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# East Area Rapist Still Baffles Police

By WARREN HOLLOWAY  
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Bee Staff Writers

Since the East Area rapist struck in Concord, Sacramento area police agencies have taken a fresh look at their own files and have concluded the crimes are as baffling as ever.

In a review last week, Sacramento County sheriff's deputies did revise the number of sexual attacks attributed to the East Area rapist to 39, dropping the last one he was thought to have committed in the county.

Sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller said detectives decided the June 27 rape of a Rancho Cordova woman was really the crime of another rapist, one of four suspects arrested in the past two months and charged with several counts of rape.

An earlier rape in the county's East Area was dropped from the list of the terrorist's victims about two weeks before, when an 18-year-old was charged with that rape and several others, Miller said.

"There are probably more on (the list) that aren't his," Miller said. "But they are close enough (to his method of operation) to put on the list for investigative purposes."

With the recent revisions in the bulky files, detectives now believe the elusive East Area rapist has not attacked in the Sacramento area for more than six months, last striking a babysitter in the city's South Area April 14.

The rapist's seven attacks since then have been committed in Stockton, Modesto, Davis and Concord.

The pooled files of the six police agencies show he has attacked 26 girls and women in the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County, four in the city limits of Sacramento, two in Stockton, two in Modesto, three in Davis and two in Concord.

The files show little else.

With so many victims — including 15 husbands and boyfriends overpowered and bound and some of the victims' two dozen children awakened and locked in bathrooms — there is no crisp description of the man who has caused panic in entire cities.

Nor have any solid clues been left in any of the invaded homes.

The East Area rapist has always worn gloves and some type of ski mask during his crimes, preventing

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## Aerojet Gets Rocket Work

The U.S. Air Force has announced the awarding of a \$19.3 million contract to Aerojet Solid Propulsion Co. of Sacramento for the overhaul of 62 second-stage rocket systems for Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Aerojet spokesman Rick Williams said Monday the contract, which extends to December 1980, calls for removing fuel from the solid-state propellant systems and overhauling the engines before refueling them. The first delivery to the Air Force is scheduled for next February.

Williams said Aerojet has the potential for further Minuteman second-stage engine overhauls.

Aerojet manufactured second-stage engines for the nation's arsenal of 1,000 Minuteman missiles, the backbone of the nation's land-based ICBMs during the 1960s and 1970s. Production of the missiles has since been completed and Aerojet is now working on development contracts for the new proposed "MX" ICBM as well as a variety of tactical missile engine systems and new-generation propulsion systems for naval warships.

By PAM SLATE  
Bee Staff Writer

GALT — A man was killed in a residential neighborhood when his single-engine plane fell off an apartment house roof through a 30-foot tree and ignited as it came to a stop on the Southern Pacific railroad.

The Sacramento County office identified the victim as Vaughn Hastings, a 63-year-old employed real estate broker in Porterville in Tulare County. The route and destination of the gold Piper Cherokee was not immediately known.

The cause of the 2:30-p.m. crash is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The northeasterly path of the plane took it through a sparsely wooded residential area before it crashed at the intersection of 3rd and F streets, narrowly missing motorists at the landmark church.

No one on the ground was injured. A 5-year-old girl in a pickup truck received minor injuries when the plane's battery fell into the truck's front window.

According to witnesses, the plane apparently under full power fell off an apartment house roof with its landing gear before falling through phone lines and a large flowering locust tree.

The tree ripped off the plane's wings and stripped the engine. The propeller fell a few feet from the tree trunk.

The craft then crashed on asphalt, spraying wreckage over a two-block area. The pilot was thrown about 50 feet from the crash site.

Ron Johnson, 29, who lives five blocks from the crash site, returning from a restaurant with his neighbor children when he saw the plane come toward his pickup truck.

"Thank God I wasn't a few feet through that intersection. I would have gotten most of it."

Shannon Renner, 5, a passenger in Johnson's pickup, received injuries from the broken glass and the plane's battery smashed through the vehicle's windshield. He

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rate of five feet a year and area residents were pumping 120,000 acre-feet of water more from the underground water basin each year than was percolating into it.

Because of this "overdraft," the statement continues, "ancient saline

carrying the many gifts — including a giant stuffed elephant — Mary had received from well-wishers during her hospital stay.

The sheriff's detective drove the group off to an undisclosed destination.

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## Rapist

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fingerprints and views of his face.

Apparently only one person has ever knowingly seen his face unmasked, a woman who caught a glimpse before the rapist entered a neighbor's house, detectives said.

The rapist's victims themselves have been able to agree only that he is white, has bright blue to hazel eyes and dirty blond to medium brown hair.

The uncertain descriptions beyond that have put the rapist's age from late teens to early 30s, his height from 5-foot-8 to 6 feet, his build from muscular to slender.

But one point of agreement in the victims' reports is that the rapist is foul-mouthed during his rambling invasions of their homes. He sometimes seems to delight in whispering four-letter obscenities repeatedly in his victims' ears, detectives have said.

Beyond the sexual assaults, bondage and mental torment, the rapist is known to have injured two of his victims — an East Area woman who suffered minor cuts in one of his early attacks and a Davis woman who had to be hospitalized for extensive medical treatment after she was beaten into submission by the rapist.

However, many detectives believe there is rightfully a third name on the wounded list, that of a youth from the Glenbrook area of east Sacramento who was shot in the stomach Feb. 16,

1977, by a prowler he and his father chased from their back yard.

The East Area rapist, who displayed a knife in his early attacks, began using a gun in his crimes shortly after that shooting incident, detectives noted.

The rapist, who started his sexual attacks in June 1976, was most active in May 1977. That is when, after raping 17 women who were home alone, the terrorist started victimizing sleeping couples. He tied the men in bed, placed dishes, which would rattle with movement, on their backs, led their wives and girlfriends to other parts of the houses and committed a total of five more rapes before the month was out.

That series of attacks caused police to beef up patrols and organize a 48-officer task force to concentrate on the sexual terrorist.

It also caused scared and angry residents of the East Area to organize neighborhood patrols, tripled handgun sales in Sacramento County and prompted lock and alarm sales to skyrocket in the pattern of panic that was to be repeated in Stockton, Modesto, Davis and now Concord.

After that busy month, the rapist did not attack again until September 1977, when he emerged in Stockton for his first known assault outside Sacramento County. He is believed to have struck in the Sacramento area seven times, since.

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## Debate

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criminal. The punishment should fit the crime."

Matsui indicated the principal federal involvement should be in redirecting Law Enforcement Assistance Administration money from hardware to assistance to the victims of crimes.

But, he maintained, crime control still should be at the local level, gov-

The main accusations leveled by the two involved their respective records in local office — she as a county supervisor and he as a city councilman.

Matsui asserted that Mrs. Smoley could be held accountable for a nearly \$1 million increase in the cost of a bicycle bridge across the American River because of delay by the Board of Supervisors in approving a site bit-

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