

Sunday 3/20/77

Rapist Hits 17th Victim

A 16-year-old Rancho Cordova high school student apparently became the 17th victim of the east area rapist when she returned to her darkened home alone to pick up some clothes before spending the night with a girlfriend.

The victim's family was away for the evening sheriff's deputies said yesterday, and the intruder was waiting inside. The attack occurred about 10:45 p.m. Friday.

"He was either waiting for the girl, or was there to burglarize the house," said Bill Miller, a sheriff's depart-

Fear and precaution in east area neighborhoods. Story, photos on Page C1.

ment spokesman. He declined to comment on the status of the investigation.

The victim Friday night was the sixth in a relatively small area between Folsom Boulevard and the American River, north of Watt Avenue.

The girl, who lives in the southwest section of Rancho Cordova, said the man was wearing a mask or hood over his head when he came out of one of the rooms in the back of the house after she entered. He tied and gagged her before raping her.

He remained in the house until 11:40 p.m. and escaped out the rear of the house when the victim's friend came to check on her. The girlfriend called the sheriff's department.

Detectives said the rapist entered the house by forcing a door from a garage entrance. They said he took several items from the house, but they would not disclose what they were.

The rape was the first one attributed to the east area rapist since March 8 when a 37-year-old woman was attacked in her home east of Watt Avenue. The rapes began in October 1975. Sixteen other women have been assaulted in the Carmichael, Glenbrook, Del Dayo and Rancho Cordova areas.

The rapist has been described as being 25 to 35 years of age, white, between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet tall, clean shaven, with dark, neatly cut



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The attacks have occurred between 10:45 p.m. and 6:45 a.m., and the victims have ranged in age from 16 to the late 30s. He has never attacked while there was a man in the home, although occasionally there have been children.

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Special customs agent Rollin B. Klaink said the government will present evidence before a federal grand jury next week and seek indictment of four persons for conspiracy, smuggling and customs

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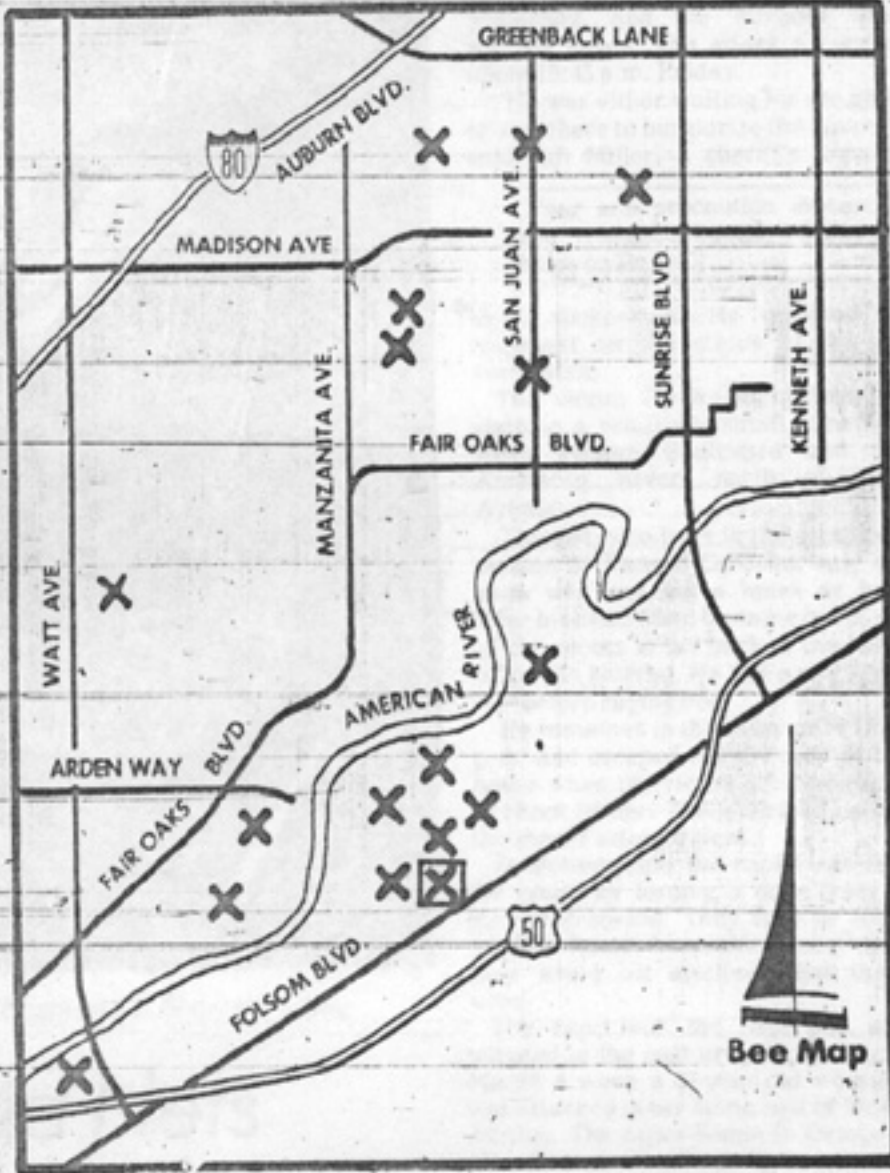
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Square marks latest of rapist's attacks

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