

MASKED ROBBERS ELUDE POLICE AFTER HITTING DOWNTOWN STORE

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas



Torrance Herald

THURSDAY
and
Sunday

News & Adv. FA 8-4000

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

Circulation FA 8-4004

43rd Year—No. 13

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1957

10¢ Per Copy

40 PAGES

Vandals Greatly Damage Halldale School Rooms

Raiders Slash Drapes, Seats

Vandals who broke into the Halldale Ave. School sometime during Tuesday's holiday or early yesterday did damage estimated at several thousand dollars to drapery, furniture, and equipment, it was reported yesterday.

Greatest amount of damage was inflicted in the auditorium where expensive asbestos drapery was slashed, a record player broken, and records broken among the seats. Investigators said it appeared that the vandals had sailed the records throughout the auditorium.

Overstuffed furniture was slashed in the teachers dining room, milk containers emptied, a large mirror broken, eggs thrown against the walls, and magazines torn and thrown about the room.

Six doves were killed in the classroom of Mrs. Dorothy Doran, and other damage inflicted.

"We had a nice time in here, see you next week," one of the hoodlums had written on a classroom blackboard.

A series of obscene phrases had been written on other classroom walls and blackboards.

Some of the neighborhood children reported they saw some children about 15 years of age around the school Tuesday. The reports are being checked by school authorities and Harbor Division police.



SCENE OF CRIME . . . Oscar Strumwasser, owner of Strum's Department Store, shows how robbers forced him into alcove where he had to open the store's safe. The robbers took about \$1000 in cash and an undetermined amount of checks, he told police.

Owner Forced To Open Safe

Grotesquely disguised gunmen who robbed Strum's Dept. Store of about \$1000 in cash are being sought by authorities today. They made a clean get-away after tying up three men in the store Monday morning. Police said that the owner of the store, Oscar Strumwasser, 52, and a clerk, Sidney Weissberg, 49, both of Los Angeles, were just unlocking the rear door of the establishment at 1261 Sartori Ave. when they were accosted by the two bandits.

The robbers, who had weird Halloween masks over their faces, leaped from a car that roared down the alley and threatened the two men with .45-calibre automatic pistols.

After herding Strumwasser and Weissberg inside, one of the thugs forced Strumwasser to open a safe in an alcove under a flight of stairs.

Bound by Thugs
The cash and an undetermined amount of checks were scooped from the vault and the two victims were bound hand and foot with knit neckties taken from a rack in the store.

"There's more than this here. Where are your weekend receipts?" one of the bandits demanded.

He cursed when Strumwasser said there was no more and the robbers started to leave through the rear door, only to encounter Jerry Dameron, 20, a stock clerk, who also was secured with the cravats.

The victims said one of the bandits was six feet tall, while the other was about seven inches shorter. One wore a checkered hunting-type cap. They were driving a 1956 Chevrolet sedan.

Apparently Planned
Det. Capt. Ernest Ashton said the crime evidently was well planned, since the bandits were well acquainted with the layout of the store.

The three men called police after wriggling free of their bonds, but a police search of this area turned up no trace of the thugs or their car.

Legislators to Study Lomita's Annex Problems

A legislative interim committee will hold a public hearing in Lomita, Monday, to probe the annexation-incorporation, and "leave us alone" problems of the Lomita area, it was announced here yesterday by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

The legislators will meet at 1 p.m., Monday, in the American Legion hall in Lomita, Thomas said.

Members Listed
Sitting in on the meeting will be Harold Levering, Santa Monica, a member of the committee on government efficiency and economy; and Seth Johnson of Los Angeles, and Frank Bonelli of Huntington Park, both members of the municipal and county government committees of the legislature.

The committee will hear four representatives from each of three groups in Lomita, Thomas reported. Those scheduled to send spokesmen to the meeting include the Chamber of Commerce, which has been pushing the move for incorporation; the Lomita Civic League, and the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Assn.

Two Functions
The committee will have two functions at the hearing, according to Thomas.

1. It will outline all the present laws governing annexation and incorporation for the Lomita residents;

2. It will formulate any recommendations for changes of those laws as a result of the material presented at the hearing.

Private Bus Set At White School

Although the Los Angeles superintendent of schools ruled that the Shoestring Strip area is not entitled to a school bus to take children to Stephen White Junior High School, a private bus firm will serve the area starting today, according to Principal Albert Cartwright.

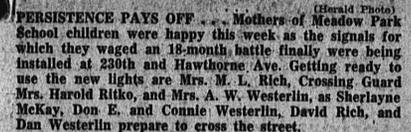
The superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Education was made after a seven-member transportation committee toured the area Friday.

Parents of some 200 children in an area between Western and Vermont and between 212th and Francisco Sts. had kept their children out of the newly opened school since Monday, Feb. 4. They said that although they live within walking distance of the school, the lack of sidewalks between their homes and the school made the trip too hazardous.

Bus Planned
The Wilmington Bus Lines agreed to make trips through the area to take children to and from school, Cartwright said, after the board refused to furnish school buses. Charges for the trip will be 10 cents per trip, with monthly passes to be sold.

The bus will leave 208th and Main at 7:15 a.m., with stops at 208th and Catalina, 208th and Normandie, Denker and Torrance Blvd., and 211th and Torrance Blvd. It will return in the afternoon via the same route.

Principal Cartwright said he hoped that the "strike" was about over. Of some 200 children who failed to enroll in school during the first week,



Meadow Park Mothers Win Signal Fight

Persistence pays off, mothers of children at Meadow Park School have won their fight for traffic signals at the busy intersection at 230th and Hawthorne Ave., climaxing an 18-month battle by the mothers.

In September, 1955, mothers began a fight to get the traffic signals at the crossing which many Meadow Park pupils must cross to get to the school, located at 3860 W. 230th St. They formed a human chain across the boulevard, stopping traffic while the youngsters crossed the street.

Mothers carried signs, presented petitions, and wrote to leading state officials to get action. Last fall, they were informed that the signals would be installed, and the work is now nearing completion.

The mothers contended that the crossing guard at the crossing is inadequate, since the speed limit on Hawthorne Ave. is 55 miles per hour. Many children narrowly missed being run over by cars, the mothers said.

Seventeen of the applicants are due at the Torrance city hall for the exam, three will take it in San Diego, and six in San Francisco, according to Walter A. Bradford, secretary of the Torrance Civil Service Commission.

The new position, approved by voters last spring as a charter amendment and subsequently ratified by the State Legislature, the new position will pay a salary range of \$728 to \$797.

The new officer, when selected, will be responsible for the accounting, auditing, and disbursing of all funds of the city, and will assist the city manager in preparation of the annual budget and its administration.

Selection of the successful candidate is expected later this spring when the results of the examinations have been tabulated.

Local YMCA Drive At Quarter Mark

The 10-day old Torrance YMCA fund drive has reached the quarter mark, with \$6000 in cash and pledges already in. Sam Levy, drive chairman, reported.

Levy pointed out that over 140 YMCA campaigners are on the job. "Their efforts will insure another year of success for our Torrance YMCA," he said.

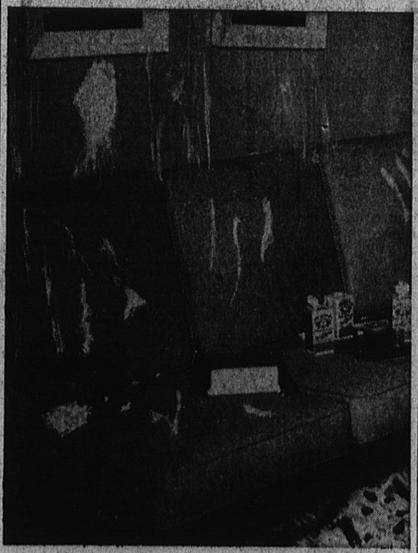
Interviews Held
Interviews are proceeding to hire a second full-time man at the end of the drive, Levy said, but hundreds of new contributions are needed to reach

the \$24,000 goal. He invited citizens and groups to contact the YM, FA 8-1272, to help or to become a sustaining member.

Several new members of the YMCA Century Club—contributors of \$100 or more—signed up this week. New members—Paul Shinoda, Dr. John Nursall, Charles Reed, and Dick Fitzgerald—will join other club members at a steak dinner late in February.

Leading Campaigners
Of the eight campaign divisions, Gil Derouin's clubs division

(Continued on Page 2)



SEATS SLASHED . . . Part of the damage inflicted on furniture at Halldale Ave. School this week is indicated in the photo above which shows the slashes put in upholstered seats, milk cartons strewn about, and the splattered walls.

Third Rabid Animal Dies; 10 Get Shots

Ten people are receiving the Pasteur anti-rabies treatments this week after coming in contact with a dog which died last week of rabies. It was the third reported in the area this year.

The dead dog was owned by J. E. Melugin, 3028 Winlock Rd. The owners took the dog to Crenshaw Animal Hospital, where it died and was diagnosed as definitely rabid. It was a brown and white mixed cocker spaniel named "Rinny."

Six members of the Melugin family and four neighbors are receiving treatments and two other animals in the area are under observation. Anyone who might have come in contact with the animal was urged to call the County Health Department, FA 8-3310.

Temperatures

Torrance residents shed their overcoats and got out their shorts this week, as temperatures soared, hitting 84 here yesterday. This was the hottest day of the year. Temperatures for the week were:

	High	Low
Wednesday	84	50
Tuesday	72	54
Monday	73	55
Sunday	73	47

Hull to Take Part in School Leaders' Meet

Dr. J. H. Hull, Torrance superintendent of schools, will serve as an interrogator at the annual meeting of the American Assn. of School Administrators to be held in Atlantic City, N. J., starting tomorrow.

Hull will take part in a discussion of the subject, "Coordinating the Efforts of Organized Citizen Groups for Good Schools" next Tuesday.