

Oldest Daily
In the West

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Teen-age boys scare off rapist

By JOHN HANNAWAY
Staff Writer

A group of newly teenage boys early Saturday morning accomplished what police haven't been able to do for more than a year and a half—prevent a rape by the man believed to be the east area rapist.

The Southern youths who wandered by the Peoria Farms home of the man known victim of the elusive rapist apparently followed his plus and scared him off, according to sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller.

The latest victim, although spared the degradation of being raped, was slightly injured, Miller said.

Good Morning

New danger in smog

Sacramento Union News Services

IRVINE — Low levels of nitrogen dioxide usually found in the air on smoggy days can destroy human and animal lung cells, contends a team of University of California at Irvine scientists.

This is the same person," Miller said. "However, they can't be as sure on this one as the others."

Miller said.

Begin, Callaghan confer

LONDON — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, once Britain's most wanted guerrilla in Palestine, met for 90 minutes Saturday night with Prime Minister James Callaghan.

At least the beginning phases of the latest attack followed the m.o., or method of operation, of the rapist, Miller continues.

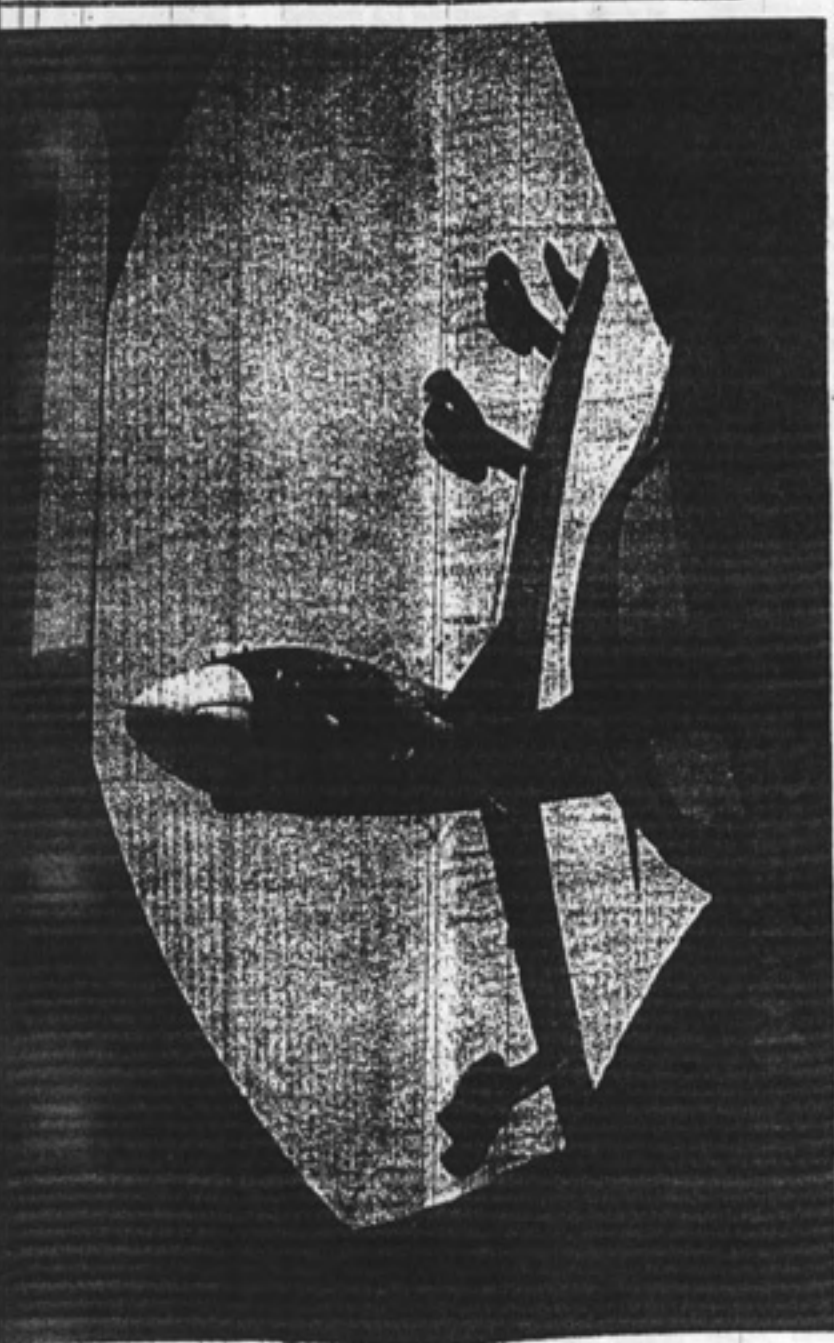
Miller said.

The Israeli leader spent the Jewish Sabbath at his hotel until sundown when he began the official part of his six-day visit to Britain. Then he rode to Callaghan's residence at 10 Downing St. in a convoy of vehicles flanked by police. Other police cordoned off the street and kept a small group of Palestinian demonstrators 200 yards away and out of sight.

His latest victim, described to be in her mid 30s, was startled from her sleep with a blinding flashlight glaring in her face.

Miller said.

Begin left all aides and advisers behind and met alone with Callaghan, who was the first Western leader to be briefed personally



the strangulation murders of 10 young women is not believed by investigators to be involved in the killings, police said Saturday.

Li. Dan Cooke said "it does not appear" that 26-year-old Bennett Merrett of Heesperia was involved in the "Hillside Strangler" killings.

Merrett remained in custody in lieu of \$30,000 bond on a robbery-rape charge in a case involving another young woman.

Merrett was booked Friday for the

Washington
The friend, whose name was not released, had reported being robbed and sexually attacked.
Merrett's arrest at first appeared to be a major break in the case.
Several articles of women's clothing were found in his car and were checked to determine whether they belonged to any of the victims, police said. Merrett is a clothing salesman.

Teen-agers scare off rape suspect

From A1

posing as the east area rapist exists. The sequence of events changed after the attacker forced the woman out of her bedroom and into another room where he tied her up.

"From this point on there was a lot of missing m.o factors," Miller said.

But he listed the chance that Friday's attack was that of a copy cat as "very slim."

He said the attacker "became very, very nervous" when the loud voices of the teen-agers continued without passing.

Once the victim was sure the attacker had left, she was able to reach a telephone which she knocked over and called a family friend for help.

"The friend couldn't get in the front door and finally went around to the back where he came in through a sliding glass door," Miller said.

The victim made her call around 2 a.m., Miller said, and the sheriff's weren't notified until 2:40, giving the rapist ample time to vanish.

The combination of the distractions outside the house and "a lot of crying" by the victim probably led to a premature departure, Miller said.

"He's never had anything like this

before, like a threat from the outside," Miller said. "It was a significant period of time."

Once described as a man battling a "homosexual panic," the rapist has perplexed law enforcers' attempts to ensnare him. He first struck in June 1976. The last attack was Nov. 10, when a 15-year-old was raped.

The rapist, however, has never physically harmed his victims or their spouses with his weapons, sheriff's deputies report.

His threats and treatment of his victims when he ties them up and rapes them is frightening enough, Miller said.

"Mentally, it's a very traumatic experience," he said.

Friday's attack marks the second time the Foothill Farms area has been the site of the east area rapist's attacks. The first assault came Oct. 21.

After that rape, more than 900 residents of the area jammed a local junior high school to listen to sheriff's officers tell them what is being done to corral the attacker.

Miller said interviews with possible suspects has become a "continual process" and said as many new names fill the vacancies as left by suspects the sheriff's investigators have discounted.

tri-motored monoplane, "Question Mark," in the air over Los Angeles for nearly one week.

In 43 meetings between the Fokker and a Douglas biplane, 5,400 gallons of gasoline were transferred, as well as containers of food and lubricants and such amenities as fur-lined boots.

THE AIRBORNE odyssey of the dashing fliers—attired not in uniform but in "golf shoes, golf socks, natty gray trousers, sport shirts and sporty ties"—gripped the imagination of the American public, was filmed extensively for exciting movie newsreels and occupied the front pages of the nation's newspapers in bold banner headlines.

As the historic flight ended on Jan. 7, 1929, after 151 hours aloft, The Associated Press reported, "The flight has proven in a most emphatic way the practicability of refueling heavily laden aircraft in mid-air—a demonstration bound to be of tremendous value in the further development of commercial as well as military air activities because of the time-saving and load-increasing factors it offers."

Nearly 30 years later, the prophecy is fulfilled.

Today, aerial tankers refuel bombers, cargo planes and fighters and the Strategic Air Command maintains some tankers on 24-hour ground alert, a task that will soon be shared (along with the base's active-duty tanker squadron) by the 940th Air Refueling Group, a 780-member reserve unit at Mather Air Force Base.

FLYING WITH THE 940th, as we climb out of hazy morning mist heading into a sparkling burnt-orange sunrise over the snow-capped Sierra, Capt. Gary Larson explained the training mission.

The B-52, with call sign "ANTE 29," is to take off after Mather control sandwiches us—"SOSO 31"—between other B-52s waiting massive and intimidating on the runway.

"We'll head over eastern Nevada into Utah, with the B-52 a ways behind us," Larson said. "He'll give us a call and we'll turn back and meet him."

The appointed meeting place has nothing to mark it, no street signs 28,000 feet above Utah and a huge cloud bank. No

Liberals assail Carter, Brown

From A1

ed at the day-long "evaluation conference." Carter's appointments and policies were criticized by nearly every participant while the report on Brown—although critical overall—was mixed.

"When he first came into office, my impression was that he had a vision of what could be done, and that it involved a commitment to helping people and to being an activist governor," Dean Tibbs of the California Tax Reform Association said of Brown.

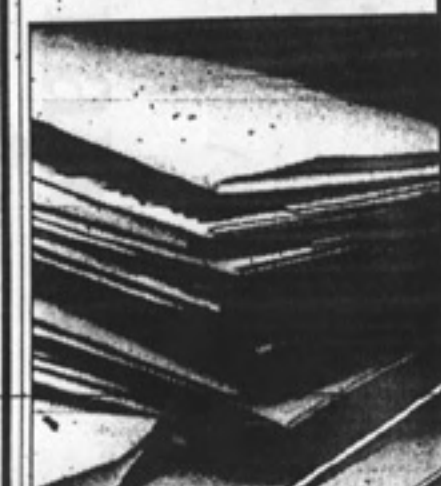
In the last two years, the commitment to helping people has been replaced

by personal goals," Tibbs said. "I think what happened was he decided to run for president."

William Bennett, Democratic chairman of the State Board of Equalization, also criticized Brown, who challenged Carter last year for the Democratic nomination for president, for changing his positions for political motives.

"What is very disturbing is apparently the pattern is growing. Whatever public posture President Carter takes on issues, Gov. Brown takes the opposite within reason," Bennett said.

Worldwide diam price increases have been announced



Tax relief