

New Zodiac Letter Viewed By Police As Unwitting Clue

The mysterious "Zodiac" killer boasted in a letter received Tuesday by a San Francisco newspaper that he has killed 10 people and police think he may have unwittingly given them a clue.

"It is Zodiac. Here we go again," said Police Inspector Dave Toschi who heads a special Zodiac squad of Northern California law enforcement officers that has been hunting the killer for 18 months.

The letter was posted at a street corner mailbox in San Francisco on Monday morning and sent to the San Francisco Chronicle which has received the killer's messages in the past. In his last letter in November, 1969 he claimed seven victims.

CLAIMS TEN

"I have killed ten people to date," Zodiac bragged in the two-page note written with a felt-tip pen in his familiar neat hand on white five-and-dime stationery. The letter also contained his usual misspellings.

"I hope you do not think that I was the one who wiped out that blue meannie with a bomb at the cop station . . . it just wouldn't do to move in on someone else's territory."

He apparently referred to the dynamite bombing at a police station here on February 16 which killed Sgt. Brian McDonnell and wounded eight other officers.

"But there is more glory in killing a cop than a kid because a cop can shoot back," he wrote.

Zodiac made one remark that investigators are particularly interested in. After saying "I have killed ten people to date," he wrote:

"It would have been a lot more except . . . I was swamped out by rain we had a while back."

Detectives on the Zodiac squad are hoping the killer made a slip and the remark will lead them to the area where he lives.

Although Zodiac brags of 10 victims, only five persons are known to have died at his hands.

"PS," the letter ended, "I hope you have fun trying to figure out who I killed."

NEW SLAYING

Zodiac's latest letter also was sent after a San Francisco stabbing murder Sunday in which the slayer wrote Zodiac's name in blood on the wall of the victim. He was lighting designer Robert Salem who was killed in his posh workshop-apartment at 745 Stevenson St., behind the San Francisco Hotel.

Zodiac's latest letter, except for portions withheld at the request of the police to the San Francisco Chronicle, reads as follows:

"This is the Zodiac speaking.

"By the way have you cracked the latest cipher I sent you?

"My name is (13 cipher symbols, including the letters A E N K M N A M plus a Zodiac symbol, three circles with the figure eight inside them

See ZODIAC Page 4

Vallejo Rainfall

(July 1 to June 30)

Rainfall last 24 hours	.00
Season total to date	21.76
To date last year	24.21
Total rainfall last year	24.35
Seasonal normal	17.34