

Vallejo Mass Murder Threat Fails

Special to The Examiner

VALLEJO — A self-proclaimed killer failed to keep a threat of mass murder here, but there was no slackening of tension or mystery caused by the warning.

The police department telephone system was clogged at times by anxious callers asking if the "cipher killer" had been caught.

Newspapers also reported an above normal number of calls.

Vallejo, however, was without violence despite the supposed killer's ultimatum that if the cipher clues to his identity were not published by daily newspapers here and in San Francisco by Friday evening:

"I will go on a rampage Fry (Friday) night."

Violent Threats

"This will last the whole weekend," wrote the killer, "and I will cruise (cruise) around killing people who are alone until Sun night or until I kill a dozen people."

The writer mailed his threats Thursday in San Francisco to the Vallejo Times-Herald, The San Francisco Examiner, and the Chronicle.

His letters contained "confessions" of three long unsolved local murders plus weird ciphers supposedly containing clues to his identity.

Earlier Murders

The murders were those of a high school boy and girl found shot to death on rural Lake Herman Road last December 20, and the July 4 slaying of a 22 year old Vallejo woman in a park not far from the other slaying scene.

Each newspaper received a different cipher and, according to the letter, the puzzle could only be solved by bringing the three together.

Code Not Broken

Police Chief Jack E. Stiltz has done just that. He dispatched the ciphers to the nearby Navy base for analysis by a cryptographer.

The latest report was that the code had not been broken.

Stiltz said he still is not convinced the letters and codes were written by the actual killer although the letters contained details of the crimes that are not public knowledge.

Details

The letter writer described clothing of the victims, position of the bodies, and even the brand names of the ammunition used.

Stiltz said such knowledge could have been obtained from any witness at the death scenes.

The police chief urged the writer yesterday to send more letters with more facts to prove his connections with the crimes.

He warned Vallejo residents to avoid lonely places and know whom they were admitting to their homes.

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August 3, 1969
S. F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

TO EXAMINER

Z K 9 1 I 0 W P Z A L M R A B
B P D R T T 0 N 6 3 E U H X F
Z 9 0 V W J 0 1 L 0 J A R O H
I A D R O T Y R 1 0 3 / 0 X J 0 A
P 0 H A R U L 7 L 0 N V E K H T G
R I Z J X 0 A L M J N A 0 Z 0 P
0 U 9 X A 0 B V W 1 + V T L 0 P
A 7 5 R J 7 U 3 0 0 A 0 0 G 0 0 I M

TO CHRONICLE

N X 0 3 E / A 0 0 Z 7 A P B V
9 3 X 0 W 0 F 0 A 0 0 A A B
0 0 T 0 R U 0 0 0 Y 0 0 A S 0 W
V Z 3 6 Y K E 0 T Y A 0 0 L L 0
H I F B X 0 0 X A 0 0 A L T 0 P
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 P O R X 0 F 0 G 0
Z 0 J T L 0 0 A J I + R B P 0 W 0
V E X R A W I 0 P E H M 0 T U I X

TO TIMES-HERALD

A 0 P / Z / U B 0 X 0 R X 9 X B
W V + 3 6 Y F 0 A H P 0 K 0 0 Y 3
M 7 Y A U I X A 0 P T L N 0 Y 0 0
S 0 / A 0 B P O R A U 0 7 R J 0 E
X A L M Z J 0 9 1 9 F H V W 3 A Y
0 + 0 0 D A K I 0 0 0 X A 0 0 S 0
R N L T Y E J 0 A 0 G B T G S B B
L 0 / P B 0 X P E H M U A R R X

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Sat, Aug 25, 2018