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# Convicted serial killer denied parole

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

A Santa Cruz serial killer convicted nearly 40 years ago of 10 murders was denied parole Thursday, Santa Cruz County District Attorney Bob Lee announced.

Herbert Mullin, 63, was up for parole at Mule Creek State Prison, where he is incarcerated.

The parole board extended his parole date by 10 years, making him eligible in 2021.

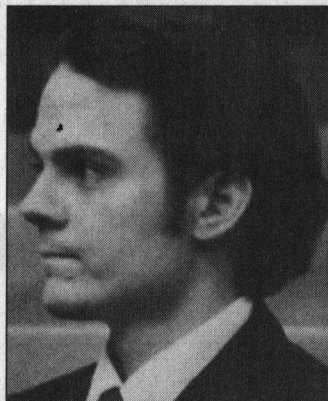
According to Lee, Mullin murdered 13 people during a four-month period in 1972 and early 1973.

"It is clear that Mr. Mullin is incapable of morally and intellectually taking responsibility for these crimes," Lee said during Mullin's parole hearing.

Mullin's youngest victim was a 4 years old, and his oldest was 73. Ten of his victims were from Santa Cruz County.

At the time he was arrested, he told police that he committed the killings to stop earthquakes.

Because Mullin's murders occurred soon after those of serial killer Edmund Kemper, Santa Cruz was referred to for a short time as the murder capital of the



Register-Pajaronian file

**Serial killer Herbert Mullin, shown here in court in 1973, was denied parole Thursday.** world, according to Register-Pajaronian archives.

Mullin was also convicted of killing a priest in Los Gatos in the confessional booth. Mullin committed another two murders for which he was never charged.

Lee, who attended the hearing, argued that Mullin should never be released from prison under any circumstances due to the number and magnitude of his crimes, their senseless and horrific nature, and the risk he would pose to the community if

he were released.

"The horror and magnitude of these cold-blooded and brutal murders cannot be overstated," Lee stated in a press release. "The victims' families and friends and the entire community suffered immeasurably by the actions of this man."

As he has in the past, Mullin continued to partially blame others for the murders, including his parents and his family, Lee said.

According to Register-Pajaronian archives, Mullin said his family was sending him telepathic messages to kill.

Although Mullin admitted to having committed the 13 murders, he insisted that his parents forced him to do it by their inappropriate upbringing and felt his parents and sister should be held responsible, Lee said.

"One of the reasons he gave in 1973 for killing these individuals was to prevent catastrophic earthquakes," Lee stated. "It is ironic that Mr. Mullin actually killed more people himself than died in Santa Cruz County from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake."