'Fantasy' Slayer Gets Life Term

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — Edmund Emil Kemper III was sentenced today to life imprisonment for the slayings of his mother, her best friend and six coed hitchhikers.

The 6-foot-9 Kemper, who said he acted out homicidal, cannibalistic and sexual fantasies in the killings, was ordered to serve eight concurrent life sentences.

Kemper, 25, had pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity. A six-man, six-woman jury had found him sane and guilty of first degree murder Thursday after five hours of deliberation.

Santa Cruz Superior Court Judge Harry Brauer, who handed down the sentence, told jurors on Thursday: "I agree entirely with your verdict."

REASONABLE FINDING

Public defender James Jackson said Kemper expected the verdict and the attorney called it "reasonable enough."

Kemper, who tried four times to kill himself in jail and said he thought he should be "tortured" as punishment, cannot be sent to the gas chamber because the slayings occurred between May 1972, and last April, before California reinstituted the death penalty.

Seven of the eight victims, including Kemper's mother, Clarnell Strandberg, 53, were beheaded. Six of the victims were young women student hitchhikers.

THE ONLY WAY

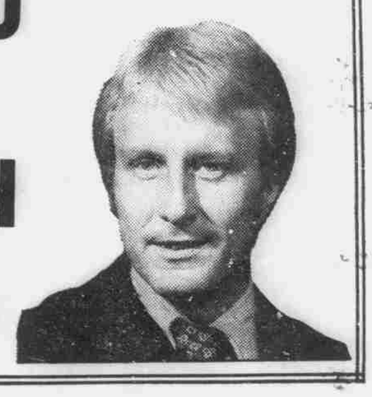
Three days after the killing of his mother Kemper was arrested in a Pueblo, Colo., telephone booth while he was giving details of the slayings to Santa Cruz authorities who had the call traced.

The defendant said on the witness stand he killed the women because "that was the only way they could be mine. I had their spirits. I still have them."

In his testimony Kemper told of living in a world of fantasies from early childhood. He said his daydreams became increasingly violent during the five years he was confined to mental hospitals for the murders of his paternal grandparents nearly ten years ago.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH

STEVE DIRKS



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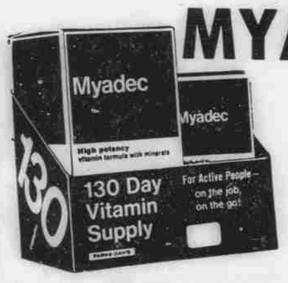
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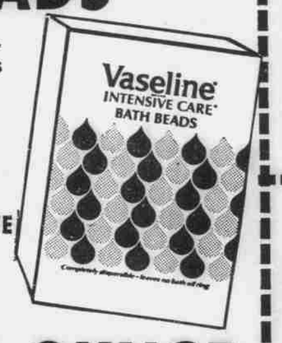
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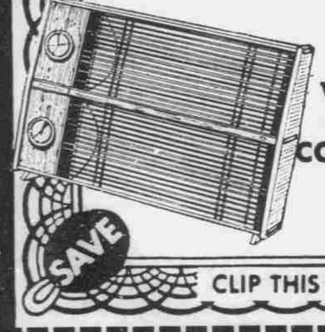
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