

Bay Killer's Shrinking Timetable

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cab was an abrupt and baffling departure from the maniacal style of "Zodiac's" previous murders.

In the past, the killer has descended on young couples in romantic, lonely spots, leading investigators to conclude they were dealing with a psychotic driven by dark, sexual motives. There was no serious attempt at robbery.

THEFT

The 29-year-old Stine was shot dead at Washington and Cherry streets. The murderer paused to take the cab driver's wallet.

"This was definitely out of his previous line," detectives said. "It's very puzzling."

But police are convinced they are hunting one man.

The latest letter Zodiac sent to The Chronicle claiming the murder of Stine was in the same handwriting of past taunting messages—"There are no dissimilarities," Captain Lee said.

All the letters were post-marked San Francisco, but police are not sure whether they are pursuing a man who lives here or in the area of the other murders.

On the first of August, Zodiac sent cryptograms to newspapers with a note claiming the first three murders and saying the puzzle contained his name.

It apparently did not. When finally cracked, the code proved to be a rambling, chilling declaration by the writer that killing people "is more fun" than killing animals.

Zodiac said he believed that all the people he killed will become his slaves in paradise.

Authorities consulted a psychiatrist at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. On the basis of the boasting messages and the method of murder, the doctor speculated:

"He is probably a guy who broods about cutoff feelings, about being cut off from his fellow man . . . Comparing the thrill of killing to the satisfaction of sex is usually an expression of inadequacy. He probably feels his fellowman looks down on him for some reason."

The taunting notes and telephone calls could be a hidden plea to be captured.