

New Clues Link Zodiac to Earlier Killing

PASSENGER

Suddenly, a man appeared at the passenger side window and, apparently, offered his assistance. He, too, failed to start the car. Then he either attempted to drive her home or to a nearby service station. In any event, Mrs. Bates walked off in an attempt to find a parking lot.

The next day, a college groundskeeper found the bounden envelope.

The popular cheerleader had been brutally beaten, repeatedly stabbed with a short-bladed knife, and her throat slashed.

She had not been sexually molested.

A head, grim and a Times wristwatch torn off in a fierce struggle — were the only clues the killer left at the scene.

Riverside residents had utmost confidence the killer would be quickly caught since police estimated the city of 167,000 had until then boasted often the proud fact they never failed to solve a major crime.

What was true, however, was that it was a major break exactly one month later, on Nov. 30, 1966.

ENVELOPES

Two unaddressed envelopes — one addressed in large black Press-Enterprise ink to "The Zodiac Killer" and another to "Zodiac Detective" — were dropped into a rural mailbox. Both contained a mimeographed copy of a purported "confession" by Miss Bates' killer. The typewritten message read in part:

"She is still beautiful. But now she is battered and dead. She is not the first and she will not be the last. Miss Bates was stupid. She went to the stranger like a lamb. She did not fight. But I did. It was about time. She asked me, about time. I told her, about time. I told her, it was about time. I am not sick. I am insane. But that will not stop the game ... Beware ... I am stalking your姑娘! Your confession, us a sign of continued."

DETAILS

There has never been any question the confession was from the murderer. In it, he claimed to have killed three people, including Captain Irvin Cross and his homicide investigator, turned their ejected author. Literally hundreds of young men, mostly students, but military personnel from several nearby bases as well — were checked out and cleared by the FBI and the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation, remained unsolved.

KILLING

On April 30, 1967, exactly six months after the killing, three stamped letters addressed to "The Zodiac" — the Press-Enterprise, the police, and, cruelly, to the slain girl's father — were dropped into a city mailbox.

BATES HAD TO DIE THERE WILL BE MORE!

Each letter was a scrawled letter on each of the notes penciled on pages of lined-hole school paper.

All three notes, signed as a college janitor reported to police someone had defaced a 11-line poem by Robert Frost, scratching a gory poem into the varnished top with a ball-point pen. The poem read:

"Song of living unwilling to die,
"cut clean, if red! clean,
"blood spouting, dripping,
"spilling, all
"all over her new dress,
"oh well, it was red any way."
"He" drawing into an uncertain death.
"she won't die, this time,
"so she'll just wait till next time,"
Beneath the weird wording

readily accepted the offer.

"It's all fixed now," he told her a few minutes later, then headed his car.

WHEEL

Mrs. Bates started to drive away. She went but a few feet when the left rear wheel fell off and the station wagon thudded to a stop.

The man came back, said with a sincere smile, "the trouble's worse than I thought," and offered her a ride. She reluctantly agreed to visit the station via the road up the road.

Mrs. Bates, a 30-month-old daughter, was worried about many things pregnant besides, gratefully accepted and with the child, Jenifer, strapped into the car's seat, she followed him.

Two hours later and many miles away a passing semi was flagged down by an hysterical Mrs. Johns. She later told this terrifying tale to police.

CAR

Once inside the car, the stranger had proceeded to drive off the highway into a network of desolate farm roads. When he stopped, he seemed to make a pass, she sarcastically asked, "do you always go around helping people?"

"When I get through with them they don't need help," she quoted the soft-spoken stranger, who was sweating profusely.

After that, for nearly two hours, he drove slowly by the farmlands, every so often turning to look at her and muttering something as if "you know I'm going to kill you" and "you know you're going to die."

ZODIAC

"I am terrified!" Mrs. Johns told The Chronicle. "I knew ... I knew he meant it. He said it over and over in a calm, matter-of-fact voice. You could feel he meant every word. I just sat there waiting for it to happen."

STOP

Suddenly the car screeched almost to a stop. The windowless car had almost hit the wrong way onto a freeway exit ramp.

Mrs. Johns saw her chance and fled. She grabbed Jenifer, leaped from the accelerating car and ran deep into a field where she finally found herself on top of Jenifer. The woman held the baby quiet — into an irrigation ditch.

SLAYING

A man, clean-shaven and neatly dressed, approached, said her left rear wheel was "loosening" and that he'd fix it. If she'd like, Mrs. Johns breathed a sigh of relief and

And perhaps the most meaningful discovery was that of Zoo's felt-tip pen in the car's glove compartment. A police officer, however, was not able to find the pen in the car.

CONCLUSION

At the conclusion, Captain Cross immediately forwarded the three notes and a photograph of the strange desk upon to Sacramento for examination and speculation of the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification.

The FBI handwriting expert, Sternwood Merrill, after a preliminary examination of the Riverside evidence, said it is quite possible the Zodiac killer authored the notes and the poems.

There are minor differences, but says Merrill, this could be due Zodiac's ever-worsening mental condition. Moreover, he said, he can kill at will and never be caught. He agreed the notes and poem were done by the same person.

CAR

If the man who signed the notes "r" is, in fact, police here now tend to believe, Zodiac, they consider it likely is also the killer who sabotaged the car. The man who could do such a thing to a woman he can kill at will and never be caught. He agreed the notes and poem were done by the same person.

They are, not without reason, extremely working to determine if the present killer is in fact the Zodiac killer. That is, "r" on the poem might not be those of Zodiac.

Escaped victim identified this sketch

Asked that night to describe the stranger, Mrs. Johns gave police her estimate of his age, height, weight, and clothing. Her eyes strayed to a station bulletin board and she screamed out, "Oh my God . . . that's him — that's his shirt right there!"

It was a WANTED poster with an artist's sketch of Zeo.

IT HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED

Statewide by San Francisco police after the Oct. 1969, slaying of cab driver Paul

model American make, a light-colored two-door with black bucket seats between which was a speedometer, gear shift. At the front end of the console was an ashtray, in which, on the right-hand side, was a built-in cigarette lighter.

THE CAR

THE CAR bearing the old plates, was black. The plates were scattered on the dashboard and on both the front and back seats. Mostly men's small, patterned tee-shirts such as a child of 8 to 12 years might wear.

THE SHIRT

He was wearing a dark blue nylon windbreaker-style jacket over dark blue or black woolen bell-bottom pants.

THE HAT

His shoes, in her words, were "spit-smeared." The high-gloss black reflecting the interior light of the bus.

THE COAT

He spoke in a monotone with no noticeable accent.

THE CAR

On the dashboard were a couple of colored plastic securing pads, and also a black, rubber-grip flashlight.

THE POLICE

If any of these details about Zodiac ever were mentioned, he'd be angry. At the time the news media figured him to be a hooded figure holding tight to his head by a thin band of elastic such as glasses straps, which he'd be wearing.

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On the dashboard were a couple of colored plastic securing pads, and also a black, rubber-grip flashlight.

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If any of these details about Zodiac ever were mentioned, he'd be angry. At the time the news media figured him to be a hooded figure holding tight to his head by a thin band of elastic such as glasses straps, which he'd be wearing.

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