

# Coded Clue in Murders

A man who claimed he shot and killed two Vallejo teen-agers last December and a young woman on July 4 threatened yesterday to kill 12 more this weekend.

The menacing message came in unsigned letters mailed to the editors of The Chronicle, the Vallejo Times-Herald and the San Francisco Examiner.

"Here is part of a cipher," the letter said in part. "In this cipher is my identity."

"If you do not print this cipher by the afternoon of Fry, (Friday), I will go on a kill rampage Fry night."

### PEOPLE

"I will cruise (cruise) around all week end killing lone people in the night, then move until to kill again until I end up with a dozen people over the week end."

The covering letter listed what the writer called "some facts which only I and the police know," such as the brands of ammunition used and the positions in which the bodies were found.

Vallejo police said most of

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This code may conceal Vallejo killer's identity

the material was actually common public knowledge, but officers took the letter seriously anyhow. They learned last month that the killer of Darlene Ferrin, 22, who was slain July 4, was a man with a bizarre craving for attention.

Half an hour after the girl was killed, the police received an anonymous phone call from a man who said he shot her and a young com-

panion while they were parked in Blue Rock Springs Park.

### VICTIMS

The other victims the man claimed were Thomas Faraday, 17, and Bettilou Jensen, 16, who were shot while they were parked on Lake Herman road, three miles from Blue Rock Springs Park, last December 20.

"We're not satisfied that

the letter was written by the murderer, but it could have been," Police Chief Jack E. Stiltz of Vallejo said. He requested the writer to send a second letter "with more facts to prove it."

The three newspapers turned over their letters to Vallejo police, and the ciphered message in turn was given to a Navy cryptographer in the hope that he could decode it.

## Six Plead Not Guilty in Brodnik Case

Six accused killers of Patrolman Joseph Brodnik pleaded not guilty to murder yesterday.

The pleas were entered during the afternoon, following a morning appearance marked by raucous cheers and the clenched-fist salute from dozens of Mexican-Americans in the courtroom.

Superior Court Judge Joseph Karesh had not been amused.

He warned the friends and supporters of "Los Siete de la Raza" (seven of the race) that their applause was "unwise" and "could be prejudicial."

Karesh denied a motion by Attorney Charles R. Garry, who represents five of the six defendants in custody, for a dismissal of the murder charges. He also refused to grant bail.

### EVIDENCE

Karesh, the controversial judge in the equally controversial manslaughter trial this year of police officer Michael O'Brien, said the evidence in the Grand Jury transcript shows "reasonable and probable cause" for a murder trial.

Karesh said that in death-penalty cases each of the defendants ought to have his own lawyer because of a "possible conflict of interest."

The judge asked Garry, who defended Black Panther Huey P. Newton and the Oakland Seven, if he intends to represent Jose Rios, 18, Danilo Melandez, 18, Gary Lewcalle, 19, Rudolfo Martinez, 20 and Jose Martinez, 17.

"I haven't made up my mind," said Garry.

### APPEAL

The lawyer said he would

## Assembly Unit OKs Tax Break Bill

### Sacramento

The Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee approved yesterday a bill which would give California income taxpayers a 10 per cent across-the-board tax credit for 1969.

Favorable action by the Ways and Means Committee will be required before the bill can reach the Assembly.

The bill, if enacted into law, would return an estimated \$84 million to the taxpayers.

Originally, Governor Ronald Reagan proposed to re-

turn \$100 million in tax credits, but changes made during the hearings cut this to \$84 million.

A bill by Senator George Moscone (Dem.-S.F.) to give a 20 per cent tax credit was defeated by the Republican-dominated committee.

Senator George Deukmejian (Rep.-Long Beach) said the Governor felt the taxpayers who were hit heavily by the 1967 tax increases should be entitled to a return from the surplus resulting from the income tax boost.

Our Correspondent

## Stopgap Financing

# Water Plan Bills Sent to Reagan

### Sacramento

The Legislature overrode Southern California opposition yesterday and authorized the Reagan Administration to arrange stop-gap financing for construction of the State water project.

"I'm in favor of water, but we don't have to finance it this way," complained Senator John C. Schmitz (Rep.-Tustin) in urging defeat of legislation aimed at assuring that the project won't grind to a halt.

But the Senate turned aside the objections of Schmitz and other Southern Californians and sent to Governor Ronald Reagan legislation authorizing an increase in the interest rate on bonds and authorizing sale of bond anticipation notes. The legislation previously had passed the Assembly.

Unless the state provides special additional funds, the \$3 billion water project will

## Bill Doubles Jordan's Pension

### Sacramento

The Senate sent to Governor Ronald Reagan yesterday a bill doubling the retirement benefits for ailing Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan.

The 80-year-old Jordan suffered a massive stroke three months ago that paralyzed his right side and left him unable to speak. But the seven-term State officer has given no indication that he plans to retire and to give up the post he has held since 1942.

## Bay Girl Dies of Heroin Overdose

A 16-year-old San Leandro high school girl died early yesterday of an overdose of heroin, administered by a man in his early 30s who is now being sought by East Bay police.

The girl, Darlene Prevatt,

was arrested for drug use.

It was he, the 17-year-old girl told authorities, who gave Darlene a shot of "real good stuff."

### COLLAPSE

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## Opposition to Move of Navy Post Office

By Jerry Burns

A strong statement urging that the Fleet Post Office — where 700 postal workers handle the mail for all Navy men in the Pacific — be kept in San

## Southern Crossing Design Attacked

Two architects, one of them president of the Northern California chapter of the American Institute of Architects, yesterday criticized the "tied arch" design of the Southern Crossing bridge.

Chapter president George

simply because it seems the least offensive.

"All four of the proposed designs seem relatively mundane and none achieve that ingredient found in the Golden Gate Bridge — namely the ability to inspire and to elate a person's spirit."

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