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ROLE IN RAPE CASE TIED TO PAY CLAIM

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William N. Miller, former spokesman for the Sacramento County Sheriff's office, talked about his role in the **East Area rapist** investigation Wednesday during a hearing on Miller's claim for disability pay and \$50,000 in back pay.

Miller raised the subject of the infamous **rapist**, who terrorized and raped more than 40 women in Northern California and **East** Sacramento in the late 1970s, to support his own contention that he was a sworn deputy when he served as assistant to ex-Sheriff Duane Lowe.

The county is challenging Miller's claim in a State Workers' Compensation Appeals Board hearing that began Wednesday and is scheduled to last three days.

Miller testified all day Wednesday. Lowe, Sheriff Robbie Waters and Undersheriff Dee Reynolds also are expected to testify.

Miller maintains he is entitled to \$196-a-week in temporary disability pay and to his nearly \$50,000 annual salary for one year because he suffered emotional damage about a year ago at the hands of Waters and Reynolds.

Waters could not be reached for comment Wednesday and Reynolds said he could not comment because he expects to testify at the hearing. The county's attorney, Alan R. Darneille, also declined to comment on the case.

As proof that he was a sworn deputy, Miller testified under oath that he developed initial evidence about one suspect in the **East Area rapist** case, but a saliva test cleared the man. The name and the evidence have since been sealed because the suspect was cleared, Miller testified.

But, during a recess, Miller revealed that the **rapist** carries telltale sperm that is as identifiable as fingerprints.

Miller said the **rapist**, who dropped out of sight and has never been caught, secretes blood into his body fluids, including saliva and sperm, and that it was one way sheriff's deputies knew one person committed the series of rapes. He also said investigators often rushed the rape victims to hospitals for sperm samples in search of the telltale blood.

Miller also submitted 28 exhibits to Compensation Board Judge Joanne Andrews, including his badge, pistols, uniforms and gunbelt to support his contention of being a sworn deputy.

Miller testified that both Waters and Reynolds lied to him and treated him amicably even when

rumors reached Miller about his pending demotion from his post as public spokesman and assistant to the sheriff.

Miller acknowledged that he worked in Lowe's losing 1982 re-election campaign, but said the volunteer service was done after working hours. He also said he worked in Lowe's initial campaign 12 years earlier.

Miller, 45, said he expected to lose his spokesman position under the new sheriff.

But he said he was not psychologically prepared for either the suddenness or the loss of status and has only returned to work twice since Waters demoted him. His insurance is paying for continuing psychiatric treatment, Miller said.