

Long-Range Optimism

Cops No Closer on Zodiac Identity

By Paul Avery

Zodiac yesterday was almost as much the man of mystery he was last December 20 when he committed the first two of the five murders he has boasted about.

Homicide detectives in San Francisco, Vallejo and Napa said they are no closer to catching the cryptic killer than they were ten months ago — unless some clue to his identity is among the hundreds of leads still in the process of being checked out.

Zodiac struck last on October 11 when he gunned down cab-driver Paul Stine on Washington street in Presidio Heights. He revealed himself the killer in a letter sent to The Chronicle three days later. Since then he has remained silent.

Without exception, all the investigators assigned to the case feel Zodiac will eventually be caught.

"We'll get him," said one. "We may not know his name at the moment—but we know a lot about him and what we know will finally lead us to him."

Such confidence is based on several factors.

There are at least four witnesses who have seen Zodiac when he wasn't wearing the black hood which, like the crossed circle symbol he signs letters with, has become a Zodiac hallmark.

There are three persons who have heard his voice.

There are samples of his handwriting, and fingerprints found at murder scenes which may be his, and tire tracks, and other evidence authorities won't disclose.

Sooner or later, detectives believe, they will find a man who matches the killer's descriptions who will be further identified as Zodiac by eyewitnesses, his voice, evidence, and, possibly, by his own admission.

Chevrolet Recall

Detroit

Chevrolet has recalled 500 early production 1969 Blazers to correct outside mirrors, fuel line seals and a possible misleading decal on the gear shift that would indicate the car is in neutral when it is actually in gear, GM said yesterday.

United Press

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By Cherlee Cooper
Chronicle Foreign Service

Tehran

A wild boar has been saved by an ancient Persian tradition of sanctuary.

The boar, "unclean" to Moslem Iranians, had been damaging the crops of a village near Tehran and angry farmers decided to set an