

Papers missing in Bandler case

SANTA CRUZ.— A judge must decide this morning what to do about original court documents missing from the court file in the Richard Bandler murder case.

Seven volumes of transcripts from the preliminary hearing for Bandler, a noted psychotherapist charged with killing a Capitola prostitute, are missing from the official court file.

Bandler was bound over for trial at that preliminary hearing conducted by Municipal Court Judge Tom Kelly. Bandler's trial in Superior Court is set for Nov. 2.

Kenni Lopes, who supervises the clerks in the Superior Court Clerk's Office, says an office-wide search has failed to turn up the transcripts. This is the first time, she said, such a document has been missing.

She and County Clerk Richard Bedal fear the papers may have been deliberately taken from the

file. Removal of such documents, they say, is a felony.

The Bandler case, because of its sensational aspects and Bandler's involvement with Neuro Linguistic Programming, have prompted world-wide interest.

Both Bandler and a friend, James Marino, were present when Corinne Christensen was shot to death at her Live Oak townhouse on Nov. 3, 1986. Marino is the key prosecution witness, testifying that Bandler pulled the trigger. Bandler claims Marino did the shooting.

A number of writers have expressed interest in publishing articles or books on the case.

It's possible, officials say, that someone took the volumes to avoid expensive duplication costs.

Hopefully, they say, someone has borrowed the documents and will return them when they learn they've unknowingly committed a crime.