

Has Zodiac returned to killing?

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"Team" written on the back, blue jeans, white tennis shoes with a blue or black stripe and a blue baseball hat, with an unidentified patch on the front.

Two days after Haertle gave his story to detectives, Marin County investigators concluded that Hansen's killer probably is the same man who killed six women and a man on Mount Tamalpais and Point Reyes since August 1979.

Capt. Robert Gaddini of the Marin Sheriff's Department also acknowledged that detectives are examining parallels in the cases, but he cautioned that the investigative team "is not saying he is the Zodiac."

"It's interesting," he added, "but there is no proof or evidence that it is the same guy."

Dave Toschi, the San Francisco police inspector who tracked the Zodiac killer for years, also noticed similarities in the sketches. But he had reservations about saying they were the same man.

"The description and the age are just right," Toschi said, "but he hasn't written any letters."

The Zodiac penned numerous misspelled letters to police and newspapers, some in cipher, beginning in July 1969, taunting the police to catch him and signed with a cross inside a circle.

In his last, distinctive note in 1974, the Zodiac boasted of having committed 37 murders, although police are only sure that he was responsible for six slayings in four counties between 1966 and 1969.

Capt. Gaddini pointed out, however, that the Zodiac may have changed his style over the years.

"One of the striking differences between our cases and the Zodiac is that he hasn't sought any recognition," Gaddini said. "But it's been 10 years — he may have changed his posture or position."

And, in fact, in a 1969 letter when he claimed his score was seven, the Zodiac said he was angry with the

This is the Zodiac speaking. I am the murderer of the taxi driver over by Washington St & Maple St last night, to prove this here is a blood stained piece of his shirt. I am the same man who did in the people in the youth bay area.
The S.F. Police could have caught me last night if they had

So far, no letters like those written by the Zodiac killer have turned up in recent slayings police for telling lies about him.

"So I shall change the way the collecting of slaves. I shall no longer announce to anyone when I committ (sic) my murders, they shall look like routine robberies, killings of anger, & a few fake accidents, etc.," the Zodiac wrote.

Marin Sheriff's Lt. Don Besse said, "If he's the Zodiac, you can't expect him to think exactly the same way he did. He'd be 10 years older, he'd have learned things."

Besse said the Zodiac's long retirement could have many reasons. "He could have been in prison for something unrelated to murder, or been out of the country, or maybe even been killing in another part of the country."

Or, Besse added, he might have committed suicide or been killed.

The recent slayings have some similarities to the Zodiac's murders, but there are also differences.

Victims in Marin and Santa Cruz were ambushed on steep hiking trails in the late afternoon. A threat of rape preceded the Santa Cruz killing, and Marin detectives have revealed there appeared to be a sexual ritual in several of the slayings.



ZODIAC KILLER

Investigators say there's a striking similarity between the two men



MT. TAM SUSPECT

Lake Berryessa murder, when he wore a hood over his head.

In both sets of killings, the victims were shot or stabbed and were both single persons and couples.