

POLICE CLAIM CAR RING SMASHED

Torrance Area Thefts Solved

Police have brought an abrupt halt to an estimated \$100,000 stolen car racket with the arrest of three men in Torrance.

An early dawn stakeout at a Torrance auto-salvage yard, 804 E. Carson St., last week ended netted the ring leaders and solved the mystery of hundreds of stolen cars that vanished from the harbor area during the past year.

Arrested were Charles Mitchell, 28, of 21404 Vera St., and Oscar D. Bailey, 27, of 21936 Main St., who face charges of grand theft auto. Held on charges of receiving stolen property was Albert Bullock, 47, operator of the junk yard.

Rounding up the men who are suspected of stealing as many as six cars a day were Lt. Ralph Weyant and Detective Sgts. Chet Baldrige, C. H. Simon and Robert Kinsey.

Cut Up Cars

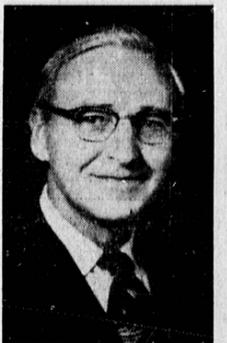
Officers declared the ring leaders took the stolen autos to auto wreckers who cut up the cars a few hours after the thefts had occurred. Any part of the vehicle that might have identified the car as stolen was melted down as scrap metal. Police estimated Bullock disposed of from 50 to 70 cars in this manner during the past year.

Detectives found 30 discarded California license plates and 60 pink ownership certificates in a truck owned by Bullock. All are believed to be from stolen cars.

The going price on a stolen car at an auto-salvage lot is only \$15 regardless of its age or condition, police said. Some cars as new as 1956 models in excellent shape have been sold for \$15 as "junk," they added. Lt. Weyant, who directed the team operation, said police first received a tip on the asserted operation more than two months ago and were piecing together evidence during the intervening time.

Climax Comes

The climax came Saturday morning when the officers staked out the junk yard. Earlier officers had spotted Mitchell and Bailey taking cars to an abandoned field. When the two came back later to pick up the cars, they were followed to the junk yard. A few minutes later Bullock arrived and opened the yard.



DARWIN PARRISH
... Heads Dental Group

Parrish Heads Dental Health Organization

Darwin Parrish, Torrance businessman and former member of the Torrance board of education, this week was named president of the Torrance Dental Health Assn. succeeding HERALD Editor Reid Bundy.

Selection of Parrish for the top post in the six-year-old Torrance organization was made at the group's annual meeting at the Women's Club.

Named to serve with him were Jim Decker, manager of the Southern California Gas Co. officers here, first vice president; Mrs. A. C. Turner, second vice president; Mrs. Matthew Humber, secretary; and Mrs. E. G. Collins, secretary.

Mrs. Ralph M. McBee, executive secretary of the group since its founding in 1952, will continue in that post.

More than \$14,000 worth of dental assistance has been provided to students of Torrance

(Continued on Page 1)

(Continued on Page 2)

Stabbing Victim Critical; Police Free Girl Friend

Aircraft worker Fred A. Wright who left a block long trail of blood here late Saturday after he was stabbed in the chest with butcher knife, remained on the critical list at Harbor General Hospital yesterday.

The 30-year-old Wright, who was listed as a resident of Bell Gardens and of Torrance, received the wound late Saturday after he and

Mary V. Schumacher, of 1687 Gramercy Ave., had allegedly been engaged with others at the Schumacher home in arguments about religion.

Mrs. Schumacher was held after the incident, and then released Monday when the district attorney dismissed her on the grounds that her actions were "justified on grounds of self defense."

As police investigators and sheriff's homicide officers reconstructed the events leading up to the incident, Wright had been visiting the Schumacher home along with two women who were friends of Mrs. Schumacher. Also present were Floyd L. Willis, 33, who lives at 1687 1/2 Gramercy Ave., and Mrs. Schumacher's 7-year-old son.

Mrs. Schumacher told the investigating officers that Wright had followed her friends to their car when they decided to leave after heated discussions on religion. While he was out, Mrs. Schumacher locked the doors of her home. She said the man kicked in the rear door of her home and attempted to choke her. Willis, in the meantime, had fled out the front door to call police. Mrs. Schumacher's son witnessed the struggle in the kitchen and reportedly verified her statements that Wright attempted to choke her.

In the struggle, the victim was stabbed in the chest with a 12-inch butcher knife. He staggered out of the house and into a service station at 1640 Arlington Ave., nearly a block away, where attendant Johnny Foster called an ambulance.

Wright left a trail of blood which led back to the Schumacher home, according to Officer Charles B. Oates.

The men reported that they had no trouble, but had been delayed by the choppy seas.

Two men from Torrance Sunday evening when it had not arrived in the harbor after a trip to Catalina.

A search launched by the Coast Guard was called off when the boat returned to the Avalon harbor.

The craft was reported overdue again Monday and a search started by the Coast Guard for the second time when the boat was spotted in the channel.

The men reported that they had no trouble, but had been delayed by the choppy seas.

A Harbor City woman this week became the first repeat customer for the maternity ward at 10-month-old Riviera Hospital when she gave birth to another son.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis L. Shurtliff, 1346 W. 251st St., became parents again Sunday with the premature arrival of Donnie Shurtliff, who weighed in at 5 lbs. 2 oz.

Mrs. Shurtliff gave birth to a son, Danny, Aug. 6, 1957, only two weeks after the hospital was opened.

The couple have another boy, Dale, who is 3 years old. Shurtliff is in the U. S. Army, stationed at the local Nike Base.

Among those voicing protests over the ordinance proposal was Edith Messenger, a teacher at the Riviera Elementary School.

"I just couldn't decide which of my four cats I would choose to be destroyed," she said. "I would just have to leave Torrance if the law went through," she said.

Lee F. Bower said he and his wife have three cats—two of them 8 years old, and one 9

year olds—and that they had just purchased their home here recently. He said they would just have to sell out and move before giving up one of the three pets.

Mrs. John Simmons, the owner of three cats, asked the councilmen where the city would stop.

Canaries Next
"If they tax cats, they'll probably tax parakeets and canaries next," she said.

Mrs. Martha Swan, stressed the value of cats in keeping down the rodent population, and recalled stories of a cat purge in New England years ago which resulted in a sharp uprise in rats and vermin.



GUARDSMAN HONORED . . . Capt. Douglas Horlander (right) was honored yesterday afternoon when Assemblyman Vincent Thomas presented him with a resolution of the State Legislature citing him for his work as commanding officer of Co. E, 132nd Armored Engineer Bn., here in January 1955 floods. The resolution was approved by the Assembly earlier this year.

Cat Limit Law Killed by City

Limitation and licensing of the city's cat population would be a tough law to regulate, city councilmen decided Tuesday night after an hour-long public hearing.

Under discussion was an ordinance which would limit adult cats to two per residence, and fix license fees and impound charges against all cats in the city.

Speaking out sharply against a law which would limit cats to two were a number of Torrance residents, several who said they would be forced to sell their homes and move out of the city if the law passed.

The city fathers moved to take out the limitation and licensing provisions of the ordinance after the hearing, but ordered a restudy of the provisions outlawing wild and ferocious animals, including any simian, or member of a wild order of the cat or any other animal family.

Owners of pet monkeys and chimpanzees were expected to continue to protest the section outlawing simians.

Teacher Protests
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EXTRA DRIVING CARE NEEDED THIS WEEK END

Make traffic law obedience the first of holiday driving plans say the California Highway Patrol.

"Holiday traffic hazards will present special traffic problems this week end, our first major holiday week end of the year," declared Patrol Commissioner B. R. Caldwell. "With several million vehicles expected on our streets and highways over Memorial Day, drivers will have to be 'traffic conscious' to avoid fatal and injury producing accidents.

"Traffic conscious" means obeying all traffic rules and regulations and cooperating with others," Caldwell stated. "Extra heavy traffic will demand slower speed and constant alertness to avoid the mistakes of others, both drivers and pedestrians.

"Safe driving is a personal responsibility and every vehicle operator is urged to exercise that responsibility," he continued. "A little more effort to drive within the law this coming holiday will pay big dividends in safety.

"California's traffic toll next week end will reflect our efforts to control your traffic actions and the manner in which you accept your responsibilities."

Fanny King, Pioneer Area Realtor, Dies

Funeral services for Fanny Christina King, long time Torrance realtor, and resident of the city for the past 38 years, will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel.

Mrs. King, who lived at 1533 Marcelina Ave., died Sunday at Torrance Memorial Hospital. She was 74.

The Rev. Morgan Gates will officiate at the final rites.

Mrs. King was the mother of Thomas King, who currently lives in Inglewood, and Mrs. Dolores James, who lives at the Marcelina address. Two grandchildren also survive her as well as three brothers: Harry Olson of Whittier, Clifton Olson of Florida, and Arthur Olson of Wyoming; and two sisters, Mrs. Lillian Fortier, Santa Rosa, and Mrs. Alma Bickenstaff.

She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, and had been active in the Royal Neighbors of America.

The pioneer Torrance businesswoman had been in the real estate business here 20 years prior to her retirement in 1940.

Burial will be in Inglewood Memorial Park.



PROM ROYALTY . . . Gay Maupin and Mark Eubank were named King and Queen of the Torrance High School Junior-Senior Prom last Friday. Theme for the student event was "An Affair to Remember." (Crotty Photo)

A Penny for your Thoughts

The fate of Los Angeles Dodgers' ball park in Chavez Ravine will be decided by voters Tuesday, so the HERALD's inquiring reporter sampled public opinion about the ballot measure.

Local residents gave their answer to the question:

"Do you think the Dodgers-Chavez Ravine referendum should be approved Tuesday or do you think the Dodgers should look for another park site?"

Mrs. Rose Barrett, 2700 Highland Ave., Redondo Beach, housewife:

"I think voters should approve the issue. The Dodgers already have put a lot of money into coming to Los Angeles and they'll be putting out more. We should show we appreciate them and now is a good time to start."

S/Sgt. Allen Sweeney, 232 E. 227th St., Marine recruiter:

"I'm for it. I want to see the Dodgers stay out here. I'm from Brooklyn. There must have been some understanding between Los Angeles and the Dodgers and it would be unfair now to take away Chavez Ravine."

Eugene Gather, 813 W. 214th St., laborer:

"I think the voters should approve it. After all, the Dodgers are the best team in the league, in my opinion, and have been ever since it was started. The city voters should vote 'yes' Tuesday."

W. P. Fitzgerald, 451 Via Los Miradores, industrialist:

"The voters should approve the contract. I am a former Easterner who thinks we should have big league baseball here no matter what it costs."

Phyllis Barrett, Redondo Beach, student:

"I think voters in Los Angeles should approve the issue, so the Dodgers could go ahead with their plans. If the referendum is defeated I think the Dodgers might leave Los Angeles."

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Stores Close For Holiday

City, county and federal offices and stores will be closed tomorrow as the nation honors Memorial Day.

Both California Bank and Bank of America will be closed Friday. However, the two firms have announced their doors will remain open until 6 p.m. today.

A HEAD START . . . Pretty Judi Tye gets a head start on summer swimmers who plan to take advantage of the Torrance Municipal Plunge this summer. Judi, as a matter of fact, didn't even wait until the pool was filled. She's shown dipping a foot into pool which will be filled and open to the public starting June 14.