

Psychiatrists Admit Kemper Deceived Them

FRESNO (AP)—The former Santa Cruz mental patient accused of murdering eight women including his mother, could have deceived psychiatric examiners into believing him sane, says one of two psychiatrists here who examined him.

The doctor, who concurred with a colleague that Edmund Emil Kemper III was no longer a threat to society, examined him two days after he allegedly killed a 15-year-old girl and dismembered her body.

"If someone wanted to deceive the examiners, regardless of the length of examination, he could present a picture of mental health which might not be there," the psychiatrist said Tuesday in an interview. He asked not be identified.

Kemper, 24, is charged with eight murders in Santa Cruz County, including the slaying of Aiko Koo, 15, on last Sept. 14. Two days after that alleged slaying, two Fresno psychiatrists examined Kemper and found him "no longer a danger to society," Santa Cruz County District Attorney Peter Chang said.

Kemper spent five years in a state mental hospital after being convicted in 1964 of murdering his paternal grandparents in North Fork, Madera County. The psychiatric examinations last September stemmed from attempts to seal Kemper's juvenile record.

"Even if we found him disturbed, he would still have been out in society," the psychiatrist said. "A psychiatrist gives expert testimony but the court decides what to do with the man."

"The examinations were after the fact and were only held because of the request to expunge the records," the psychiatrist said. "We can only go by what information authorities give us and the personal examinations. It appeared he had been cured."

The psychiatrist said he examined the accused murderer for about two hours. A written report was submitted to Madera County Superior Court, he added.

The other psychiatrist who examined Kemper was not available for comment.