

## **California Couples Killer Quiet Since 1984... But Police Fear He Could Strike Again.**

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Death Count: 10

The California Couples Killer hasn't struck since 1984 [actually 1986], but cops are haunted by the idea that he could resume his deadly rampage at any time.

"Serial Killers don't just stop," declares Larry Pool, of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Thanks to advances in DNA testing, detectives in southern California recently linked 10 homicides [to get 10 they must be including the 4 Goleta murders. In reality the DNA count is 6 murders and three non-murder rapes] between 1979 and 1984 [1986] to one man, and Pool has been leading the search for the killer.

He fears he's in prison for a lesser crime, counting the days until he is released. "He could get out tomorrow and do it again," says Pool.

The couples killer first struck in 1979. Abraham Himmel and Jennifer Horinek, both 33, were sound asleep in their home near Santa Barbara when they were awakened by the man. Shining a bright light into their eyes, he ordered them to keep perfectly still.

As he stared at her naked body, Horinek bolted from the house. Himmel also ran to safety. They escaped, but the next couple wasn't so lucky.

Several weeks later, the killer broke into the home of Alexandra Manning and Robert Offerman, who were found bludgeoned to death [they were shot].

Eight more couples [actually even counting Goleta there were only three more couples and two single women victims—a total of eight victims, not couples] —were bludgeoned to death, always with something the killer found in their home.

In 1980, Charlene and Lyman Smith were beaten to death with a log from their fireplace in their Ventura County home. A short time later, newlyweds Keith and Patrice Harrington were murdered in Laguna Niguel.

While cops don't know who he is, they've concluded that the Couples Killer is out for revenge: He feels he's been wronged by a woman and wants to punish her and the man in her life.

The killings stopped in 1984 [1986]. Maybe the killer is in prison or an accident left him unable to kill again. "He might have fallen from a motorcycle and become a paraplegic," says Pool. "But it's very doubtful he would have just stopped."