

Child Molesting Case Leads To a National Investigation

Authorities Are Seeking Victims and Tips

By CAROLYN MARSHALL

SAN FRANCISCO, June 24 — California law enforcement officials and the F.B.I. are conducting a national search for what the authorities believe may be hundreds of boys sexually abused by Dean A. Schwartzmiller, a convicted child molester who apparently kept meticulous journals of his exploits.

Mr. Schwartzmiller, who has been held without bail since June 7 at the Santa Clara County Jail, made his first court appearance on Wednesday to hear the charges against him. He has been charged with seven counts of child molesting, including one count of aggravated sexual assault on a child under 14 and six counts of lewd and lascivious conduct on a child under 14. The Santa Clara County prosecutor overseeing the case of Mr. Schwartzmiller, 63, a former handyman, said on Friday that hundreds of people from around the United States have telephoned to offer help and information. The police believe at least a dozen of the calls were from possible victims.

"We are concerned about finding victims and helping victims," said the county prosecutor, Steve Fein. "No one needs to be afraid to come forward."

To date, the authorities have identified two boys they say are victims, 12-year-old cousins in San Jose.

The authorities believe that there may be hundreds more victims, perhaps from other states; law enforcement records in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, New York and Washington show that Mr. Schwartzmiller has been ar-

'No one needs to be afraid to come forward,' a prosecutor says.

rested or served time on child molesting charges.

The police learned about Mr. Schwartzmiller, who lived with a roommate in a small stucco house in San Jose, from one of the 12-year-old boys. The boy and his parents told the police in May that he had been forced to commit sex acts.

On May 22, the authorities raided Mr. Schwartzmiller's house and seized seven spiral notebooks that they said logged more than 36,000 sexual acts. The police said many of the entries appeared in a code that they are still trying to unravel.

The entries describe the physical traits of boys ranging in age from 8 to 18, and some date back 35 years, the police said this week. The logs have category headings, the police said, including "blonde boys" and "boys who just cried."

The police said this week that in addition to more than 100 pornographic videos, DVD's and CD-ROM's found in the home, investigators had recovered boys' clothing, including underwear, from the master



Paul Sakuma/Associated Press

Dean A. Schwartzmiller, right, appeared with his lawyer in court on Wednesday.

bedroom. Two sleeping bags were also found. One of the boys told investigators that he had had numerous "sleepovers" at Mr. Schwartzmiller's home and that the defendant had molested him while he slept in a sleeping bag, the police said.

Mr. Schwartzmiller's housemate, Frederick Everts, 34, another convicted child molester, was also arrested and has been charged with seven felony counts of child molesting as an accomplice. The police said the two men met in the early 1990's when both were serving time in Oregon for sexual crimes involving children. The police said they had received vital information about Mr. Schwartzmiller from Mr. Everts, who appeared in court on Monday.

The police said the two men pretended to be father and son and repeatedly lured young boys or insinuated themselves into boys' lives, sometimes offering gifts. Court documents from Idaho and Oregon show that Mr. Schwartzmiller had used the same technique, luring young boys by befriending them, over a span of 30 years.

Mr. Everts was arrested on May 18 for a parole violation issued in Oregon, and the police believe that Mr. Schwartzmiller fled to Washington afterward. The police said that Mr. Schwartzmiller, who was viewed as a grandfather figure by the family of the two cousins, telephoned the boy who later came forward, asking him to retrieve and destroy what police now view as damning evidence.

The police said Friday that the boy denied the sexual abuse to his parents at first and that the reaction, considered common among victims of child molesting, suggests that victims will come forward slowly.

"There are lots of reasons child molesters get away with the crime," said the prosecutor, Mr. Fein. "Typically children are embarrassed or blame themselves or are afraid."

No day is complete
without
The New York Times.