

Ohta

CUTS OWN ARM WITH RAZOR

Massacre Suspect Slashed

SANTA CRUZ — John Linley Frazier, 24, charged with the Soquel massacre of five persons, slashed his lower left arm with a razor blade in his cell Friday.

Other occupants of the cell spotted blood coming from the wound and called for help through the cell intercom system.

Frazier was taken to a hospital where four to six

stitches were required to close the wound. The gash, just above his left wrist, was described as superficial by a hospital spokesman.

Officers said Frazier was returned to the jail cell within 40 minutes.

Frazier is awaiting trial on Jan. 25 for the Oct. 19 slaying of Dr. Victor M. Ohta, 45, his wife, Virginia, 43, his sons, Derrick, 12, and Taggart, 11,

and Mrs. Dorothy Cadwallader, 38, Dr. Ohta's secretary.

The victims were tied with silk scarves, shot, and then tossed into the swimming pool of the Ohta's palatial hilltop mansion near Soquel. Their slayer also set fire to the house.

Sheriff's Lt. Marvin Ganglof said Frazier broke the cell block with a special lock mechanism on a special type safety razor used by

prisoners to get the blades.

No other prisoner in the cell apparently saw him do it, said Ganglof. He said one of the prisoners spotted the blood coming from Frazier's arm and immediately summoned help.

Ganglof said between 10 and 15 other prisoners share the cell block with Frazier.

Meanwhile, Frazier's attorney, Public Defender James

Jackson, this week said "No comment" on whether he will seek a change of venue for the trial.

A court gag order on the case has been in effect since the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury returned a murder indictment against Frazier. The order prohibits defense and prosecuting attorneys from commenting on the case until after the trial.

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