

Murder
Mullins

Pair of grisly serial killers seek release from prison

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel staff writer

6-13-88

SANTA CRUZ — Edmund Kemper and Herbert Mullin — two serial killers from the blackest part of Santa Cruz County's dark criminal past — will seek their release from prison this week.

A parole hearing for Kemper, who was convicted of killing and mutilating eight women, including his mother, will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the state Medical Correctional Facility at Vacaville.

The hearing for Mullin, who murdered 11 people, including a Catholic priest, will be held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday at the California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo.

Both men were sentenced to life in prison in 1973 at a time when the

death penalty had been abolished and parole was possible for serial killers.

The Board of Prison Terms has rejected a number of bids for release from both men. It is unlikely a release date will be set this week for either man.

By the time Kemper and Mullin started their killing sprees, Santa Cruz County already was known for one bizarre mass murder. In October 1970, John Lindley Frazier killed local eye surgeon Victor Ohta, his wife and two children and the doctor's secretary, and dumped their bodies in the swimming pool at the Ohta home near Aptos. Frazier said the killings were a payback for damage Ohta had done to the environment.

Mullin was 25 when he testified

at his murder trial that he received "die songs," telepathic messages to offer sacrifices to prevent a catastrophic earthquake on the San Andreas Fault.

Mullin's first offering was his priest, who he stabbed to death in a confessional at a Los Gatos church. Mullin, who had been raised in Felton and graduated from San Lorenzo Valley High School, went on to kill nine more people before slaying his final victim, including a high school chum and his wife, four young campers at Henry Cowell State Park and a mother and her two children in a cabin near the Mystery Spot.

The final victim was 72-year-old Fred Perez, who was shot down as he worked in the front yard of his

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