contacting Mrs. Cabaniss at her sister's in Annapolis, 886-5113.

Electric rate hike rejected

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — For the second week in a row, the California Public Utilities Commission broke precedent and rejected a Pacific Gas & Electric Company request to increase rates.

The commission Tuesday turned back, at least temporarily, a request to boost rates by $70 million in order to offset rising fuel costs.

The PUC delayed for a week a new examination of the method by which it permits fuel offset hikes.

It approved later the utility's request would mean a 40-cent boost in an average household's monthly electricity bill.

The commission voted 3-2 against immediate approval because of an expected $104 million PG&E profit during 1973-74. PG&E previously said the profit exceeded predictions because increased hydroelectric generating capacity reduced fuel costs.

Commissioners Leonard Ross, Robert Batinovich and D. W. Holmes voted against the requested hike.

The $104 million windfall blew the whistle on our current

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IN SAIGON

Britain closes embassy

SAIGON (UPI) — Britain announced today it was closing its embassy in Saigon in face of the growing Communist threat to the city and ordered Ambassador John Russell and his staff to fly to Singapore. Americans have been fleeing Saigon by the hundreds.

The U.S. embassy was reducing its staff to a skeleton force of a few hundred but has announced no plans to close. The Australian and Canadian embassies already have gone and the Dutch and Thais are leaving at any minute. Malaysia was awaiting developments.

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who has offered his good services to mediate a cease-fire between the Saigon government and the Communists, has indicated that he does not wish French nationals to leave South Vietnam despite the deteriorating military situation. Many were in fallen Da Nang and were not evacuated.

A bomb exploded in a crowded downtown Saigon market at dusk tonight, killing at least two women, wounding five others and creating some panic in the city ringed by Communist troops.

The North Vietnamese army was so close to the city that South Vietnamese commanders massed the government's last warplanes out of Bien Hoa today in advance of an expected Communist assault against the base only 14 miles north of Saigon.

Police said at least two persons were killed and five wounded in the explosion in the Ham Nghi market, a teeming sidewalk market three blocks off Tu Do Street, a well known thoroughfare frequented by Americans and other foreigners.

The explosion occurred one hour before Saigon's daily

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Refugee planes land at Travis

By United Press International

The United States shifted its airlift of Americans and endangered South Vietnamese from the overburdened Philippines to the U.S. territory of Guam today. The evacuation from Saigon brought complaints in both destinations and reports of food hoarding.

The first group of 239 refugees arrived today at Andersen AFB on Guam aboard a military-chartered DC8 from Saigon. A spokesman for Guam Gov. Ricardo J. Bordallo said as many as 15,000 refugees were expected to pass through Guam in the next few weeks.

Another source on the small Pacific island said about 60,000 refugees were expected in the next 10 days, nearly doubling

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The Fed moves to make credit easier for women

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Women wage earners soon will be assured better access to credit under proposed government regulations that limit what a creditor can ask about a borrower's marital status, spouse's income or method of birth control.

The regulations proposed Tuesday by the Federal Reserve Board are intended to implement a new law that will take effect Oct. 28. The board meanwhile scheduled a hearing May 28 to receive public comment on the proposed regulations.

The new law prohibits all discrimination in credit on the basis of sex or marital status. But the primary beneficiaries will be women wage earners, many of whom are now denied credit on the arbitrary assumption that they are poor risks.

The status of married women who have no income also would be improved under the regulations, which require their names be included on their husbands accounts.

The regulations, written with the help of the women's movement and the credit industry, would change drastically many aspects of that industry. These are some of the important changes:

—Application forms for credit could no longer require identification of an applicant's sex or marital status, but a space may be provided for an applicant to voluntarily add his title —Miss, Mrs. or Mr.

—In some cases where a creditor could inquire about marital status, only the terms "married," "unmarried" or "separated" can be used—not the term "divorced."

—Creditors could no longer use a "scoring" system of credit applicants that automatically gives more points to a married person than an unmarried or separated person. Nor could they discount any part of a person's income because of sex or marital status.

—A person who has been denied credit or whose account has been terminated could demand a written statement of explanation from the creditor.

—Creditors would be required to consider alimony and child

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SR Fire leaves 150 jobless

Nearly all of 160 employes were idled after yesterday's fire at Golden Technology Inc., a Santa Rosa manufacturing firm.

This morning, Dean DeGraffenreid, a spokesman for Bellevue Fire Department, said the fire started in the plant's dipping room. He said it appears a thermostat in a heating unit was faulty and allowed an acid bath container to overheat.

The fire caused an estimated $2.5 million in damage and business loss. Processing was halted on $500,000 in work already ordered from the firm at 3017 Santa Rosa Ave.

Malcolm "Terry" Peterson, company president, said most of the employes temporarily exit of work were involved in the two shift, five-days-a-week op-

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118th YEAR — No. 148

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