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Vallejo Threats

'Cipher Killer's' New Letter

A new letter taunting Vallejo police and sent to The Examiner figured today in the intensified search for the mysterious "cipher killer" who has threatened mass murder among Vallejo's 86,000 residents.

Although the unknown mailer of letters and codes did not carry out his threat to slay a dozen people over the weekend, Police Chief Jack Stiltz continued to warn residents about the perils of lonely areas.

Chief Stiltz also asked the FBI and its state counterpart — the Criminal Identification and Investigation Bureau — to help solve the mystery.

The boastful mystery man, who brags he was the perpetrator of three unsolved Vallejo killings, sent strange codes to three newspapers — The Examiner, the Chronicle and the Vallejo Times-Herald. He said cracking the code would disclose his identity.

'Dear Editor'

"By the way, are the police having (sic) a good time with the code?" the writer asked in a new letter addressed to "Dear Editor" and received today by The Examiner.

The writer purported to give more details on the three slayings, and he explained how he shot a boy in the knee in a car last July.

Vallejo police said a youth was in the car with a 22 year old woman who was slain and he was shot in the knee.

While inclined to suspect the writer was just making use of details publicized at the time of the slaying, Chief Stiltz took no chances. He rushed Sgt. Duane Nilson to

Dear Editor
This is the Zodiac speaking.
In answer to your asking for
more details about the good
times I have had in Vallejo,
I shall be very happy to
supply you more material.
By the way, are the police
having a good time with the
code? If not, tell them to cheer
up; when they do crack it
they will have me.
On the 4th of July
I did not open the car door. The
window was rolled down already.
The boy was originally sitting in
the front seat when I began
firing. When I fired the first
shot at his head, he leaped
backwards at the same time
thus spoiling my aim. He ended
up on the back seat then
the floor in back thrashing out
very violently with his legs;
that's how I shot him in the
knee. I did not leave the car
at the killing with squealing
tires & racing engine as described
in the Vallejo paper. I drove away
quite slowly so as not to draw
attention to my car.
The man who told the police
that my car was brown

LETTER SENT TO THE EXAMINER

Police are not convinced writer is actual killer

San Francisco to pick up the letter.

"We want to check the writing against that of other letters and to study it for possible fingerprints," Chief Stiltz said.

Boy, Girl

On the matter of a high school boy and girl shot to death last Dec. 20 in a "lov-

er's lane," the new letter said:

"All I had to do was spray them (with gunfire) as if it was a water hose; there was no need to use the gun sights. I was not happy to see that I did not get front page coverage."

The signature was the same as on other letters —

an O with crossed lines in it, signifying a gunsight.

Chief Stiltz also checked with interest the report of a man in San Francisco that he had succeeded in cracking part of the "cipher killer" code.

Sees Link

The man, a night watchman who asked that his name not be used, passed along word to Stiltz in a telephone call to The Examiner:

"There is a definite link between the codes sent the three newspapers. I have found that link. I also have isolated 18 symbols. This is a skillful code, perhaps one compiled with a computer. I believe it was set up by a man who really needs help."

A former Navy man skilled in code work has been at work over the weekend but Chief Stiltz said no marked progress had been reported.

1st Strike Hits Beech Aircraft In the Midwest

WICHITA Kan. — (AP) — The machinists union posted pickets at four Beech Aircraft Corp. plants in Kansas and Colorado today in the first strike in the company's history.

The company employs 10,100 persons and the machinists represents 6270 of them, including 5000 at Wichita, 900 at Salina, 150 at Liberal and 220 at Boulder, Colo.

Jarrett Molan, a union official, said the company's latest contract proposal was rejected by the union members in a secret ballot Saturday. Details of the proposal were not disclosed.