

Static Develops On Rapist Patrol

From Other CBers

Leaders of organized citizens band radio clubs today criticized East Area Rapist Surveillance (EARS), asserting the volunteer CB patrol is degenerating into a "vigilante" action motivated by the \$30,000 in rewards for the man who has raped 24 area women.

Hal Smith, spokesman for one of Sacramento's largest CB radio clubs, said the organized CB groups are "catching the flak of apparent public resentment against EARS.

"We want the public to know that organized CB clubs are not taking part in this. We are not involved."

Smith, who operates a CB radio shop in the north area, is president of Born Losers, a CB group which, he said, has about 650 members.

"I'm terrifically afraid someone is going to get shot," Smith added, citing a Texas incident in which an argument between two CB operators ended in a killing.

Some CB club members have been threatened, booed and have had their cars pelted with eggs, Smith said.

"A \$30,000 reward will make a head hunter out of anybody," he added, "and the words 'vigilante' and 'head hunter' have been used.

"Some people get awfully brave hiding behind a microphone and they say things they think they will never hear about again. And then, the first thing-you know someone is sticking agun in their face."

Smith and Marvin Greenstein, president of the Cobra CB Club and a CB wholesaler, both criticized EARS as being a loosely organized effort "with no method" that is "getting in the way" of law enforcement officers.

"We all feel that CBers shouldn't be out there," Greenstein said. "We are not trained to do the job and somebody is going to get hurt.

"Mainly we want the public to know

the organized CB clubs are not involved. It's an individual effort."

Smith said he knows of only two members of Born Losers who have joined the EARS patrol.

But EARS chairman Ed Nannini denied the assertions, saying, "We have many CB club members as well as law enforcement officers who have joined the search for the rapist.

"We are organized, make no mistake about it. Our game plan is coordinated with the sheriff's office and we have been briefed on what to do."

Nannini said EARS has scheduled a press conference Wednesday to explain its operation.

"I don't want to get in a tug of war with this guy (Smith). We need the CB clubs."

The attacker, tagged the east area rapist because his previous assaults on women occurred in that section of the county, shifted to the south area for his 24th attack Saturday morning.

Sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller said EARS has supplied the sheriff's office; with about 200 tips, all of them nonproductive.

Miller said the sheriff's office has received no complaints about "vigilantes, either from citizens, other CBers or sheriff's deputies,

"As far as the patrol itself goes," he said, "there's been nothing of value. We neither support nor oppose it."

Miller also discounted any connection between the south area rape and the location of the office of Dr. James W. Gilmartin, a dentist who posted a \$10,000 reward and organized EARS.

Miller said the location of the rape incident in Sky Parkway was "several blocks" from Gilmartin's office and there "was no direct route between the two." An earlier report said the rape occurred one block from Gilmartin's office.

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