

Santa Cruz Suspect's Death

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By Stephen Magagnini

Leslie Grover Wyman, the police-shooting suspect whose body was found in the woods near Santa Cruz early Sunday, took his own life at least five days ago with a semi-automatic pistol he purchased in San Francisco, authorities said yesterday.

Wyman, who was wanted in the shooting of two law officers January 3, died of a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound in the right temple, the Santa Cruz County coroner's office said after an autopsy.

Wyman, 44, was the object of a weeklong hunt after he disappeared into the 13,000-acre Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park north of Santa Cruz after allegedly shooting Deputy Michael Gray and Highway Patrolman Jeff Lee.

Lee was wounded in the thigh and wrist, while Gray was shot twice in the stomach. Gray remains in critical condition in Dominican Hospital, authorities said yesterday.

Wyman's body was found curled in a fetal position under a clump of redwood trees between Highway 9 and the San Lorenzo River, 3½ miles north of Santa Cruz, by a local fisherman Saturday night.

By his side was a single soft-shelled casing and a Star 9mm semi-automatic pistol believed to be the weapon used to wound the two law officers, police said. Wyman purchased the pistol at the San Francisco Gun Exchange six months ago, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Sergeant Carl Kuebler said.

Wyman — the son of the late Gustav Wyman, a San Francisco police officer from 1946 to 1948 — roamed the Santa Cruz Mountains for the past dozen years, living along ravines and in hollow tree stumps, police said.

On Jan. 7, 1982, Wyman was involved in an altercation with San Mateo police, and allegedly tried to draw a revolver from his knapsack when he was subdued by several officers, police said.

Two pistols and a dagger were found in Wyman's knapsack, and he was charged with numerous gun offenses and with resisting arrest, his court-appointed attorney, Steve Dylina, said yesterday.

After interviewing Wyman, Dylina said, "I thought he was insane. He was extremely paranoid, very frightened about being in custody. He thought that someone was going to kill him. He was ranting and raving about signals coming from a television set that were going to physically destroy him."

Dylina said he thought Wyman was dangerous and unfit to stand trial, and made a motion to have Wyman interviewed by two psychological experts "to get him off the street."

But the two court-appointed experts, Dr. Alfred Fricke, a psychologist, and Dr. George Wilkinson, a psychiatrist, found Wyman competent to stand trial.

Yesterday, Fricke told The Chronicle in a telephone interview,

that although he found Wyman competent to stand trial, "that doesn't mean that he's sane. I said he was clearly a menace to society. He was insane, a paranoid schizophrenic."

In a plea-bargain, Wyman pleaded guilty to two lesser charges of resisting arrest and carrying a concealed weapon, and was sentenced to 60 days in the county jail, Dylina said.

Upon his release from jail, Wyman was given court probation, which meant that he did not have to report to anyone other than the

court, and then only if he planned to leave the state, Dylina said.

"What was frustrating to me about a case like this was that I saw this man as a danger," Dylina added.

Bill Amideo, supervising attorney for the Superior Court branch of the San Mateo County district attorney's office, said that Wyman had stayed out of trouble with the law for 10 years up to the 1982 incident, and that the San Mateo case "in and of itself gave rise to no great danger."