

'Zodiac' Linked to Five Area Murders

The torn swatch of cloth mailed by a boastful killer "definitely" came from the shirt of slain San Francisco cab driver Paul Stine, police said today.

Laboratory tests of fabric and bloodstains placed the identification beyond doubt, according to Capt. Marty Lee, chief of inspectors.

The psychotic killer who struck here Saturday night in the robbery-murder of Stine also was firmly identified by his handwriting as the killer of three persons in the Vallejo area.

More To Come

And, by the penned dates of the Vallejo crimes left at the scene of a Lake Berryessa murder, he loomed as a slayer who had committed five murders since last December — and threatened more to come.

Police of San Francisco, Vallejo and Napa have combined efforts to track him down before he can strike again.

But they made no effort to hide their concern that the killings have come at increasingly shorter intervals, and always on weekends.

The first was a double slaying in the Vallejo area last Dec. 20, a Friday.

The second, again in the Vallejo region, came on July 5, a Saturday, seven months later.

The third, the slaying of a coed at Lake Berryessa, was on Sept. 27, a Saturday, less than three months later.

The fourth, that of Stine, 29, occurred here last Saturday night, and only two weeks later.

Letters to newspapers

claiming responsibility for the Vallejo murders were in both a crude cipher and in plain, if ungrammatical, English.

Translation of the cipher developed a rambling declaration that killing people is "more fun than killing animals." It did not, as the writer claimed it would, reveal the identity of the killer.

The "clear" letters began with the phrase, "This is the Zodiac speaking." Those about the Vallejo murders and Stine were in the same handwriting.

The letters were postmarked in San Francisco.

Composite sketches of Stine's slayer, put together from descriptions of witnesses who saw the man leave his victim's taxicab, have been widely circulated.

Notify Homicide

Police asked that anyone seeing a man who resembled the sketches notify the homicide bureau, 553-1145.

He was described as a white man, between 25 and 30, five feet eight or nine inches tall, 150 pounds, wearing reddish-brown crewcut hair and heavy rimmed glasses.

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