

19-YEAR-OLD DOPE ADDICT CONFESSES 9 BURGLARIES

Coat Traps Thief

A 19-year-old dope addict, lying in the prison ward of the Los Angeles County hospital with a bullet through his back, this week confessed to burglarizing nine Torrance establishments.

The merest clue, a tell-tale laundry mark found at the scene of one of the crimes, gradually led to other clues which culminated in the identification of Jack Leroy Johnson, a transient living in Los Angeles, as the person allegedly responsible for the local burglaries, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton.

Places Hit
Johnson confessed to burglarizing the following establishments: Pacific Perforating company, 1024 Engracia, two empty safes.

The offices of Dr. Allen Yeatt, optometrist; Dr. Robert W. Barrett, dentist; Dr. Emmy Schiller, M. D.; and Dr. Alfred Redisch, chiropractist, all located at 2410 Torrance boulevard.

Stolen were \$77 in cash, a Fischer Peasine machine (which looks like a typewriter but isn't), two dozen hypodermic needles and drugs.

Alpert's furniture store, 2067 Torrance boulevard, \$108 and about five cigarette lighters.

Torrance hardware, 1513-1515 Cabrillo, a Westinghouse GE portable radio and a cigarette lighter.

Leaves Coat
Ashton was first alerted to the suspect's identity when a coat, bearing a Santa Monica laundry mark, was found at the scene of the Pacific Perforating company safe burglary February 7.

Johnson fled, leaving his coat behind, when discovered by the night watchman, Clyde M. Denton. In order to make his getaway, Johnson stole a '47 Plymouth club coupe from the All State trailer court, 1925 Crenshaw boulevard. The auto was later recovered in Venice.

He returned to Torrance a week later for the other burglaries.

The coat, which had been stolen, was traced by the laundry mark to a Santa Monica dentist's office, from which drugs had been stolen.

Comedy Of Errors
Based on this information and a description given of the burglar by the night watchman a check with the Los Angeles Police Record Bureau produced two suspects who looked strikingly alike.

One was dismissed when seen by the night watchman. The other one was saved from what could have been a case of mistaken identity by his fingerprints which did not match those of the actual burglar.

Another check with the record bureau produced a picture of Johnson. "The likeness between the three men was incredible. They were splitting images of each other," Ashton declared.

"Wherever he went, he tried to steal clothing, especially coats. He had a mania for coats," Ashton concluded.

TORRANCE PRESS

The Largest Circulation Newspaper in Torrance

VOL. VI THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1955 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NO. 47



10c

Located at 1406 Cravens Ave. - 7th FA. 8-2345

STICK-UP RATTLES CASHIER

Terrified when a gunman thrust a gun at her and demanded all her money, a cashier required a physician's attention following a stick-up at the Radium Theater, 2500 Redondo Beach boulevard, Sunday night.

Requiring sedatives was Mrs. Elvira Luongo of 16402 Wilton place, Torrance.

Driving up to her booth in a stolen car late Sunday night, the gunman informed Mrs. Luongo that this was a stick-up and ordered her to put all the money in a bag, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton.

Upon taking the money totaling \$90, the bandit ripped the phone off the wall and sped away.

While waiting for the cash, the man warned the cashier, "If cars drive in behind me, act natural."

The man was described as 5'6", about 26 years old, and weighing about 165 pounds.

He wore a Panama straw hat, a dark Melton-cloth short jacket (a heavy cloth Eisenhower-type jacket), and light brown slacks.

The bandit was said to have a very pronounced eastern accent.

One of the ushers, sitting in his own car about 75 feet away, allegedly saw the whole incident.

Man Accosts Young Woman

A man made offensive remarks and exposed himself to an attractive young waitress while her car was stopped to let a train pass at Western avenue and Torrance boulevard during the early hours Sunday morning.

The woman told Torrance police that the man got out of his car and came over to her own car. He did not enter her car. The moment the train passed, the woman rushed off.

The man made no attempt to follow her, she said.

C Of C Holds Annual Dinner Next Thursday

The annual banquet and installation of officers of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday, March 3, in the Civic Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. It was announced this week.

The dinner will be chuckwagon style which proved so popular at last year's installation.

Musical background will be provided by "The Sparklers." Entertainment will feature 13-year-old John Ledwon, child prodigy, noted for his remarkable organ recitals.

Featured on the same billing will be Dixie Land Swing Music by Dan Buckley and his Seldom Fed Seven.

Reservations for the dinner may now be made by calling the Torrance Chamber of Commerce (FA. 8-2814).

The Torrance Civil Service Board, which was fired recently as a board of review, was temporarily reinstated by the City Council at a special meeting Monday afternoon.

The action was taken because of two appeals for a hearing made by city employees. Since there is a time limit set on such hearings and since the county was not willing to act in the matter, the Council was virtually forced to reinstate the Board in this particular case.

Start All-Out Effort On Local Civil Defense Program; Big Drill Set

Recent TV and newspaper publicity exposing L. A.'s unpreparedness in case of a Civil Defense emergency struck home! Torrance, at least, has taken the warning to heart and will embark on a coordinated Civil Defense program which may very well set the pattern for other cities to follow.

This opinion was voiced Tuesday by Capt. Douglas J. Horlander, commanding officer of the Torrance National Guard unit. Capt. Horlander, together with other city officials, is planning a giant Civil Defense drill Tuesday, March 8, as a first step in an all-out coordinated local Civil Defense effort.

Full Battle Dress
The drill, "Operation Dominguez," will involve local Police, Fire Department, reserve units, Civil Defense, and the local Guard unit in a mock-invasion to be acted out in full battle regalia on the 28-acre civic center site between Maple ave. and Madrona ave. north of Torrance Blvd.

Blank ammunition and flare ammunition will be used, though caution will be taken so as not to cause damage to existing structures.

At exactly 7:30 p.m., the caretaker of the Dominguez Water company reservoir will notify Torrance police by phone that he has seen unidentified persons parachuting into the area between the reservoir and the city dump.

Aid Rushed
Torrance police will contact Bridge Co. (the local National Guard unit) requesting immediate military support. The unit will be rushed to the scene under police escort.

Rushing to the reservoir, a police dispatch car will discover

(Continued on Page 9)

Past President Of Rotary International To Speak Here

Estes Snedecor, past president of Rotary International, will address Torrance Rotarians here this evening as the club joins others across the nation in celebrating Rotary's golden anniversary.

Other Rotarians from neighboring clubs have been invited to attend tonight's meeting at the Torrance Woman's club, 1422 Engracia, beginning at 6:30. This will mark the first time that a former president of the world-wide service club will appear in this area.

Numerous Offices
Snedecor is an active member of the Portland, Oregon club and has held offices in the Rotary International organization ranging from its president to membership on various committees. He served as president during 1920-21, and has been vice-president, chairman of several committees, and has served on many other committees.

A native of Florida, the past president attended the Universities of Alabama and Michigan.

Arrangements for tonight's Rotary program were handled by Dr. Raymond A. Larson, program chairman of the club.

LATE NEWS

ANNEXATION: The annexation issue will be discussed at a meeting of the Waleria Civic organization Tuesday, March 1, at the Waleria recreation center, Waleria park, starting at 8 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

AIRPORT TRIANGLE: Complete title to the airport triangle is expected by the city some time this week. Clearance of the recapture clause by CAA was granted this week. Surface rights clearance from General Services in San Francisco is expected this week.

HOSPITAL FUND: National Supply this week pledged \$21,500 to the Torrance Memorial Hospital fund, according to J. D. Spalding, works manager.

FOR SALE: 5-pc. maple bedroom set, mattress and springs; 5-pc. chrome dinette set, 2-year-old Motorola TV 17-in. gas stove, 1010 Maple St. DA. 4-6006

Her phone started ringing at 8:30 a.m. in the morning and continued to ring long after she had sold everything.

Call FA. 8-2345 and let a friendly Press classified salesgirl help you word your ad just right.

You'll do what Mrs. Prenevost did... she came back for more!

13 Hurt in Week-end Collisions

Three collisions sent 13 people to the hospital, five with serious injuries over the week-end.

Suffering major injuries when two cars collided head-on near 185th street on Hawthorne avenue Friday were:

Tom Moreno, 19, of Monrovia; Kathleen Moreno, 42, 1517 West 229th street; Donald Jacobs, 19, 3707 West 174th street; Pear Man, 27, Redondo Beach; and Alice Moe, 31, Redondo Beach.

One of the autos swerved to miss a stalled car on Hawthorne avenue and crashed into the other head-on, according to California highway patrol officers. Drivers of the two cars were Kathleen Moreno and Jacobs.

Four Injured
Four other persons were injured four hours later at 190th street and Crenshaw boulevard when two cars collided at the intersection.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital with head and body injuries were:

David Merle Brooks, 22, Redondo Beach. Robert Harold Hull, 31, of Inglewood; Jack Ligon and Everett L. Upchurch, Jr., of the United States Navy.

Encore
The same corner, Crenshaw boulevard and 190th street, was the scene of a repeat-performance Saturday afternoon when a car driven by Hilda Unger, 75, of Beverly Hills and Albert D. Chandler, 33, of 4737 Darin street, collided.

Sent to Harbor General hospital with minor injuries were: Hilda Unger, 75; Nathan Bernstein, 74; Frances M. Bernstein, 66, and Jane Moore, 67, all of Beverly Hills.

The baby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Jones of 3774 East 202nd street, suffered second and third degree burns over a week ago Monday.

While the mother left the bath room temporarily to look after her other children, the baby turned on the hot water to such a degree that it was severely scalded, according to Firestone police.

"We've had about three such cases this year," Sgt. Ned Laverterich of the Los Angeles homicide bureau said.

Just Dial FA. 8-2345, Ask For Class

Got a lot of hodge-podge you want to get rid of?

Do it with a Torrance Press classified ad and make money to boot!

That's what Mrs. Joseph Prenevost of 1010 Maple street did. She placed the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section.

FOR SALE—5-pc. maple bedroom set, mattress and springs; 5-pc. chrome dinette set, 2-year-old Motorola TV 17-in. gas stove, 1010 Maple St. DA. 4-6006

Her phone started ringing at 8:30 a.m. in the morning and continued to ring long after she had sold everything.

Call FA. 8-2345 and let a friendly Press classified salesgirl help you word your ad just right.

You'll do what Mrs. Prenevost did... she came back for more!



SOLDIER OF THE MONTH... Mrs. Helen Kaukas, 972 - 208th st., Torrance, holds a photo of her son, Pfc. Knute G. Schesel, who was chosen "soldier of the month." Mrs. Kaukas was informed of the honor by the company's commanding officer, Schesel is with the 325th Airborne Infantry, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Mrs. Kaukas works for the Douglas plant in Torrance.

Local Woman Finds Civil War Letter

A Civil War letter, found by a Torrance woman, came to light this week illustrating, among other things, that the problems of war are pretty much the same for all soldiers regardless of time or place.

The letter was found several years ago by Mrs. Frances Osborne of 617 Amapola, Torrance, while she was living in an attic apartment in an old house in Lockhart, Texas (near Austin).

The letter, intelligently composed and written in a highly legible hand, is dated Richmond, Virginia, September 22, 1861, and signed by J. B. Sanders.

Sanders, a soldier in the Confederate Army, wrote the letter

(Continued on Page 9)

Baby's Death By Scalding Accidental

Death of one-year-old Jeffery Jones who died of severe scalding last week in Harbor General Hospital was ruled accidental this week by Dr. H. C. Deutsch, county autopsy surgeon.

The baby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Jones of 3774 East 202nd street, suffered second and third degree burns over a week ago Monday.

While the mother left the bath room temporarily to look after her other children, the baby turned on the hot water to such a degree that it was severely scalded, according to Firestone police.

"We've had about three such cases this year," Sgt. Ned Laverterich of the Los Angeles homicide bureau said.

PARKING DISTRICT PLANNED

Plans to make 15 off-street parking sites available in downtown Torrance have been formulated. Formation of a parking assessment district to issue bonds for purchase of these sites have been recommended to the City Council by a committee of property owners, according to C. T. Rippy, chairman.

Rippy said the committee recommended that the district, composed of owners of commercial property in the shopping area, float bonds in the amount of \$200,000.

The 15 lots, each of which

(Continued on Page 2)

'Officer, He Went That-a-way'

Their faces were red and they may have gone to some unnecessary trouble in making this arrest, but at least these two Torrance police officers were determined not to come back empty-handed.

Everything went along smoothly when Officers Don Cook and Ralph Walker stopped Robert L. Roe of 23657 Madison street, Waleria, and arrested him on suspicion of drunk driving Monday.

They put him in the prowl car in routine fashion and then returned to his car in order to check it over and write down all the necessary information.

Minutes later they were electrified when a woman motorist stopped to inform them that their suspect "just left on foot."

Embarrassed but undaunted, the two officers paid their respects once more, this time at their suspect's home.

All three approached the police station with mixed feelings.

Schools Drop Override Tax; Plan \$10 Million Bond Election in June

Believing that they can get more money for school purposes through a bond issue, the Torrance Board of Education cancelled the special override tax election planned for May 10 at a special meeting held Monday.

Members also felt that the responsibility of paying for school costs would be more evenly distributed if all residents in Torrance settling here over a period of years would share in the costs.

The override tax would have hit residents of Torrance during the next five years. The bonds will be spread "equitably" over a period of twenty years, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

The board was anxious to point out that the change in plans was by no means occasioned by the possibility that the city may annex a large section of the Rolling Hills area (6513 acres).

However, if the annexation takes place, the area must contribute its share of any bond costs incurred by the Torrance Unified School District, the County Counsel ruled recently.

Plan Bond Election
The Board of Education immediately took under advisement Monday the possibility of a \$10 million bond issue for June 7.

LATE BULLETIN: Torrance Industries Tax Committee Tuesday approved the holding of a June bond election as proposed by the schools.

The cost of the bond issue to

the average property owner would be 12 cents per \$100 assessed valuation the first year, and drop down to 10 cents the second year, school figures disclosed.

In case the City Council approves annexation, the School Board has asked that the final decision would be reached either by March 8, or after April 5.

If this is not done, the board might have technical problems in calling for the June election, it was thought.



DOUBLE HONOR... Jack McNeil, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. McNeil, 2475-D Torrance Blvd., received his Eagle Scout and Ad Altare Dei awards last week at the Nativity parish hall. Bill Sells, advisor of Explorer Post 219x, here inspects one of the awards presented by Tom Wilkes and Father Patrick McGuinness.

PLANNERS APPROVE ANNEXATION; FINAL HEARING MARCH 8

Following two relatively uneventful hearings, the Torrance Planning Commission by a unanimous vote recommended that the City Council annex the 6513 acres of land in the Rolling Hills area to Torrance.

One last and final public hearing will be held on the matter before the City council. Unofficial date for the final hearing was set for March 8 at 8 p.m. in the City Council chamber of the City Hall, corner Cravens and El Prado.

The council set the official date last night. The date could not be confirmed at press time.

More than 70 people attended the final Planning Commission hearing last week.

Strings Attached
The following strings were attached to the Commission's recommendation:

1 That adequate restrictions be placed on the deeds of the subdividers to insure that lot sizes and character of developments follow

those submitted by the land holders.

2 That two ten-acre school sites be donated to the Unified School District, the sites being acceptable to the Board of Education.

3 Hawthorne Blvd. must be projected through the Palos Verdes Hills as diagramed in the brochure submitted by Palos Verdes Properties.

4 A qualified land economist be hired by the city to analyze the reports and statistics as submitted by the

Palos Verdes Properties.

LATE BULLETIN: Torrance Industries Tax Committee reaffirmed its approval of the annexation at a meeting held Tuesday, on the condition that the landholders donate two free 10-acre school sites to the Torrance school district.

A number of written and oral communications were received. P-T-A Council Proposals

Two proposals were submitted by Mrs. Donald Hauser, who

(Continued on Page 9)

15 Sites Chosen For Downtown Parking