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VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Case No. 243 146

OFFICER'S REPORT concerning... Zodiac

7-27-71 9 AM

Writer informed by COP Garlington that he had been contacted by Lt. Ellis, Homicide Division, San Francisco P.D., regarding a suspect by the name of ARTHUR LEIGH ALLEN who is a resident of Vallejo. This information developed by Homicide Inspectors Armstrong & Toschi, SFPD, who have been assigned the Zodiac case since their murder case of approximately 3 years ago.

Check of local records indicates suspect to be a WMA, DOB 12-18-33. His physical description is 6', 250, brown, brown. One arrest, vio. 415 P.C. which occurred in 1958 while Allen was in USN. Several other incident reports in which suspect involved, but all where he was a victim of a crime or a witness.

Request sent to CII for rap sheet and to DMV for photograph. Checked by 32 Fresno Street and observed a 1958 Ford Sedan parked in front of residence hooked to a boat trailer, veh. license LDH 974. DMV Sacramento reports this vehicle registered to suspect. Checked local sources in attempt to obtain specimen of suspect's printing. Numerous specimens obtained from a source which requested to remain anonymous at this time.

On checking prior reports it was ascertained that Allen was formerly employed as an attendant at Harry Wogan's service Station, Sonoma & Alabama Streets. Checked this location and was informed by owner Allen had left his employment to return to school at Sonoma State. Wogan described him as an honest, efficient worker, but a person who showed too much interest in small children. This habit made

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Wogan suspect of Allen's intentions as he has three small children of his own who sometimes came around the station. Wogan related that approximately six weeks ago Allen came by his home and picked up his 13 year old daughter and invited her to go for a ride with him on his boat. Daughter accepted invitation without parents consent. While on boat Allen is alleged to have made improper advances towards the girl. Girl came back and told parents. Wogan has not seen Allen since this incident. No formal complaint made to police.

2:00 PM

Inspectors Toschi and Armstrong to station. Also present Agent Mel Nicolai, CII. Copy of their investigation report which implicated Allen as suspect attached. Armstrong strongly convinced that his source of information is good. He made personal contact with informant over past weekend and could not shake statement given in report as to dates, substance of suspect's remarks, etc. It was decided to attempt more background information on suspect prior to making any personal contact. RO to contact above-mentioned officers who will return to Vallejo if and when suspect contacted.

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In past week RO has conducted a discreet background investigation on suspect Arthur Leigh Allen. Allen has an excellent reputation with neighbors living in the same block in which he resides. Mostly older people living in this neighborhood and most have known Allen since he was a small boy. No indication given to those persons contacted as to our reason for wishing information on suspect. It was ascertained Allen is presently employed by Union Oil of Calif. at their Pinole refinery. This is a summer job and it is his intention to return to school at the Fall semester at Sonoma State. He lives with his mother who is a widow. Father was a much decorated Commander, USN, retired. Father died approximately six months ago. Allen occupies basement apartment in his mother's home. Contrary to prior reports, neighbors state Allen is very devoted to his mother and she to him.

11:30 AM Writer phoned Union Oil (799-4411) and spoke with Mr. McNamara, Personnel Department. Mr. McNamara confirmed the fact Allen was employed as a junior chemist in their lab. He works 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. He will be made available for interview by officers at any time during working hours. Private office will be provided for this purpose. Allen will not be informed of our desire to talk to him prior to his being brought to office.

Armstrong & Tochi, Homicide Division, SFPD, notified. (Mulanax)

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8-4-71 10:30 AM

With Inspectors Armstrong & Tochi, S.F.P.D., RO contacted Mr. McNamara in his office at Union Oil Company. Mr. McNamara phoned the lab and requested Arthur Allen to come to his office. On Allen's arrival McNamara left. Prior to interviewing Allen it was decided the initial questioning of suspect would be conducted by Inspector Armstrong. After identifying ourselves as police officers, Allen was notified by Armstrong that we were investigating the Zodiac murders. He was further advised that it had been brought to our attention by an unnamed informant that Allen was alleged to have made certain statements approximately 11 months prior to the first Zodiac murder, which, if true, were of an incriminating nature. Allen was then informed by Armstrong of the conversation Allen had with Donald Cheney in January, 1968, but Allen was not told who this conversation was supposed to have been with. Allen was asked if he recalled having had such a conversation with anyone and replied that he did not recall such a conversation. He was asked if he had read or heard of the Zodiac and he replied he had read about Zodiac when it first appeared in the newspapers. He stated after the initial reading he did not follow it any longer as he thought it was "too morbid". Allen later made other statements which were in direct conflict with this prior statement. He volunteered the information that he had been questioned as a suspect by a Vallejo police sergeant after the Berryessa murder in Napa County. He stated on this particular weekend he had gone to a place called Salt Point Ranch near Fort Ross skin diving.

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He went alone but stated he became acquainted with a serviceman and his wife who was stationed on Treasure Island. He did not recall this person's name but had it written down somewhere at home. He returned to Vallejo at approximately 4:00 p.m. and recalls talking to a neighbor shortly after he drove into his driveway. Allen stated he had neglected to inform the Vallejo officer who had talked to him about being seen by this neighbor at the time he was questioned. This neighbor, named White, died approximately a week after he was questioned so he never bothered to recontact the police. Without any questioning regarding a knife, Allen made the following statement: "The two knives I had in my car with blood on them, the blood came from a chicken I had killed." He evidently of the opinion we had some information regarding a knife that we did not possess. Writer researched VPD files and unable to locate any report where Allen had previously been questioned regarding being Zodiac suspect. Also contacted Sgt. Lynch and he does not recall having questioned Allen.

At a later point in interview Allen stated he had been in southern California at the approximate time as the Riverside murder in which Zodiac is a suspect. The information volunteered by Allen without prompting. He admitted to being interested in guns but claimed only hand guns he owned were .22 caliber.

During interview it was noted Allen was wearing an unusual looking watch. The watch was shown officers by Allen and the brand name of watch was "Zodiac". Above the brand name was the circle and cross

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hairs such as used as a signature on notes written by Zodiac. Allen stated watch was given to him as a present from his mother approximately two years ago.

Allen expressed his willingness to assist investigators in any manner possible. Stated he wished the time would come when police officers were no longer referred to as "Pigs". Prior to terminating interview writer asked Allen if he could recall anyone whom he might have had a conversation with regarding Zodiac. He stated he might have had a conversation with Mr. Kidder or Mr. Tucker of the Vallejo Recreation Department while he was employed there, but he was not positive.

Allen also related having read a book in high school which made a lasting impression on him. He stated the title of the book was "The Most Dangerous Game". This book was made into a movie and concerns a man shipwrecked on an island and being hunted by another man "like an animal". In conversation with Cheney, Allen is alleged to have discussed this story.

After interview with Allen, it was opinion of all three investigators that further investigation should be conducted.

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With Inspector Toschi, RO contacted Ted Kidder, head of Greater Vallejo Recreation District, 395 Amador Street. Mr. Kidder was asked if he knew Arthur Allen and if he recalled ever having discussed the Zodiac case with him. Kidder stated to his knowledge he had never talked about the Zodiac with Allen. Allen was formerly employed by the Recreation District as a life guard and trampoline instructor. His employment had been terminated approximately five years ago because of Allen's association with small children. Mr. Kidder had received numerous complaints from concerned parents of various acts towards their children by Allen. No formal complaint was ever made to the police re-Allen's acts. Kidder further remarked that as recently as three weeks ago he had a discussion with Philip Tucker, General Supervisor, Recreation District, concerning Allen as being a suspect in Zodiac murders. This discussion came about primarily because of Allen's suspected possibility of being a sexual deviate towards children and physical description. Both parties considered him a "loner" type.

Philip Tucker was called to Mr. Kidder's office and questioned about any conversations he might have had with Allen concerning Zodiac. He recalled casual type conversations and on one such occasion Allen told him that he had been questioned by police as a suspect. Tucker remembered Allen having discussed a special light attached to a gun barrel so that a person could shoot accurately at night. On another occasion he and his wife had visited Allen in his home. Allen had

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made the remark that he had something he would like to show them. Stated that he only showed this particular thing to "very certain people" or something to this effect. He then took from a grey metal box, located in his bedroom, a paper. This paper was hand printed and pertained to a person who had been committed to Atascadero State Hospital for molesting a child. It rambled on and on about this person having been betrayed by his attorney, using language of a legal nature or terminology. Also in this script were various symbols similar to those used by Zodiac in his coded messages. Symbols and code very neatly done. Tucker expressed a polite interest in paper but his wife showed genuine interest. She asked Allen if she might borrow the paper to study it but Allen refused to allow her to take the paper. He did promise to have a copy made to give her. This he never did.

Tucker was asked if, to his knowledge, Allen had an interest in guns. He stated that he did have and owned two hand guns, one a revolver and the other some type of automatic. He did not know the calibers and admitted he did not have abundant knowledge of guns himself. When Allen was questioned he did not admit owning or having owned an automatic weapon.

Also when Allen was questioned RO asked him if he had ever owned a 1965-66 brown Corvair. He replied in the negative. This the type of car described by survivor of Blue Rock Springs murder as being driven by responsible on night of Ferrin murder July 4, 1969. Tucker was asked if he had any knowledge of Allen ever having owned such a car.

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He stated that to his knowledge he had not, but that he, Tucker, had owned a brown 1964 Corvair. When asked if he had ever loaned this vehicle to Allen, Tucker stated he had not. At the time he had two cars, the Corvair and a Pontiac. Allen had used his Pontiac on occasion. At this particular time Tucker was living in Berkeley. In the summer of 1969 he had left the Corvair parked at the Richfield Service station at Nebraska and Broadway for a period of approximately two weeks in an attempt to sell it. Keys were left at the station. At this time Arthur Allen was employed at this service station as an attendant. The exact time car was left could not be recalled by Mr. Tucker other than it was mid-summer of 1969.

Tucker further stated that approximately three weeks prior he had been contacted by Karen Allen, sister-in-law of suspect, and requested to contact Allen re-seeking some type of psychiatric treatment. This was because of some recent involvement with a child that the family had received a complaint about. He stated he did talk to Allen in his home but apparently could not get through to him he needed help. Conversation ended by Tucker requesting Allen not to come around his home in the future and that their association had come to an end. Officers unable to contact Mrs. Tucker re-what she might have recalled about the script she had seen at Allen's home on prior mentioned occasion as she works graveyard shift in an Oakland hospital. She will be contacted at a later date.

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Karen Allen, sister-in-law of suspect, contacted at her place of employment and appointment made to have her come to the police department. On arrival she was advised as to the reasons we wished to talk to her and seemed surprised that Arthur Allen was suspected as possibly being the Zodiac. Mrs. Allen promised her assistance in any manner possible. She stated she and her husband were aware that Allen had some type of hangup regarding children but that she could not believe he could be Zodiac. Mrs. Allen stated Arthur hated women, had never had a serious relationship with a woman his own age. He resented her and had made threats against her as he thought she had come between him and her husband. According to Karen, Arthur was spoiled and pampered by his mother. Mother did his cooking, washed his clothes, cleaned up after him and gave him money. Mother paid for two automobiles and two boats. She further stated Arthur hated his mother and had often expressed this hatred in her presence. Karen was shown various notes written by Zodiac to the newspapers. She could not recognize printing as being similar to suspect's but did relate that certain phrases were of the context that he would use. As an example, she stated he would use the phrase "trigger mach" instead of trigger mechanism. When she saw the Christmas card addressed to Melvin Belli spelled "Mery Xmass" Karen stated she definitely recalled having received a card at Christmas from Arthur in which Merry Xmas was spelled exactly the same way. Karen stated Allen was left-handed, but when he was in school his teachers had attempted to convert him to right hand. He learned to

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write right-handed but soon reverted back to using his left hand. Karen Allen is a WFA, 26, formerly taught school. Her husband, Ronald, is WMA, 32, landscape engineer. Appointment made to come to her home at 8:00 p.m. this date & discuss matter with her husband.

8:15 PM

Inspectors Armstrong and Toschi and RO to 216 Aragon Street. Ron Allen promised all assistance possible in investigation but could not believe his brother could be a serious suspect in this case. Ron apparently had a sincere desire to assist but could offer little to either confirm or clear matter under investigation. He did say that he was well acquainted with our sources of information who had originally given statements to police indicating Arthur Leigh Allen was a prime suspect. Ron Allen stated they were responsible people who would not have made such statements if they were not true. He further stated that he had received a complaint from Cheney that his brother had made improper advances toward one of his children. This might be a motive why Cheney would make such an accusation against Arthur Allen. This is RO's observation and not Ronald Allen's. Ronald had no knowledge of any notes possessed by his brother such as described by Tucker. He did have knowledge of a grey metal box in his brother's bedroom. Stated as far as he knew his brother owned two guns, both .22 caliber revolvers. Also of the opinion brother drank to excess and had a definite problem as far as children were concerned. Ronald stated if he could develop anything which might assist in investigation he would contact RO.

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RO contacted Bob Luce, owner-operator of the Arco Service Station, 640 Broadway. Mr. Luce was informed we were conducting an investigation on a former employee but not informed as to what.

He stated Allen had been employed by him on a part-time basis for approximately six months. He was undependable and had a drinking problem. Again the subject of children came up. He seemed to be too interested in small girls. After several warnings regarding Allen coming to work under the influence of intoxicants or of not showing up as scheduled, Luce terminated his employment. Work records show he was discharged in April 1969. Luce recalls Tucker having his car at his service station, but he does not think it was for a two-week period. In any event, this would seem to negate the possibility Allen could have used this particular car on July 4, 1969 as he was no longer employed by Luce and no one can recall the exact date vehicle was left at station.

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RO contacted Mrs. Philip (Joan) Tucker at her residence 215 Daniels. Mrs. Tucker was questioned regarding the papers shown her by Allen which contained some type of code. She related substantially the same story as her husband had given. At the time she was shown the writings she was preparing for an examination in college in psychology and admitted that she was very interested in contents of letters. Allen had explained he had received these papers from a patient at Atascadero and Mrs. Tucker's interest was primarily directed towards the working of this person's mind. The exactness and neatness of the printing and of the symbols used made an impression on her. She was shown photostatic copies of some of the codes sent by Zodiac. She identified numerous symbols used in Zodiac code as being the same as she saw in the papers shown her by Allen. It was her recollection these papers were drawn with a felt-point pen.

5:30 PM

Mr. Tucker arrived home from work. He was also shown the Zodiac codes and also stated they appeared the same as those shown him by Allen. Mr. Tucker was questioned further regarding when he left his 1964 Corvair at the service station, 640 Broadway, where Allen was employed. He could not recall the date. He did state that after this time when the car was not sold he had left it parked in front of his father-in-law's home for a considerable period of time. It is possible that Allen could have driven car during this period but

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he has no knowledge that he in fact did. In-laws are in Europe at present time and on return he will ask them if they have any knowledge of Allen using the car during this period. In-laws knew Allen as a friend of Tucker's.

Tucker stated Allen was, in his opinion, a schizophrenic personality. He is an avid reader of science fiction literature and at times seems to live what he has read. He can tell a lie and actually believe what he is telling. Tucker again related Allen's apparent and expressed hatred for women.

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