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Kemper Wanted Girls

By TOM HONIG
Sentinel Staff Writer

"I wanted the girls for myself — as possessions. They were going to be mine; they are mine," said a visibly shaken Edmund Kemper today as he testified in his own behalf at his murder trial.

"I believe very dearly that there are two people inside me," he said later. He added that there are times he thinks the killings to which he has admitted are "horrendous," while at other times "those feelings don't enter my mind."

The defendant took the stand Wednesday afternoon, and testified about the "fantasies" that have been a

part of his life since a very early age. These fantasies, he said, have been very violent and involved the killing and dismembering of many people. In his past, the defendant said he has killed dogs and cats as part of his fantasies.

During his cross-examination, Dist. Atty. Peter Chang asked Kemper who else he thought about killing. "Well, you, (indicating Chang), the head of the Drug Abuse Preventive Center; I've even thought about sniping at people."

Kemper, on the stand, was hesitant in his testimony. He appeared to be trying his best to give an accurate account of the events of his life leading up to and including

Fond Denies

Girls As 'Possessions'

ies, the admitted killing of eight people — six young
ing hitchhiking women and his mother and her best friend.
the Often he appeared to be near tears. He twice com-
his mented on his nervousness and asked Judge Harry
ster Brauer to give him a few minutes to collect his
ing thoughts.

ing. Once he commented, "It's kind of hard getting into
rug my fantasy world — it's been private for so long."

out During direct examination by his attorney, Jim
my. Jackson, Kemper said he was lying when he told
ac- lawmen he killed hitchhiking coeds because they
ting belonged to a social class which he resented.

He killed them, he said, because he wanted them as

possessions. "Death never entered into it," he said.

When the hitchhiking girls "were alive, they were distant and not sharing with me. I was trying to establish a relationship."

Asked why he disposed of their bodies, he said, "they were rotting — I was losing them."

He said he visited their graves often. In the case of victim Cynthia Schall, he buried her head in his backyard so her face was turned "toward my bedroom and bed. I talked to it. I said affectionate things...like you would say to a girlfriend or a wife."

"The deaths didn't exist in me — it was a transition I

(Continued on Page 4)

Kemper Wanted 'Possessions'

(Continued from Page 1)

was not paying attention to."

He said his killings were the results of fantasies which had built up over the years, including years spent at Atascadero State Hospital. He was sent there at age 15, shortly after he shot his grandparents to death.

Last May, shortly after Kemper's arrest, Dist. Atty. Chang quoted Kemper as saying he never would have acted out his fantasies except for "the availability of naive girls who were hitchhiking."

Jackson asked Kemper why, after all this time of hiding his "secret life," he is bringing it out into the open now.

"Because I want help. If I go

to a penitentiary I'll be locked up in a little room where I can't hurt anybody and I'll be left to my fantasies. Someday, somebody will be hurt."

The name of another Santa Cruz mass murder defendant came up during Chang's cross-examination. Chang asked Kemper why he had thrown water on Herbert William Mullin when the two were in adjacent cells at the San Mateo County jail together.

"He had a habit of singing (and bothering people) when somebody tried to watch TV," said Kemper. "So I threw water on him to shut him up. Then, when he was a good boy, I'd give him peanuts. That was effective, because pretty soon he asked permission to sing."

"That's called behavior modification treatment," Kemper said.

"Do you think he is insane?" asked Chang.

"Yes," said Kemper, "judging from my years in Atascadero I would say he is mentally ill." Kemper worked in a psychiatric department at Atascadero while he was a patient there.

Crowds of people waited for as much as an hour to be admitted into the courtroom to see Kemper testify. Judge Brauer expressed his disgust at the number of "teenage girls" who packed the spectator section. At one point, he asked the bailiff to remove several people from the court, saying it was too crowded.

Kemper's story about his suicide attempt on Sunday was interrupted late Wednesday afternoon when the defendant almost broke into tears while recounting the story. He asked Judge Brauer if he "could have a few moments" to regain his composure. Brauer, noting it was late in the afternoon, recessed the hearing until today.

"I wanted to die," Kemper said of his suicide attempt. As to why he slashed his wrist instead of his throat, he said, "I wanted to die slowly enough to think about what I've done." He said if he slashed his throat, he would "die too fast."

His attorney asked him what he was thinking while attempting to kill himself. "I was thinking about the girls who died — their fathers, mothers..."

At this point he could not continue, and asked for a recess.

"What is your attitude now about your behavior and your fantasies?" Jackson asked.

"They're sick." When asked if he considered them "glorious," Kemper said, "No. But 10 minutes from now I might say they are. It all depends on my state of mind. On five different days I'll give five different opinions."

His fantasy world, which according to his testimony dates back to a very early age, was the focus of the questioning by Jackson.

His first fantasy was innocent enough, Kemper said when he was four years old, he can remember dreaming of "a mother and father, loving and being together and caring for their children."

The facts as described by Kemper were much different. "There was much violence and hatred and yelling," he said. He cited one argument in which he claimed his mother taunted his father until he finally pushed her against a piano. "My mother knew how to taunt men; she knows men won't strike her and that a woman has an advantage."

Despite this home life, Kemper said there were times together when we would have dinner and joke and laugh. Those were the times I cherished."

He told the jury he twice killed cats. In one case, he took the animal into the backyard and buried it alive. After it was dead, he took it in the house and played with it. He finally beheaded it, put its head on a spindle where he prayed and talked to it.

When asked why, he said, "It was the only way I (alone) could have the cat."

He killed the animal while he was still in grammar school.

Fantasies about killing people began at an early age for

Kemper, and have remained a major part of his life. At an early age, he said he thought about killing an aunt, his mother and childhood "rivals."

Once, he said he walked into a cathedral and prayed "with all my might that everybody in the world would die but me."

He said he was not happy living with his mother, who by that time had been divorced from his father. He attempted to live with his father twice, but Kemper and his step mother were not compatible, and he went to live with his father's parents in Turlock.

It was at this time that he shot his grandparents and ended up at Atascadero State Hospital for the criminally insane.

Kemper painted a grim picture of life at the mental hospital, particularly the homosexuality among the patients. "It was a serious problem," Kemper said.

While he was in the hospital at Atascadero, he began to daydream about women. At first, he said, he just thought about "petting, caressing and kissing women." He added he had not been exposed to any sex education.

After awhile, Kemper noted his "fantasies went haywire and started getting violent." He said he started thinking about killing and dismembering women and then having intercourse with them.

Finally, he fantasized that he killed a beautiful woman, "cut her up, and then ate her."

Ford Denies Any Wrongdoing In Use Of Funds

(Continued from Page 1)

president of tomorrow but could be the president of next year," Pell said.

Questioned by Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., Ford said a president should obey an order of the Supreme Court. Ford also said he could foresee no circumstances under which a president would be justified in withholding information about the commission of serious crimes.

"I don't think any person in this country is above the law," Ford said.

In another reference to the Watergate case, Ford said he felt there should be a special prosecutor, but he said the job should remain in the Justice Department. He said suggestions of a special prosecutor set up under federal courts or one set up by Congress raise serious constitutional questions.

In his opening statement Ford said he could serve as "a ready conciliator and calm com-

job and said he could serve as a healing hand in the midst of governmental crisis.

"I believe you and the Congress and the American people must become fully satisfied that I am worthy of your trust and that I am fit to perform the duties of the vice presidency," Ford told senators prepared to question him about his handling of campaign contributions.

"I am not a saint, and I'm sure I have done things I might have done better or differently or not at all," the House GOP leader added. "I have also left undone things that I should have done."

"But I believe and hope that I have been honest with myself and with others, that I have been faithful to my friends and fair to my opponents, and that I have tried my best to make this great government work for the good of all Americans," Ford said.

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