

Notorious killer denied parole

Mullin Herbert

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■ **13 murders:** District attorney says Herbert Mullin should never leave prison.

BY LEE QUARNSTROM
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Santa Cruz County District Attorney Art Danner said he is relieved that one of the most notorious killers in local history has been denied parole.

Danner, who was an assistant district attorney at the time Herbert Mullin was tried and convicted on 10 murder counts in 1973, said the killer who has admitted taking the lives of 13 men, women and children should stay behind bars the rest of his life. Mul-

lin, 49, was denied parole during a hearing Thursday at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione, in the Sierra foothills.

After Mullin, a Felton resident, was convicted of the 10 murders, he admitted three more slayings. He suggested during the sanity phase of his trial he had committed the murders as human sacrifices to prevent earthquakes.

"I helped try this case," Danner said Friday, "and I know the unacceptable risk Herbert Mullin represents. He should never be

paroled, given the enormity of his crimes."

Danner said he agreed with his colleague, Assistant District Attorney Michael Bartram, who told state parole officials at Thursday's hearing the number of victims and the gravity of the crimes should eliminate any possibility Mullin will ever again walk the streets as a free man.

Mullin was one of three killers whose bloody crimes got Santa Cruz dubbed "the murder capital of the world" in the early 1970s. That nickname came from Peter Chang, who was district attorney at the time.

The other killers were John

Frazier, who in 1970 took the lives of prominent eye surgeon Victor Ohta, three other Ohta family members and the doctor's secretary at the Ohta home in Soquel; and Edmund Kemper, the 6-foot, 8-inch killer of eight women, including his mother.

Kemper and Mullin operated simultaneously, confusing law enforcement agencies investigating the rash of slayings. Each was tried, convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

Mullin's victims included two young children and a Los Gatos priest, who was murdered in his confessional.



Herbert Mullin has admitted killing 13 people.

Noting that Mullin will be eligible for another parole hearing in five years, Danner suggested that concerned local residents should let their feelings be known by writing to his office or to the California Board of Prison Terms before that time.