

LETTER

From Page 1

both front and back.

In the cipher were 50 different letters and symbols, most of them repeated from two to seven times in varying, confusing combinations.

The two shootings referred to are the double-slaying of teenagers Betty Lou Jensen, 16, and David Faraday, 17, killed off Lake Herman Road shortly after midnight last Dec. 20, and the murder of Mrs. Darlene Elizabeth Ferrin, 22, and critical wounding of Michael R. Mageau, 19, at Blue Rock Springs Park the night of July 4.

Police and the sheriff's department said the letter was accurate in recounting facts about the shootings. However, it was pointed out they all could have been learned by a person visiting the sites of the crimes afterward, and perhaps also overhearing comments of officers. A number of the facts were printed in the newspaper, contrary to what the letter said.

However, authorities asked that residents take the letter seriously, pending any determination that it is a hoax. This would mean taking precautions about driving or walking to lonely spots.