

asked him what had happened to what was once a common profession.

Investigation by Rich revealed that his home town fire department had been answering an increasing number of reports of chimney fires. People weren't keeping their chimneys as clean as they

down my arch. "Actually," he concludes, "learning how to sweep was easy compared to learning how to sweep my hat. It took me 20 chimneys to get that piece of business straight."

Risch plans to complete his tour next week during National Fire Prevention Week.

## North Sacramento Man Shot To Death

A 26-year-old North Sacramento man was shot to death Friday night following an altercation in a bar at the South St.

Household detectives said Robert E. Lee of 2220 Reese Ave. died after being shot once in the chest at 7:30 p. m. in P.O.-Car's Palace. They said four

persons were in the bar at the time of the shooting.

Officers said the shooting occurred when Lee began arguing with a barmaid and the suspect intervened. They said after the fatal shot was fired the suspect jumped in a car with another man and drove away.

## Outhouse Politics

### Couple Become Privy To Placer County Government

By CRAIG JARVIS  
Los Correspondent

CLIPPER GAP, Placer Co. — The flag has been lowered, the outhouse packed up and the trailer reloaded. Les and Ruth Willis are back home now after their highly visible poke at Placer County government brought them the attention they wanted — public exposure and a visit from the planning department.

When they set up the impromptu campsite at the Clipper Gap exit on I-50 north of Auburn Wednesday, complete with a bizarre array of

attractions, quite a few folks took notice.

The couple moved their flag, trailer and outhouse onto the one-acre parcel they own in an effort to show their frustration with county politics. They claim the county had rezoned the land, making it impossible for them to sell the property for commercial use and rendering their investment worthless.

One of those who came to check it out the next day was Russ Perry from the county planning staff.

Perry said the Willises discussed the matter for some time and then the retired couple packed it up and returned home, feeling that their dilemma would perhaps be solved by a meeting with the county planners.

At least, they said, it had better be. But it may not go that smoothly.

Perry says the Willises have the wrong picture, that the county has never rezoned the land they own.

The planner said the land simply isn't large enough to build on with the present zoning restrictions which have been in effect since the 1960s.

# Rape Investigation . . . A Cloud Over 5,000 Local Citizens?

By WARREN HOLLOWAY  
and THOM AXEMAN  
Bay State Writers

More than 5,000 names have been offered to police and sheriff's detectives trying to track down the sexual terrorist known as "the east area rapist."

All but a dozen of the 1,500 names of possible suspects received by city police have been cleared. Lt. Hal Taylor said this week.

The sheriff's office is not being as candid about the 4,000 "suspects" they have, or are, investigating. Sheriff Duane Lower's officials refuse to say what they have done with the 4,000 tips provided to the department in the past five months.

Only the police department responds to the question: What happens to all the names, all the information gathered on so many citizens in the Sacramento area.

Lt. Taylor says the city police have discarded any information reported to them, or developed by them, on all but the remaining 12 persons still considered suspect.

However the other 998-plus names are being kept on file so detectives can avoid reinterviewing men they already have cleared. Taylor explains, if the rapist is ever identified, Taylor continues, the names of the innocent will be discarded.

The sheriff's department is considering to sort out names of possible

suspects, says Chief Deputy Fred Reese. "We are not going to tell how we eliminate people."

Bill Miller, the sheriff's public information officer, also refused to discuss the handling of names or personal files that have accumulated during the rape investigation.

But one detective, Ronald Buchanan, said: "About the only thing we are certain of (at this time) is that he (the rapist) is white and male."

Taylor, the head of the city's homicide squad, more candidly said most of the 1,500 names offered city police as possible suspects were eliminated quickly. "Some have been from anonymous calls, many through The Bee's Secret Witnesses

program," he said. "Some have been obviously vindictive, like someone who didn't like the kid next door. Some have been malicious."

Detectives first screened the names by the collective description of the east area rapist and by the times of his attacks, Taylor said.

The backgrounds of men not eliminated in that screening, then were checked for possible criminal hearings or sexual perversion, Taylor said.

Men still not eliminated from suspicion then were contacted by detectives and interviewed, he said.

"We have kept information concerning those who fall under the good suspect classification. If we have

verified they have backgrounds of major sex offenses and then they can not be ruled out in the other points, they continue to be possible suspects in this or other sex crimes," Taylor said.

There are 17 names in that "good suspect" file, about 1 percent of all the names offered city detectives in the case, Taylor said.

Most of the names flooded into the sheriff's office and police station in May after sheriff's detectives widely publicized their profile of the east area rapist and announced that he has a small penis. Detectives said then they believe the man is a "paranoid schizophrenic" acting in what psychologists call a

"homosexual park" because of "feelings of sexual inadequacy."

The rapist has struck 24 times at irregular intervals since October 1973. Twenty-two attacks have been in homes in the East Area, one in the South Area, one in the section.

The last rape in the series was early last Saturday when the rapist broke into a duplex in the La Rivera-Folsom Boulevard area and attacked a 17-year-old girl who was spending the night with a boyfriend. He followed his pattern of overpowering the couple in bed, tying the man and leading the girl into another part of the house for repeated sexual assaults.

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