

Forensic Evidence Stored for 55 Years by Police Could End ‘Zodiac’ Mystery

But agency with DNA, found on dead coed, won’t consider the madman – allegedly just identified!

RIVERSIDE (October 6, 2021) – An elite CSI team from two Maryland universities has been barred from studying hairs found in the clenched fist of a teen student, murdered more than a half-century ago. The experts strongly believe they belong to a newly-uncovered “Zodiac Killer” suspect – a psychopath who shot, stabbed or choked to death as many as ten Californians between 1962 and 1970.



After the body of **Cheri Jo Bates** was discovered on October 30, 1966, the **Riverside Police Department** (RPD) dutifully refrigerated the hairs, skin and blood found under her fingernails. The chief at the time, L.T. Kinkead, said the night attack outside of the town’s college library left her with 42 stab wounds and *“almost decapitated.”*

Last Wednesday (9/29), RPD Public Information Officer **Ryan J. Railsback** stated that his department is *“100% sure”* Bates was killed by someone other than the Zodiac. But his agency has refused to allow a simple comparison of her computer-coded DNA to the sequence of **GARY F. POSTE** (right, circa 1980s), whom forensic experts now think is *“a very strong suspect.”* Poste’s DNA is being stored at Vallejo PD, 7 hours to the north.



The CSI unit is part of a volunteer task force of 40, led by retired FBI, known as [The Case Breakers](#). For ten years, the former law enforcement members, prosecutors, intelligence officers, PIs and others have quietly assisted public safety agencies, at no cost, with their unsolved caseloads. Thus, the cordial approach to RPD.

After a statewide examination, the renowned sleuths have recovered new physical and forensic evidence, signed up eyewitnesses, filed court affidavits, and secured decades of pictures from Poste’s former darkroom. That includes photographic proof, as a former FBI agent put it, of *“irrefutable” scars on our Zodiac’s forehead* – spotted by 3 witnesses and an observing cop, then later passed on to the 1969 SFPD sketch artist (Page 2).

The Case Breakers had hoped to share all these results with the RPD, including the secured DNA from their suspect who recently died. The department’s current police chief is the eighth in a row to refuse to consider the infamous killer – even though the FBI, in 1975, called Bates “the 6th victim” (FBI memo on page 7).

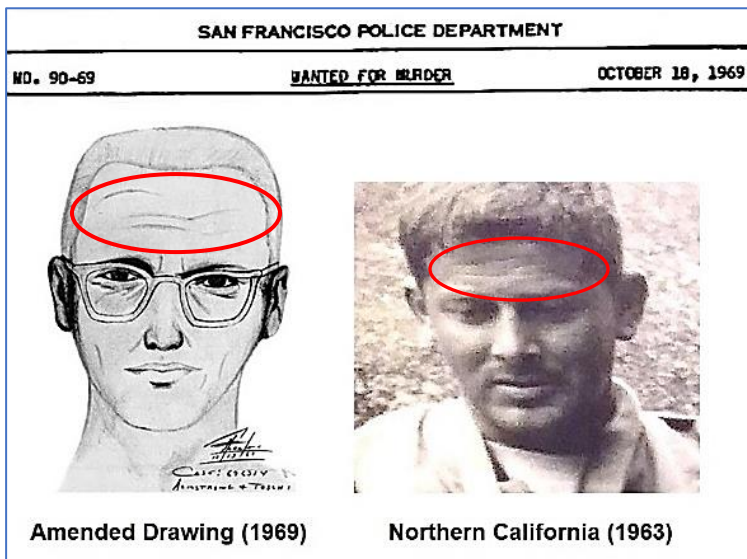
Team Organizer Thomas J. Colbert: *“Fifty-five years ago this month, RPD chose to ignore the obvious. It would take just minutes to quickly and quietly compare Poste’s DNA. You’d think the pain Cheri Jo’s family and her old friends have been living with would be Priority #1. Here’s to hoping the next chief finds the courage to act.”*

MEDIA ALERT:

- Riverside PD, PIO Ryan Railsback: 951-373-6032; RRailsback@riversideca.gov (Bates’ DNA)
- Vallejo PD, Robbery/Homicide Lt. Drew Ramsey: 707-648-4329, x7; (Gary Francis Poste’s DNA)
- Documents & eyewitness interviews follow; more available
- The Case Breakers – Documentarian Thomas J. Colbert: 866-778-5669; TColbert@Commstatim.com

THE MARK OF ZODIAC – A PHOTOGRAPHIC TIME-LINE

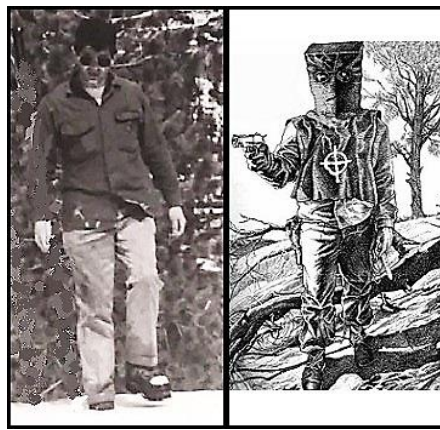
See odd scars in SFPD Zodiac sketch and on Poste, documented in 59 years of photos.



1959 car-crash wounds noted in drawing and in earliest recovered photo (at 25), taken months after leaving military.



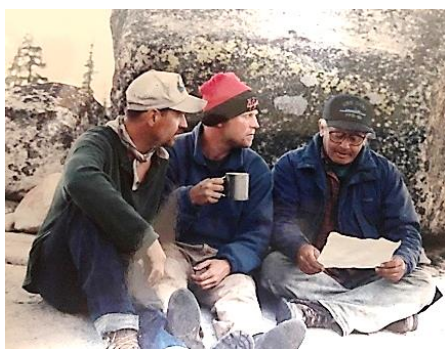
1974: Z's brain-surgery scars.



Z's 1974 snow hike; 1969 picnic attack.



1980 "Selfie" in hood for silhouetted pic.



1995: One of Z's indoctrination sittings.



2007: 48-year scars.



2009: 50-year scars.



2018: 58-year scars.

ZODIAC CLUES AT CHERI JO BATES' MURDER SCENE?



- 1) On 10/30/66, Riverside PD detectives collected a wristwatch with a broken band, thought to have come off the killer during his assault. Investigators believe this Timex was purchased at a military base PX.
(In the mid-1960s, Poste was a USAF veteran receiving medical check-ups for a gun accident injury at the March Air Force Base hospital – just a 15-minute drive from Bates' college murder scene).
- 2) Forensic lab also noted paint spattered on the wristwatch's face.
(In 1963, veteran Poste became a housepainter for over 40 years; was the watch strap checked for DNA?).
- 3) Also found: a heelprint in the dirt, later confirmed to be from “a military-style boot,” size 10.
(The same style and shoe size found at three other Zodiac crime scenes – and style/size of Poste).
- 4) Finally, Riverside County Coroner's Office spotted four of the attacker's brown hairs in Bates' clenched fist.
(Poste's hair color. If you count sketch-matching head scars, that's 5 coincidences; next page reveals #6).



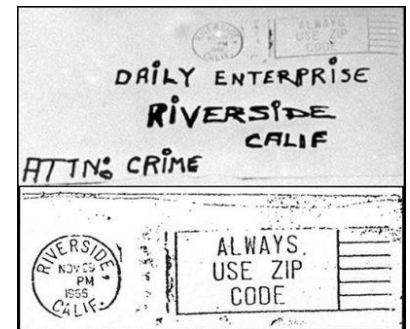
Case Breakers' Zodiac Theory: Note clever sentence (highlighted) in typed confession sent to RPD, received a month after Bates' murder. If this psychopath wanted to get police off his Northern California trail, this line would've been the perfect red herring. And mailing it from murder scene would ice any suspicion.

THE CONFESSION

BY _____

SHE WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL. BUT NOW SHE IS BATTERED AND DEAD. SHE IS NOT THE FIRST AND SHE WILL NOT BE THE LAST. I LAY AWAKE NIGHTS THINKING ABOUT MY NEXT VICTIM. MAYBE SHE WILL BE THE BEAUTIFUL BLOND THAT BABYSITS NEAR THE LITTLE STORE AND WALKS DOWN THE DARK ALLEY EACH EVENING ABOUT SEVEN. OR MAYBE SHE WILL BE THE SHAPELY BLUE EYED BROWNNETT THAT SAID NO WHEN I ASKED HER FOR A DATE IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT MAYBE IT WILL NOT BE EITHER. BUT I SHALL CUT OFF HER FEMALE PARTS AND DEPOSIT THEM FOR THE WHOLE CITY TO SEE. SO DON'T MAKE IT TO EASY FOR ME. KEEP YOUR SISTERS, DAUGHTERS, AND WIVES OFF THE STREETS AND ALLEYS. MISS BATES WAS STUPID. SHE WENT TO THE SLAUGHTER LIKE A LAMB. SHE DID NOT PUT UP A STRUGGLE. BUT I DID. IT WAS A BALL. I FIRST PULLED THE MIDDLE WIRE FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR. THEN I WAITED FOR HER IN THE LIBRARY AND FOLLOWED HER OUT AFTER ABOUT TWO MINUTS. THE BATTERY MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT DEAD BY THEN I THEN OFFERED TO HELP. SHE WAS THEN VERY WILLING TO TALK WITH ME. I TOLD HER THAT MY CAR WAS DOWN THE STREET AND THAT I WOULD GIVE HER A LIFT HOME. WHEN WE WERE AWAY FROM THE LIBRARY WALKING, I SAID IT WAS ABOUT TIME. SHE ASKED ME "ABOUT TIME FOR WHAT". I SAID IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR HER TO DIE. I GRABBED HER AROUND THE NECK WITH MY HAND OVER HER MOUTH AND MY OTHER HAND WITH A SMALL KNIFE AT HER THROAT. SHE WENT VERY WILLINGLY. HER BREAST FELT VERY WARM AND FIRM UNDER MY HANDS, BUT ONLY ONE THING WAS ON MY MIND. MAKING HER PAY FOR THE BRUSH OFFS THAT SHE HAD GIVEN ME DURING THE YEARS PRIOR. SHE DIED HARD. SHE SQUIRMED AND SHOOK AS I CHOAKED HER, AND HER LIPS TWICED. SHE LET OUT A SCREAM ONCE AND I KICKED HER HEAD TO SHUT HER UP. I PLUNGED THE KNIFE INTO HER AND IT BROKE. I THEN FINISHED THE JOB BY CUTTING HER THROAT. I AM NOT SICK. I AM INSANE. BUT THAT WILL NOT STOP THE GAME. THIS LETTER SHOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR ALL TO READ IT. IT JUST MIGHT SAVE THAT GIRL IN THE ALLEY. BUT THAT'S UP TO YOU. IT WILL BE ON YOUR CONSCIENCE. NOT MINE. YES I DID MAKE THAT CALL TO YOU ALSO. IT WAS JUST A WARNING. BEWARE...I AM STALKING YOUR GIRLS NOW.

"The Confession" was postmarked 11/29/66, a month after murder.



CC. CHIEF OF POLICE
ENTERPRISE

Here's where Zodiac suspicions solidify: 1) Note the six individual words highlighted in the confession. Now see them all again, four years later, in these two Zodiac card messages mailed to the San Francisco Chronicle: "The Game," (hidden behind ghost), "I Shall," "Squirmed" and the now twice-misspelled "Twich."

Some I shall tie over ant hills
and watch them scream + twich
and squirm.



INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

ALLEGED ZODIAC EYEWITNESSES & SOURCES (4 of 20):



(L to R): Capt. Hans Smits (ret.) and our investigation’s **Outlaw-Turned-Zodiac Whistleblower, Wil**, on a mountain scouting trip. Hans says the turncoat had escaped from Poste’s Zodiac’s criminal “posse” which roamed for decades in the High Sierra. Now in his 50s and hiding in the Northwest, Wil says he’s angry and ashamed, claiming the psychopath “groomed me into a killing machine”. Hans became Wil’s handler, giving him emotional, logistical and financial support over the years.

For 7 years, nobody in authority would listen to Wil – until The Case Breakers were alerted. [A sample from his hour interview about Poste:](#)

“He had a great side. He just didn't have a conscience. He could kill indiscriminately. And I mean, you know, he's pretty much proven that over the years, he couldn't even stop after he moved up here. Uh, he still had to continue to kill, even if it was small animals just to make himself feel better. I've seen him kill bears, deer, Otter, um, ferrets. Marmots, just anything that lived, he liked to shoot them, watch [them] fall down. He liked to mess with the carcasses when he was done. He just got bloody.”

FYI: Wil says he witnessed Poste burying the murder weapons and has given team the dig site. He has also provided an hour [interview](#) on camera (for quotes). **Contact:** CaptSmits42@gmail.com



Michelle is Poste’s daughter-in-law who gave him a grandson, now in his 30s. But when her 10-year marriage ended, Michelle says Poste ordered two of his criminal “posse” to go after her – breaking her windows, then threatening, harassing and assaulting her until she moved out of state. **Contact:** MichelleRWynn69@gmail.com



Dale was a Boy Scout on a Zodiac-targeted bus who later grew up to be a California TV news anchor. His scary 1969 ordeal is what led him to patiently listen to the homeless Wil and his Poste escape story. Dale will also explain how he unmasked all the madman’s coded letters. The newsman came to Case Breakers with the details and his copyrighted book manuscript. **Contact:** DaleKentJulin88@gmail.com



In late 1970s, toddler **Gwennie** was babysat by her neighbors – the 40-something Poste and his wife. For the next seven years, he taught her how to use guns, sometimes going into the woods five days a week. In the last year of her childcare, she witnessed Poste’s callousness and violence towards his wife – a wife that only slept on a couch. Recently, Gwennie caught up with the 75-year-old wife, now in assisted living. And the phone call stunned her, one line in particular: “I’m sorry that I didn’t tell the cops about his [Zodiac] past.” **Contact:** geminiclow31@hotmail.com

CASE BREAKERS ON ZODIAC TEAM (5 of 10):



2021 7/31 Tom Mauriello (Laurel, MD), with team since 2011, spent 30 years at DOD in many capacities, such as a PD Officer, Special Agent, Polygraph Examiner and Police Chief. He now teaches criminal investigation/forensic sciences courses while managing the Crime Laboratory for the Uni of Maryland. Declared as one the top 15 CSI experts in the country, he was appointed to assemble the 3-person forensic team to approach the Riverside Police Department. FYI: Tom can also declare/supervise a crime scene.

Contact: TPMauriello@gmail.com



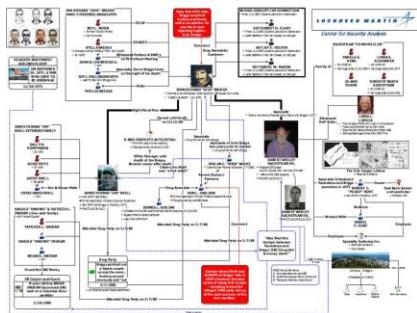
Bill Proctor (Bloomfield Hills, MI) was first a police officer, then a 40-year journalist, investigative reporter and anchorman that was recently inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. But in the last 20 years, he's become a PI that's focused on finding wrongly-jailed individuals and the corrupt officials that put them there. His nose for malfeasance has earned him another fanbase – and that's why he's on the Zodiac investigation. **Contact:** BillProctor314@gmail.com



Jen Bucholtz (Peyton, CO), a former Army Counterintelligence Agent who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, is a published author that holds Master degrees in both Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. But she also has knack for spotting and solving cold cases. She was first on team to be contacted by newsman Dale, then was "blown away" by his 5 years of research and copyrighted book manuscript. **Contact:** Jen@jenbucholtz.com



Linton A. Mohammed, Ph.D. (San Francisco, CA), is a Past-President of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners [ASQDE] and a member of similar organizations in Canada and England. He's testified in over 100 trials in the U.S., the Caribbean & UK. Linton worked with team on the handwriting in the D.B. Cooper Case. He's now been recruited to compare the handwriting of our Zodiac suspect to the serial killer's 19 coded letters. **Contact:** Lamqde@gmail.com



Former Army Intelligence Officer Erik A. Kleinsmith (Chantilly, VA) is the team's Board Vice Chairman. He was critical in link/network analysis during the "D.B. Cooper" hunt (Left; 2011-18), organizing 40 years of forensic evidence, maps and materials in TJC's 100-page crime report. Kleinsmith is also the author of the acclaimed 2020 investigative bible, *Intelligence Operations: Understanding Data, Tools, People, and Processes.* **Contact:** Kleinsmith2000@gmail.com

RIVERSIDE P.D. & FBI'S INITIAL COLLABORATIONS

In 1975, FBI disagreed with RPD's local-guy theory, calling Bate's murder Zodiac's "6th victim."

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (9-49911) DATE: 9/18/75
ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

FROM : *E. Hall*, LOS ANGELES (62-6854)

SUBJECT: ZODIAC
EXTORTION
OO: SACRAMENTO

A-10042
9-25-75-CP

TO DATE, THERE HAVE BEEN SIX VICTIMS WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO ZODIAC BY THE POLICE AUTHORITIES. FIVE OF THE KNOWN VICTIMS WERE KILLED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN A TEN MONTH PERIOD THAT BEGAN IN DECEMBER, 1968. **THE SIXTH VICTIM KNOWN TO BE ZODIAC'S WAS A CO-ED MURDERED IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, IN 1966.** ZODIAC ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD INDEED BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RIVERSIDE SLAYING IN A LETTER MAILED MARCH 15, 1971, FROM PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA.

In 2000, RPD gave suspect's hair found in Bates' hand to FBI Lab; it "eliminated" a local man.

7-1a (2-5-88)

FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

Report of Examination

Examiner Name: _____ Date: March 13, 2000
Unit: DNA II Phone No.: (202) 324-5574
Case ID #: 95A-HQ-1282679 Lab No.: 990401001 KM I

Results of Examinations:

A mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequence was obtained from **THE MURDER VICTIM'S blood** and the K1 **blood sample from SUSPECT** (positions 73-340). The mtDNA sequence obtained from specimen Q1.1 is different from the mtDNA sequence obtained from specimen K1. Therefore, **SUSPECT** can be **eliminated** as the source of the Q1.1 hair.



The media liaison for leading authorities

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