

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
L. KINKEAD
CHIEF



RADIO STATION KMB 401

October 20, 1969

REF: 352-481

Larl Randol
Sneriff of Napa County
Napa, California 94558

Attention Captain Donald A. Townsend

Dear Sir:

This letter is in reference to our telephone conversation of 10-17-69 regarding the similar M.O. of your "Zodiac" suspect and the suspect of our homicide File No. 352-481.

It may aid you to have a brief synopsis of our homicide. It is as follows:

On October 30, 1966, Cheri Jo Bates, a college student at Riverside City College, was brutally murdered. Our investigation revealed that the victim had gone to the city college campus to obtain some books from the library (the library was open on Sunday for the students' benefit). It was established that she had entered the library and checked out three books at approximately 6:00 PM. She returned to her vehicle, which was parked on a city street a short distance from the library, placed her books in the vehicle, and attempted to start her vehicle. The vehicle had been tampered with so it would not start. This was evidently done by the suspect to keep the victim near her vehicle so that the suspect could make his approach.

Our victim then left her vehicle, accompanied by the suspect, and walked approximately 200 feet from her vehicle into a dirt driveway between two houses. These houses were vacant and a part of the school property, having recently been purchased by the city college. While in this driveway area, our victim was attacked with a knife and stabbed numerous times in the chest. She was also stabbed once in the back, and her throat was severely cut, almost to the extent where she was decapitated. In addition to the stab wounds, our victim had been beaten about the

10-24-69 Phoned Det Durlington once into our meneloy - Napa

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE - BOX 88

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NAPA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

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face and had been choked. There was no evidence that the victim had been sexually attacked, as she was fully clothed and the clothing was not disarranged. There was nothing to indicate a motive of robbery, as our victim's purse and its contents were intact. From all indications, the knife used by the suspect was one of approximately a 1/2-inch width blade by 3-1/2 inches long.

One month after the homicide, letters were received at the Press and our department written by the suspect of our homicide. The suspect used a black felt pen to address the envelopes and had used upper case print. The confession letter was typed. There are numerous errors in spelling, punctuation, etc., as you will notice.

The person who wrote the confession letter is aware of facts about the homicide that only the killer would know. There is no doubt that the person who wrote the confession letter is our homicide suspect.

The original of this letter was evidently destroyed or kept by the suspect, as the Press and our department received a carbon copy of the original. These carbon copies were a fourth or fifth copy and difficult to read. A photograph of this letter and the envelopes is attached. A reproduction of the confession letter is also attached. It should be noted that the copies received by the Press and our department were on plain white paper of poor quality. Width of the paper is 8 inches. The length of the paper is unknown, as the suspect (a peculiarity) tore off the bottom and top of the paper. (Refer to the photographs.)

It might be worthwhile to note that just outside the city limits of Riverside is located March Air Force Base, a SAC base. Physical evidence found at the scene of our crime indicated that heel prints found near the body were made by a heel that was manufactured for military and other government agencies, including prisons.

We were able to lift some latent fingerprints from the victim's vehicle. These prints were not identified. Our unidentified prints are on file with the FBI under the FBI File No. 32-27195, Latent Case No. 73096. Copies of the latent lifts from your homicide were obtained from CII and sent to the FBI for comparison with the latent lifts of our investigation.

There are numerous similarities in your homicide and our Inv. 352-481. I thought you should be aware that we are working a similar-type homicide investigation. If you are able to determine by

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handwriting comparison or by any other means that your homicide suspect is the same as ours, please advise. I will notify you of the results in comparing your latent lifts with ours as soon as I hear from the FBI.

I hope this information may aid you in your investigation. Please be assured of our complete cooperation in all matters of mutual interest.

Yours very truly,

L. T. KINKEAD
Chief of Police

H. L. Homsher
H. L. Homsher, Sergeant
Detective Division

HLH:seb

- Attachments:
1. Two reproductions of the confession letter.
 2. Photograph of the envelope received by the Press.
 3. A photograph of the envelope received by our department.
 4. Two Xerox copies of envelopes received (after having been processed for fingerprints).

Cy to: Chief of Police, San Francisco Police Department