

6 San Francisco Chronicle Wed, Nov. 12, 1969

A Timetable

The Pattern of Zodiac Crimes

"Zodiac" previously has claimed credit for four savage attacks in which he killed five persons and critically wounded two others. Here is an account of those crimes.

December 20, 1969, near Vallejo — David Faraday, 37, and Betty Lou Jensen, 35, were both fatally wounded when Zodiac came upon them in the couple's car parked at the Lake Herman reservoir, a beach haven lane, a few miles east of Vallejo. It was 11:14 p.m.

The weapon was a .22 caliber pistol. Faraday died instantly of a shot that smashed his skull. Miss Jensen, attempting to flee, was brought down by five shots fired into her back. She, too, was dead when a passing motorist saw the bodies and notified the Solano county sheriff's department.

The seemingly senseless murders were not immediately linked to Zodiac. He had not yet begun to boast.

July 5, 1969, in Vallejo — Darlene Ferrin, 22, was killed and Michael Mageau, 19, was critically wounded when Zodiac attacked them in their parked car in a secluded area of Blue Rock Springs park, also a lovers' lane. It was a few minutes after midnight.

The weapon was a 9-mm. Luger pistol. Mageau said a man appeared at the car window and, without saying a word, suddenly began shooting. One of several bullets that struck Mageau shattered his jaw and he lost consciousness. Mrs. Ferrin was also hit several times, by shots that passed through Mageau's body as well as the bullets fired directly at her. Again, a passing motorist discovered the crime and notified the Vallejo Police Department.

Within an hour of the attack, the police received an anonymous call in which a man's voice said: "I shot them. I used a 9-mm. Luger automatic."

It was not until August 1, when The Chronicle and two other newspapers received parts of the now famous cryptogram and notes from Zodiac, that the two Solano attacks were proven the

work of the same man.

A Salinas high school teacher cracked the code a week later. It read, in part: "I like killing people because it's more fun than killing wild game."

It went on to say that the killer believed "when I die I will be reborn in paradise and all the people I have killed will become my slaves."

The man who was to become known as Zodiac said the cryptogram, when deciphered, would reveal his identity.

September 27, 1969, at Lake Berryessa — Cecilia Ann Shepard, 22, was killed and Bryan Hartnell, 20, was wounded when Zodiac, wearing a black hood and the crossed-circle symbol, came upon the couple picnicking on an isolated peninsula of the Napa county lake. It was about 6:30 p.m.

The weapon on this occasion was a long kitchen knife. But Zodiac at first told the couple it was merely a hold-up. He told Miss Shepard to tie up Hartnell with a piece of plastic clothedine and then he tied her up. There was conversation between the killer and the couple for some 15 minutes.

Suddenly, with no warning, Zodiac showed the pistol he was holding into his belt and drew the knife. He started stabbing Hartnell first and then turned his attention to Miss Shepard. Hartnell suffered more than a dozen wounds. Miss Shepard was stabbed some 23 times.

A fisherman in a boat nearby heard their cries for help and, several hours after the attack, they were taken to the Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa where, two days later, Miss Shepard died. Hartnell was released from the hospital on October 9 and returned to Pacific Union College where he is a pre-law major.

At the scene of the Lake Berryessa attack, Zodiac scrawled his sign on the side of Hartnell's car and the dates of the Vallejo killings. The Napa county sheriff's department said there was no doubt all three cases were related.

Zodiac's New Message

Here are portions of the seven-page letter, with the original spelling and grammar, which Zodiac sent to The Chronicle.

This is the Zodiac speaking. I thought you would need a good laugh before you hear the bad news. I am not a news man but I can tell you this new cipher thing in your front page. I got an awful lonely when I am ignored, so lonely I could do my thing!!!!

The police shall never catch me because I have been too clever for them.

I look like the description passed out only when I do my thing, the rest of the time I look entirely different. I shall not tell you what my device consists of when I kill.

As of yet I have left no fingerprints behind me contrary to what the police say in my killings I wear transparent finger tip guards. All it is 2 coats of airplane cement coated on my finger tips — quite unnoticeable & very effective.

My killing tools have been bought through the mail order outfits before the

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A portion of the killer's latest letter

han went into effect except one & it was bought out of the state. So as you see the police don't have much to work on. If you wonder why I was wiping the cab down I was leaving fake clues for the police to run all over town with, as one might say, I gave the cops some busy work to do to keep them happy. I enjoy

seeding the blue pigs. Hey blue pigs I was in the park — you were using fire trucks to mask the sound of your cruising crowd cars. The dogs never came with in 2 blocks of me & they were to the west & there was only 2 groups of parking about 10 min apart then the motor cycles went by about 150 ft away going from south to

north west.

ps. 2 cops pulled a goof about 3 min after I left the cab.

I was walking down the hill to the park when this cop car pulled up & one of them called me over & asked if I saw any one acting suspicious or strange in the last 5 to 10 min & I said yes there was this man who was running by waving a gun & the cops peeled rubber & went around the corner as I directed them & I disappeared into the park a block & a half away never to be seen again.

Hey pig doesn't rile you up to have your nose rubbed in your boobies?

If you cops think I'm going to take on a bus the way I stated I was, you deserve to have holes in your heads.

Have fun!! By the way it could be rather messy if you try to bluff me.

(Zodiac at this point signed the letter with his familiar sign, a circle with two lines drawn through it. Then he added:)

PS. Be sure to print the part I marked out on page 3 or I shall do my thing. To prove that I am the Zodiac, Ask the Vallejo cop about my electric gun sight which I used to start my collecting of slaves.

Santa Rita Deputies Charged

Two Alameda County Sheriff's deputies, criticized by the Grand Jury for mistreatment of prisoners at the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center after last May's People's Park riots, have been charged with inflicting corporal punishment and battery.

The two, Gary R. Nelson, 34, and Lawrence L. Rich, also 34, surrendered Monday night in Pleasanton Municipal Court, pleaded not guilty to the charges before Municipal Court Judge William Gale and were released on their own recognizances. Judge Gale set November 25 for a hearing.

Charges against the deputies were brought by Alameda County District Attorney Lowell Jensen four days after the Grand Jury released its report in which virtually everyone connected with the bloody violence was accused.

Nelson and Rich were among six deputies and four officers who were ordered suspended as a result of an investigation into the mass arrests.

They were off the job for five working days without pay but then returned to their jobs at the center.

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