

Foothill Farms

Rapist Gets 25th Victim

By WARREN HOLLOWAY
and THOM AKEMAN

Bee Staff Writers

The East Area rapist shifted to the Foothill Farms area today to attack a sleeping couple, ransack their home and leave them to be untied by their two small children, sheriff's deputies reported.

The rapist entered a home northeast of the Elkhorn Boulevard and Diablo Drive intersection about 3 a.m., sheriff's deputies said.

He wore a ski mask and carried a pistol and a knife to overpower the couple in their bedroom, deputies said.

It was the 25th attack in 16 months attributed to the rapist. Twenty-two have occurred in the North or East Area, one in the South Area and one in Stockton.

The rapist last struck Oct. 1 when he raped a 17-year-old girl who was visiting her boyfriend in the La Riviera-Folsom Boulevard area.

In today's attack, the rapist forced open a side door on the garage, then broke through a kitchen door to enter the home, said sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller.

"This is one of the few forced entries of the East Area rapist," Miller said. The man has more routinely entered the homes of his victims by snapping open sliding glass doors. Neither of the doors in today's entry were secured with dead bolts, Miller noted.

The rapist awakened the sleeping couple, tied the man on the bed then led the woman to another part of the house where he tied her and repeatedly raped her, deputies said. It is the same pattern the rapist has followed in his last nine strikes.

"As sure as we can be, this was the East Area rapist," Miller said. "He had the same M.O. (method of operation)."

The rapist stayed in the house about an hour and a half but did not awaken the children, Miller said. He left with the husband still tied in the bed and restricted by dishes placed on his body, the woman tied in a chair.

The couple waited until they were
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Law, Delia Witnesses Make Trade

By WAYNE WILSON
Bee Staff Writer

Two witnesses in the Ellen Delia murder case provided authorities with information on six to eight slayings in California in exchange for money and limited immunity; testimony revealed Thursday.

Lt. Dale Ostrom of the Los Angeles Police Department's major crimes investigating section told the court his office has provided both Armando Varela and Edward C. Gonzalez with "what we like to call domestic expenses."

And Fresno County Chief Deputy District Attorney Douglas Low said his office has paid Varela on at least two occasions.

According to the grand jury indictment charging four men with the murder of Mrs. Delia last Feb. 17 in Sacramento, Gonzalez actually took part in the killing with the "shooter," Alfred R. Sosa.

Sosa is in jail awaiting a Jan. 2 trial date, but Gonzalez is in hiding under

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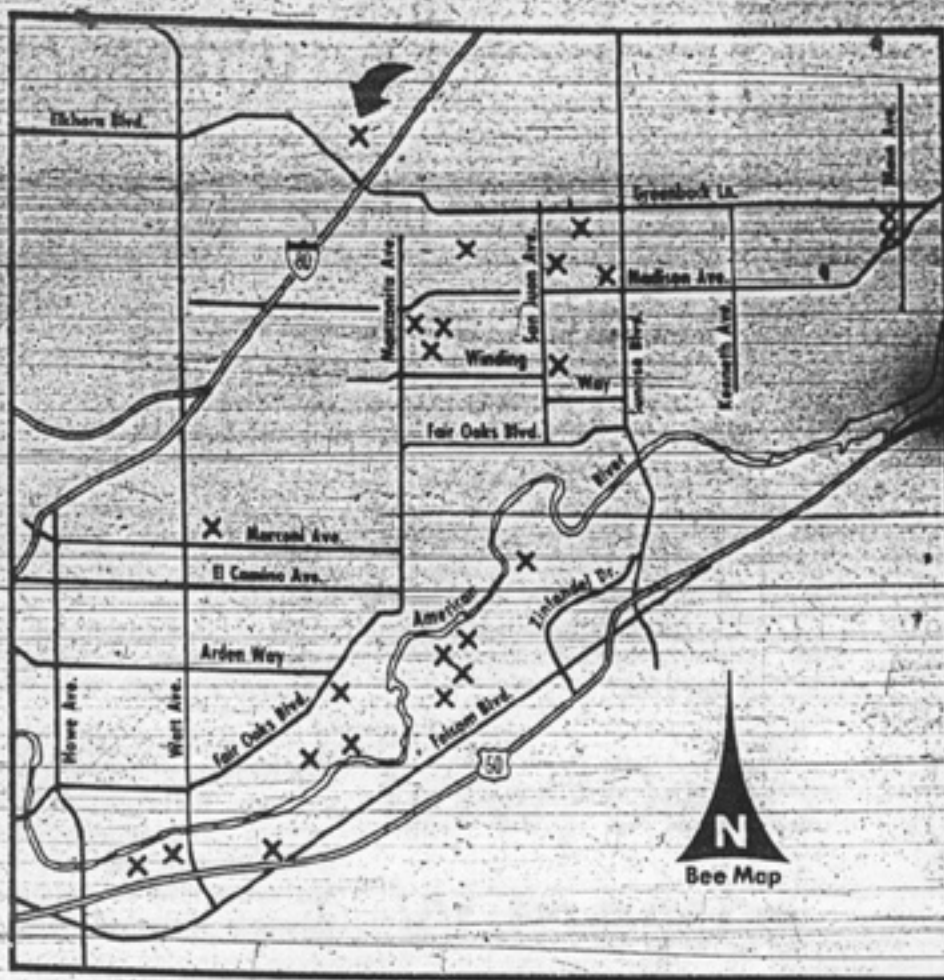
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The East Area rapist has struck at these locations.

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Rapist Strikes

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sure the attacker was gone, then awakened their children and had them untie them, Miller said. They called the sheriff's office at 4:35 a.m.

Miller refused to reveal further details of the rapist's activities in the home or say if the attacker left any messages for police or the press, as he has done in other strikes.

The rapist first struck June 18, 1976. His first 16 attacks were against women who were either home alone or home with their small children. The invader awakened and tied up the children in at least one case.

The last nine attacks attributed to the East Area rapist have involved couples. His pattern is to awaken them as they are in their bedrooms, point the gun and knife at them, order the woman to tie the man, place dishes on the man and tell him his wife will be killed if the dishes rattle.

lead the woman into another part of the house, rape her, tie her in a chair, ransack the house, then return to rape the woman again.

Only two of the rapist's attacks have started outside the victims' homes, with one woman and one couple confronted at gunpoint in front of their homes. The other 23 have occurred after the rapist broke into the homes of his sleeping victims.

The rapist has been described as a "paranoid schizophrenic" acting in a homosexual panic caused by feelings of sexual inadequacy. That was contained in a psychological profile released by sheriff's detectives in May.

The terrorist has attacked irregularly since then, striking in the South Area May 28, in Stockton Sept. 6, back in the East Area Oct. 1 and in the North Area today.

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