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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 even 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 end
 ed 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 scene
 of 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.