

New Zodiac Letter--Fears He'll Kill Again

The Zodiac killer — unheard from in recent weeks — is back in operation and pleading for help before he takes his ninth and tenth victims.

San Francisco police yesterday confirmed as authentic a letter sent last week from the man who calls himself Zodiac to Attorney Melvin Belli.

The letter, which said, "Please, help me, I am drowning . . ." (sic) contained a piece of blood-soaked cloth from one of the alleged killer's victims.

Homicide Inspector Dave Toschi said the cloth fragment came from the sports shirt of a San Francisco taxi driver, Paul Stine, 28, who was shot to death Oct. 11.

Sends Swatch of Shirt

A few days after the Stine killing, Zodiac sent a letter to San Francisco newspapers and also included a swatch from Stine's shirt. Another letter and another piece of Stine's shirt was sent to a newspaper on Nov. 11.

Zodiac has said he has killed up to seven persons in the Bay Area in the past year. His latest letter indicates he has killed eight.

The letter was sent to Belli's home and was post-marked Dec. 20, p.m.

The Associated Press quoted Belli in Munich, Germany, as offering to meet confidentially with the alleged killer at any time to help him.

The letter contained numerous spelling and punctuation errors and included a card saying, "Merry Xmass (sic) and New Year."

Printed in Block Letters

Signed with a "Zodiac" and printed in block letters, the message said:

"Dear Melvin, This is the Zodiac speaking I wish you a happy Christmass (sic). The one thing I ask of you is this, please help me, I cannot reach out for help because of this thing in me won't let me. I am finding it extreemly (sic) difficult to hold it in check and I am afraid I will lose control again and take my nineth (sic) and possibly

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