

Death Lust Of 'Zodiac' Increasing

The boastful killer who calls himself "Zodiac" and who has claimed responsibility for five murders — including three in Vallejo and one in Napa County — apparently is a psychotic slayer who compulsion for murder is becoming more frequent.

This new pattern in the slayer's behavior today appeared to be the only significant development in the series of scattered murders that began in Vallejo last Dec. 20 and were climaxed last Saturday with the slaying of a San Francisco cab driver in the Pacific Heights area.

Homicide investigators from Vallejo, Napa and San Francisco admittedly are concerned by the increasing frequency with which the multiple murders have occurred and the fact that the original pattern of the crimes now have taken an abrupt and baffling departure from "Zodiac's" earlier slayings.

The shortening time span between the killings was brought into sharp focus with the robbery-murder of San Francisco cab driver Paul Stine last Saturday.

FOLLOWS STABBING

This slaying occurred only two weeks after Cecilia Ann Shepherd, 22, brutally was stabbed to death by "Zodiac" at Lake Berryessa while her boyfriend was critically wounded.

The first double slaying, also

attributed to "Zodiac," occurred in the Vallejo area last Dec. 30 when Betty Lou Jensen, 16, and David Faraday, 17, both of Vallejo, were shot to death in their car parked on a remote section of Lake Herman Road.

The killer waited several months before striking again in another lover's lane shooting on July 4 near Blue Rock Springs which claimed the life of Darlene E. Ferrin, 22, and wounded her male companion.

Thus, the periodic, murderous outbursts are drawing closer together — an evolving pattern which San Francisco Police Capt. Martin Lee said "doesn't make us any happier" as he and Napa and Vallejo authorities redoubled their efforts to apprehend the mysterious slayer before he kills again.

NEW TURN

Their efforts to find a key in the murderer's pattern that might aid them in his capture took an unexpected turn last Saturday when he singled out a lone cab driver as his latest victim after confining his earlier slayings to young people in lonely lover's lanes.

The murder of Stine also marked the first time "Zodiac" resorted to robbery. There was no serious attempt at robbery in his earlier slayings, leading investigators to conclude the killer was a psychotic driven by dark sexual motives.