

2 Women Slain In Aptos Home; Son Of One Held

Kemper, Edmund

By TOM HONIG
Sentinel Staff Writer

The unclothed bodies of an Aptos woman and her woman friend were found stuffed in closets at the woman's home early today, the sheriff's department reported.

Authorities in Pueblo, Colo., have arrested the slain woman's son, Edmund Emil Kemper, 24, in connection with the deaths.

He was arrested while making a telephone call to Santa Cruz police to confess to the double slaying. While on the line with Santa Cruz police, Colorado authorities were notified and were able to arrest him before he hung up, the Associated Press reported.

The sheriff's department at presstime wasn't able to positively identify the victims, although Sheriff Doug James reported that one of the victims was Kemper's mother.

One source identified the suspect's mother as Clarnell Strandberg, 52, 609A Ord St., Aptos. The other victim has not been identified, but authorities are checking to see if she is Sally Hallett, 59, who was a co-worker at UCSC with Mrs. Strandberg.

A missing person's report was filed with Santa Cruz police last weekend by Mrs. Hallett's son, who arrived at his mother's house Saturday following a trip. Christopher Hallett told police he came to the house to pick up his mother's car, which he was going to use to drive to Berkeley to

fetch his daughter and bring her back to Santa Cruz.

Hallett told police he arrived home Saturday afternoon, and his mother was gone. He found no note, the back door was unlocked and the car was gone.

Hallett then called Mrs. Strandberg, who he said was his mother's best friend. She too was missing, police said.

Following Kemper's telephone call to Santa Cruz police, authorities rushed to the Ord Street duplex, where they found the bodies about 5:30 a.m.

By mid-morning, investigators had sealed off the apartment which is on the bottom floor of a two-story duplex.

At a press conference late this morning, James told newsmen he refused to speculate on Kemper may have been involved with other slayings. He admitted the suspect had been doing a lot of talking to Pueblo police, but added he would "hate to speculate on anything because I have no idea what he is saying."

James did reveal that one of the women had been beheaded, although he did not specify which one. He said cause of death of both women would be determined by a pathologist's investigation.

Pueblo Police Chief Robert Maber told reporters today that Kemper also had confessed to "six coed murders."

"I believe him," Maber added.

Still unsolved locally are the slayings of at least five coeds - Rosalind Thorpe and Alice Liu of UCSC, Mary Guilfoyle and Cynthia Schall of Cabrillo College, and Mary Ann Pesce, a Fresno State College coed whose severed head was discovered last August in the Santa Cruz Mountains at Loma Prieta.

Missing along with Miss Pesce was Anita Luchessa, also a Fresno State College coed. Miss Luchessa apparently still is missing.

A UCSC official said Mrs. Strandberg is an administrative assistant at College Five. Mrs. Hallett is an administrative assistant at central administration.

Newspaper records indicate that in 1965, when Kemper was 15 years old, he was living with his grandparents in North Fork, Mont.

At that time his mother, whose name then was Maude Kemper, received a telephone call from her son in which he said he had shot his grandparents.

Kemper said then he shot his grandmother as she was sitting at her typewriter desk and also stabbed her with a kitchen knife.

When his grandfather, Edmund Emil Kemper, 72, came upon the scene, Kemper said he shot him in the back of the head. He then reported the crimes to the local sheriff.

Subsequently, Kemper served a term under the guidance of the youth authority, the newspaper records show.

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