

# Man Hunted As Suspect In 8 Rapes

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Sheriff's detectives today disclosed an extensive hunt has been under way for a man who has attacked and raped eight women the past year in areas east of Sacramento.

Inspector Richard Shelby today said the same man is believed to have raped four women in Rancho Cordova, two in Del Dayo and two in the Crestview area.

He said the first case occurred in October last year. He said the man did not strike again until June. Four of the attacks were last month.

Shelby said the man also is believed responsible for a case in which a woman was molested and another in which a rape attempt was thwarted.

The sheriff's department has requested the rape cases be included in The Bee's Secret Witness program.

A reward of \$2,500 is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the rapist. Informants need not identify themselves. They are asked to telephone the private Secret Witness number, 442-6221, or to write, using instructions published on Wednesdays.

Sheriff's officials previously had asked the news media to hold back on reporting the case, saying publicity

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# Rape

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would ruin any stakeouts aimed at capturing the suspect.

But the series of rapes came to light last night at a Del Dayo Parents Club meeting at Del Dayo School. The meeting conducted by deputies, was to have been on crime prevention in general but the series of rapes was disclosed after questions about rumored rapes from some of the 500 persons attending.

Shelby said the suspect is white, has a pale complexion, may be between 5-foot, 8-inches to 6-foot tall, of a medium build, 25 to 35 years old and has dark hair which hangs over his ears to his collar.

The attacks have been committed between 11 p.m. and 6:45 a.m. He frequently commits repeated attacks on individual victims over a period of three hours. He has entered the homes through a window.

Investigators describe him as a "cat burglar" type who finds out if a husband is home.

He has worn a mask, but descriptions are vague as to what kind. He has worn military type boots and black tennis shoes. His weapons have included a revolver, knife, a stick and a club.

He has cut and beat his victims, but none severely.