

# Serial killer again denied parole

Mullin, Herbert

Herbert Mullin of Felton has admitted to killing 13 people, including a child and a priest

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By CATHY KELLY

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IONE — A Felton man convicted of murdering 10 people, including a 4-year-old child, an elderly man

and a priest, was again denied parole Thursday during a hearing at Mule Creek State Prison, the District Attorney's Office reported Friday.

Serial killer Herbert Mullin,

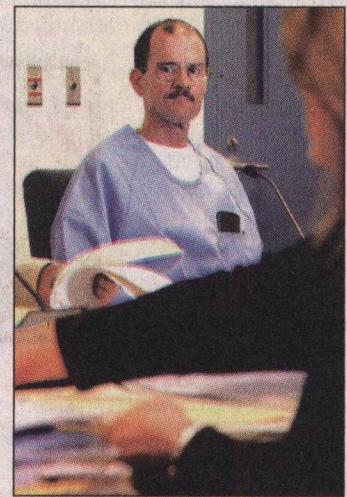
63, has admitted to murdering 13 people in a roughly four-month period in 1972 and 1973.

He was convicted in 1973 of 10 killings in Santa Cruz County. He also was convicted of killing a Los Gatos priest in a confessional booth, and he admitted to two additional slayings for which he was never charged.

The killing spree was one of three in Santa Cruz County in the 1970s, earning the county the dark sobriquet of being the murder capitol of the world.

The other local serial killers of that era were John Linley Frazier and Edmund Emil Kemper.

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Convicted serial killer Herbert Mullin, pictured here during a 2006 parole hearing, was denied parole again this week.

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## SLAYINGS

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Frazier, who had attended Capitola Elementary School and worked as a car mechanic, killed Soquel Hills eye surgeon Victor Ohta, Ohta's wife Virginia, his secretary Dorothy Cadwaller and the Ohtas' sons, Derrick, 12 and Taggart, 11, on Oct. 19, 1970. Frazier hung himself in his Mule Creek Prison cell in 2009. He was 62.

Kemper's killings started in May 1972, with a grisly stabbing and the beheadings of a pair of young hitchhikers; he killed four more women over the next 10 months. In a panic over being arrested, he killed his mother and her friend in April 1972, placing his mother's head on the mantel of her Seacliff home.

He fled, then called police to confess from a Pueblo, Colo., phone booth.

The slayings are something many in the county will never forget.

Thursday, District Attorney Bob Lee argued that Mullin should never be released due to the number and magnitude of his crimes, their senseless and horrific nature, and the risk he would pose to the community if released.

Mullin used knives, a gun and a baseball bat to kill his victims, including strangers he met along Highway 9, in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park and in Westside Santa Cruz, plus the wife and children of a man he had known. At one point, he said he killed people to prevent earthquakes.

Lee said the horror of the murders cannot be overstated.

"The victims' families and friends and the entire community suffered immeasurably by the actions of this man," he said.

Mullin, a San Lorenzo Valley High graduate, continues to partially blame others for the murders, including his family, Lee said.

Although he admitted to killing 13 people, he insisted his parents forced him to do it by their inappropriate upbringing.

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

The Parole Board extended Mullin's sentence for additional 10 years. He will be eligible for parole again in 2021.