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**Youthful Gunman Narrates Life of Crime And Reasons, On Arrest Here**

A 17-year-old alleged gunman and his 29-year-old purported accomplice are in custody of police charged with armed robbery of the Torrance Bottle Shop on Nov. 20.

The youth, identified as Richard J. Gorham, 273 N. Hawthorne blvd., Hawthorne, is being held in juvenile detention by sheriff's deputies. His asserted companion in crime, William W. Russel, 29, of the same address, is in Torrance city jail.

Police Captain Frank Schumacher and Officer Willard Barnett started the ball rolling, according to Police Chief John Stroh, when they arrested Russel in an alleged stolen automobile parked near the Bottle Shop. Russel was booked at the police station on a charge of being drunk in an automobile. Officers later discovered, they said, that the car had been stolen in Los Angeles.

Later, Acting Desk Sergeant Alexander S. Thompson, alone at the time, was visited by a man and a woman who inquired if Russel had been arrested. When informed that he had been apprehended, the couple left but later were observed walking behind the city jail. Upon hearing the couple talking through a barred jail window, Thompson summoned Schumacher and Barnett.

Upon their arrival, they report, Barnett observed a third person fleeing down the alley. Immediately he gave chase.

Schumacher brought the man and woman into the station, where they were identified as Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bunn, 2462 Sonoma ave. They explained they were only interested in Russel's welfare.

Barnett, in the meantime, ran his fleeing suspect right into the arms of Officers Swayne Johnson and Larry Benton. Johnson and Benton caught on quickly and the race stopped. Armed with a 32-caliber revolver, the fleeing suspect identified himself as Richard Gorham.

At the station he readily admitted robbing a liquor store earlier in the evening at 21923 S. Main st., where he obtained some \$320 in currency, also the Bottle Shop on Nov. 20. Police say he named Russel as his accomplice.

Easy going and polite to the officers, the youth gave out a flow of talk that involved him in numerous robberies and auto thefts during the past year. He told his apprehenders quite cheerfully that he should not have given up so easily.

Johnson remarked that it was dangerous to flee from an officer. The youth replied: "Oh, I don't know about that. I could have killed the three of you very easy. Cops are poor shots," he opined.

He revealed that he had conceived his career in crime more than a year ago when he was the victim of a holdup while employed at a filling station.

"I stole an auto last year in Los Angeles, but wrecked it and was caught," he told officers.

"I was put on probation following that. I later swiped a gun from a parked car, then went back east to visit friends. I might have given up my hold-up ideas if it had not been for a little job I pulled in a Florin time last October.

"That job made me real mad," Gorham confessed bitterly. "I went into the store and put my gun on the girl behind the counter and asked for the cash. While she was handling it to me she kept looking back over her shoulder and I got suspicious and looked too.

"I hung around the corner of the place and waited for a bus. People and cops were milling all around the liquor store. I stuck my shirt into the bullet hole to stop the flow of blood and boarded a bus. The bullet's still in here," he bragged, pointing to his side.

Officers denied the youth still carried the bullet and intimated that it was only a flesh wound, and he no doubt had been treated by the elder Russel.

Chief Stroh said the pair's apprehension may lead to the solution of other robberies and car thefts in the area during the past year. He also pointed out that the two may be members of a gang operating in Los Angeles County.

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