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S.F. Hookers Already Emigrating

By Bill Workman

San Francisco's stepped-up war on rampant prostitution has other Bay Area police departments bracing for a new migration of Tenderloin hookers and pimps into their communities.

"It's what I call the 'silly putty effect,'" said South San Francisco Police Captain Ray McKeon. "When the big city puts the squeeze on prostitution, it pops out somewhere else."

McKeon warned his city council Wednesday night that ... hookers fleeing San Francisco's announced crackdown may revive vice activity along South Airport boulevard, where a string of hotels and motels cluster near San Francisco International Airport.

"We'll know in a few weeks just how serious the problem's going to be," he said, if "complaints start picking up from bartenders and hotel operators."

Oakland apparently doesn't have to wait that long.

Lieutenant James Mitchell,

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HOOKERS

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head of Oakland's vice detail, said a Wednesday night sweep of MacArthur boulevard—the East Bay's most notorious cruising ground for hookers—netted several San Francisco-based prostitutes among 19 arrested.

"One of the girls said she'd bailed out of San Francisco City Jail only four hours before we picked her up," Mitchell noted. "The only logical conclusion is that she felt maybe it would be easier for her over here."

Oakland police have been feeling "fat and sassy" in recent months, Mitchell said, because a series of successful streetwalker prosecutions significantly reduced the number of prostitutes on Oakland streets.

Mitchell hopes that new faces among Oakland hookers do not indicate that a mass migration from San Francisco's demimonde looms.

But if it does, he's confident that Oakland Police Chief George Hart will beef up the vice squad.

Three years ago, Emeryville police Chief John LaCoste won his present post by directing a successful crackdown on prostitutes who

then lined Emeryville's San Pablo avenue.

When the pressure got too great in Emeryville, the girls simply moved to neighboring Oakland or Berkeley, or went across the bridge to San Francisco, LaCoste said.

"It's like stepping in a puddle of water," the Emeryville chief said "It always spreads out into other areas."

Across the Bay in San Mateo county's Daly City, Geneva avenue motels near the Cow Palace and the San Francisco city line have in the past enjoyed an illicit business boom when neighboring San Francisco cracks down on prostitution, according to Daly City Police Lieutenant Tom Culley.

As a result, Daly City police have been warned to watch for an increase in "pimpinobiles" patrolling Geneva avenue.

"It's typical. When San Francisco cracks down on any crime—prostitution, burglary, stolen cars—we feel it in San Mateo county," Culley said.

At times, Culley confessed wryly, "we just wind up playing the game of chasing criminals back and forth across the county line."

in the spotlight

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S.F. Vice Squad Chief Goes by the Book

By Robert Popp

Newly reappointed police vice chief Gerald Shaughnessy says there's no such thing as a victimless crime, and that San Francisco's prostitutes are themselves the victims.

He also says he hopes to see as many of those victims as possible prosecuted "fairly but firmly" by the district attorney.

Captain Shaughnessy, a 49-year-old native San Franciscan, sat behind his desk on the fifth floor of the Hall of Justice and philosophized about the "tough, dirty job" into which he was reinstated Monday by Chief Charles Gain.

"Everyone seems to forget that the prostitute is the victim. When you look into the whole picture of prostitution, you see that the prostitutes are practically forced into slavery and forced to remain there by their pimps through the use of drugs and force.

"Don't forget that the pimps are proselytizing young girls to get into the racket. I'm talking about teenagers."

Around the Hall of Justice, Shaughnessy is known as a tough, hard-bitten "book" cop.

In the Tenderloin and around Union Square, there are other names for the 27-year SFPD veter-

an. Margo St. James, head of Coyote, the organization of prostitutes, said she was "shocked and horrified" at Shaughnessy's reassignment.

Last Tuesday, a day after returning to his old job, Shaughnessy directed a sweep of the Union Square area that resulted in the arrests of 13 alleged prostitutes, including one man.

Shaughnessy himself was in one of the patrolling squad cars. He told reporters only that he was "just looking the situation over."

Shaughnessy had been in charge of the vice squad, or Bureau of Special Services, for more than five years when Gain took office last January 12.

Shortly before that time, District Attorney Joseph Freitas Jr. announced that his office would ease up on prosecution of prostitution cases.

In March, Shaughnessy began a six-month disability leave following a foot operation. In June, Gain transferred Shaughnessy, who was still on leave, to the patrol division and replaced him with Captain Paul Lawler.

Gradually, prostitutes began to appear in greater numbers in the

downtown area, prompting a flood of complaints from businessmen and hotel executives and, according to widespread speculation, resulting in the reassignment of Shaughnessy to his post.

Asked how it felt to be back, Shaughnessy characteristically chose his words carefully.

"I was asked to take it on by the chief," he said. "I agreed to try to do something about our obvious problem, which is street prostitution."

"You can bet your last dollar I will make every effort to do something about that problem."

Shaughnessy said he didn't know how he got the tough guy image and said he considered himself only a "professional policeman who is trying to carry out the job he's assigned to do."

"Vice duty is a tough, dirty job that requires a lot of patience and thorough basic police work by the officers assigned. Vice and related crimes must get the same treatment and be brought under control as much as any other criminal activity."

The vice chief said recommending sentences for convicted prostitutes was "not my bailiwick, but I would hope that the district

attorney would recommend fair but firm judicial action in prostitution cases."

In appointing Shaughnessy to his old post, Gain said he would be reporting directly to the chief. That change was reportedly one of the reasons Deputy Police Chief Mortimer McInerney, a 30-year veteran, resigned from the force Thursday.

The former vice chief had been reporting to McInerney.

Shaughnessy said he had "no comment" on McInerney's resignation, remarking that that was a matter between McInerney and Gain.

A graduate of Balboa high school, Shaughnessy served in the Navy during World War II before obtaining his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of San Francisco in 1949.

In 1972, Shaughnessy attended the FBI academy and was graduated first in his class of 300, winning the award for academic excellence—the J. Edgar Hoover award.

Shaughnessy speaks of his new duties in an intense, committed tone of voice, although he says he has "no way of knowing" how long it will be until the prostitution

furor dies down.

"I can't estimate that," he said. "I do believe that prostitution and its related crimes can be brought under control."

"Obviously, you're never going to eliminate it," he added.