Rapist Hits 17th Victim

A 16-year-old Rancho Cordova high school student apparently became the 17th victim of the east area rapist when she returned to her darkened home alone to pick up some clothes before spending the night with a girlfriend.

The victim's family was away for the evening sheriff's deputies said yesterday, and the intruder was waiting inside. The attack occurred about 10:45 p.m. Friday.

"He was either waiting for the girl, or was there to burglarize the house," said Bill Miller, a sheriff's department spokesman. He declined to comment on the status of the investigation.

The victim Friday night was the sixth in a relatively small area between Folsom Boulevard and the American River, north of Watt Avenue.

The girl, who lives in the southwest section of Rancho Cordova, said the man was wearing a mask or hood over his head when he came out of one of the rooms in the back of the house after she entered. He tied and gagged her before raping her.

He remained in the house until 11:40 p.m. and escaped out the rear of the house when the victim's friend came to check on her. The girlfriend called the sheriff's department.

Detectives said the rapist entered the house by forcing a door from a garage entrance. They said he took several items from the house, but they would not disclose what they were.

The rape was the first one attributed to the east area rapist since March 8 when a 37-year-old woman was attacked in her home east of Watt Avenue. The rapes began in October 1975. Sixteen other women have been assaulted in the Carmichael, Glenbrook, Del Dayo and Rancho Cordova areas.

The rapist has been described as being 25 to 35 years of age, white, between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet tall, clean shaven, with dark, neatly cut hair. He was last seen wearing a black sweater and black pants.

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RUHNs holds a recovered Mayan vase.

Agents said Saturday what they called species of animals, and voodoo dolls. Agents termed the seizure "the largest of this type in the country and..."
Cumberland Artifacts

The Special customs agent Rollin E. Kiala said Saturday that an agent would prepare a present evidence before a federal grand jury next week and seek a indictment of four persons for conspiracy. Special customs agents have been working on this case for the past six months.

Agents traced the source of voodoo dolls to Cali, Mexico, where the dolls were made. Custom house agents notified the government of the dolls brought into the country.

The men were arrested on February 18, 1975, after packing them in a consignment box. The dolls were found in the baggage of men traveling from Mexico to the United States.

The dolls are said to be used by people who practice voodoo. Some of the dolls have been found to carry several objects that are used in voodoo rituals.

The men will appear before the grand jury next week, and the government will seek an indictment from the case.