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Lawyer says: 'My brother was the Zodiac' slayer

Vallejo man declares he is 'absolutely certain' his dead sibling was notorious killer

EXAMINER STAFF REPORT

VALLEJO — A highly respected Vallejo attorney says he is "absolutely certain" his deceased brother was the notorious and boastful Zodiac killer who murdered at least six people in California in the late 1960s.

William Beeman Sr., 70, who has practiced law for 37 years, accused his elder brother, Jack Steadman Beeman — who he said died of emphysema in Arizona in 1984 — during a news conference he held Thursday morning at the Solano County fairgrounds.

Beeman told a throng of reporters he would reveal the killer's identity only after explaining how he had come to solve the mystery. "I will just refer to him as 'Jack the Zodiac,'" Beeman said.

Beeman then listed some reasons why he believed "Jack" was the Zodiac. These included such things as Jack's shoe size, his alleged hatred of women, the fact



EXAMINER/KURT ROGERS

William Beeman Sr. has only circumstantial evidence.

that he'd worn a Timex watch and every month read the latest issue of True Detective magazine, his habit of always misspelling common words, and that he was a devotee of astrology.

But witnesses also described the Zodiac as being about 5 foot 9 and 145 pounds. Jack Beeman, who repaired televisions and other electric appliances, was over 6 feet tall and more than 200 pounds.

William Beeman conceded his belief is based only on circumstantial evidence he began compiling in 1990 after reading "Zodiac," by San Francisco author Robert Grays-

mith.

And Beeman denied that the news conference had anything to do with his recently self-published book titled "Jack."

Beeman said he had not taken his "evidence" to any investigators in Solano County, where three of Zodiac's murders were committed.

While short on conclusions, the event was long on drama. The sister of one of the Zodiac's victims peered at a picture of Jack Beeman in the book before exclaiming that he looked like a man who once fixed the family's television set.

"I think there may be something here, but I just don't know," said Pam Huckaby, whose sister, Darlene Ferrin, was killed in Vallejo in 1969. "I just want the man who killed my sister brought to justice. I don't want another book, or another movie."

The Zodiac killings in Northern California began in December 1968 when two high school students were fatally gunned down while parked at a lovers lane.

After the killings, Zodiac would write to newspapers, bragging about his crimes and boasting he would never be caught.

The last known letter from the Zodiac came in 1974. He has not been heard from since.