

Cat Shows Escape Artist Talents

Ming Toy, a 6-month-old Siamese cat, is rapidly gaining fame as the Willie Sutton of the animal underworld.

Like the famed bank robber, Ming Toy just won't stay in prison.

The fabulous feline is the pet of the Denver Robbins family of 3518 Madison ct., Waveria. It combines uncanny craftiness with brute strength.

The Siamese escape artist achieved fame Sunday morning when it broke out of a wire mesh cage and was able to worm its way out from a padlocked garage door.

The feat was observed by Chris Landis, 10, of 3522 Madison ct., when he got up early to deliver his Torrance Press newspaper route.

Chris saw Ming Toy squeeze out of the top of the overhead garage door, and that made him curious.

A little investigation showed that the cat had torn open the wire mesh which covered all sides of the cage in which he was kept, since its owners exiled him to the garage at night after he made too much noise inside the house.

After escaping from the cage, Ming Toy climbed to the top of the garage door, which was padlocked from the outside. By pulling away at the hinges, he managed to open it just wide enough to squeeze through.

Chris put him back in and a moment later Ming Toy escaped again, repeating the successful process.

Its owners say that the cat, which they obtained from the South Bay Humane Society three weeks ago as a pet for their children, Jackie, 10, and Judy, 11, is strong enough to move a 25-pound weight harnessed to him.

Now they've given the feline Houdini a new world to conquer. They put him in a stronger cage and are waiting to see if he can manage to get out again.



ESCAPE ARTIST—Ming Toy the Siamese cat which can't be confined by a cage, a locked garage or a heavy weight, is object of curiosity from Jackie Robbins, holding clawed screen; Judy Robbins, with 25-pound weight, and Chris Landis. Arrow shows gap opened by cat.

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Woman Killed When Car Plunges off Cliff

Illegal Fireworks Cargo Seized by City Firemen

Fireworks Shipment Confiscated

A shipment of illegal fireworks sent to a Torrance family, was seized by firemen Monday in their annual battle for an accident and fire-free Fourth of July holiday.

Fire Marshal Robert Lucas said that he was called by Railway Express employees after they discovered a package containing Roman Candles, cherry bombs and other outlawed fire-crackers.

He said that the shipment was sent from out-of-state for children of a Torrance family. No action will be taken against the intended recipients of the package since they did not know it was being sent by a relative.

Lucas said that a small quantity of illegal fireworks usually dribbles into Torrance by way of San Francisco Chinatown or Tijuana, but any that is found, will be confiscated and the person caught with it, is subject to prosecution.

He added that all fireworks on sale at the 14 stands operated by service clubs here, are legal to fire. They have been approved by the State Fire Marshal's office as safe and sane.

But even these fireworks require a few precautions, Lucas pointed out. There is danger that the sparkler can ignite objects, particularly clothing as worn by little girls.

Last year an apartment and a residence caught fire after sparklers were thrown on the roof.

He urged that the residue material from discharged fireworks be placed in a metal container or sand box for safety, and that pyrotechnics not be discharged on dry grass or weeds.

Kills Self in Car



SHOTGUN DEATH—Det. Sgt. D. S. Hamilton examines body of Elmer Ellis Newton, 40, a Hawthorne furniture worker, who apparently killed himself with a 12 gauge shotgun, which he set off with his foot. Shot went into his heart. The car with the body was found by Reiko Katsuki of 21027 Madrona, Tuesday night. It had been parked near Benstead Plunge parking lot for at least a day.

Increase In Major Felonies

Felony arrests in Torrance almost doubled during the first five months of 1958, while major crimes increased 22.3 per cent.

In a report, Police Chief Percy Bennett announced that burglaries and robberies showed an upswing this year, but that misdemeanor crimes were below last year.

Bennett, whose department was described as seriously undermanned last week by a spokesman for city employees group, said that the increased arrests were due to more overtime work.

"The men are working harder and put in more overtime. Most of the felony arrests are made by the detective bureau which puts in longer hours and works more days," the chief said.

Stake-outs

He said that during the last three weeks in May, he had men on extensive stake-outs all over the city in order to apprehend a gang of burglars.

Bennett attributed the increase in burglaries and robberies to the economic downturn "at least partially."

While felonies were up this year, misdemeanor crimes took a 19.6 per cent dip from last year.

The chief explained that last year's high rate in petty thefts stemmed from a heavy series of hubcap and auto accessory pilferings, which led to a crack-down on that type of crime.



BEAUTIES AND BEARD—Admiring whiskers grown by Jack Phillips, general chairman of Rancho Days, are these candidates for Rodeo queen: Kathi Kirks, 17; Gloria Dutton, 18; Willie Swindells, 20; and Pat Ogden, 17. Winner of the title, who will reign over rodeo July 26 and 27, will be decided today.

Mother of Two Falls On Rocks

A young Torrance mother plunged to her death Tuesday afternoon when her car roared off a 200-foot cliff at Bluff Cove, Palos Verdes.

Mrs. Antoinette Myrtle Hewitt, 29, of 4214 W. 172nd st., was spilled out of the car approximately 125 feet from the top of the embankment in the 800 block of Paseo del Mar.

Her sedan dropped to another ledge about 75 feet farther down.

Await Autopsy

Police Sgt. E. Dollarheid said that Mrs. Hewitt's body was found on a pile of rocks.

He said his department is awaiting an autopsy report to determine if the woman had been ill at the time the car suddenly left the road at a mild curve and plunged over the cliff.

He said it was the third time a car had gone over the edge in that vicinity.

Witnesses

Three witnesses were fishing on the rocks below the sharp embankment and suddenly saw the car hurtling down. One of them told police he had heard the sound of a car horn as the vehicle catapulted down.

It took Jan Sultan of 8707 Trask ave., Playa del Rey, 10 minutes to climb the cliff and report the accident to police.

Mrs. Hewitt, wife of James T. Hewitt, is the mother of two daughters, aged 8 and 9. Neither of the youngsters was with her at the time, although police at first believed they might have been.

Car Club To Assist Done Plan

Members of King's Car Club, sponsored by Frank W. Burk for boys 16 years of age or older, announced Sunday that they will emphatically push the petition for 30 year mandatory sentences for narcotics pushers, which members of Torrance, Redondo and Gardena Elks lodges are circulating.

The boys will form teams to stand in front of markets with petitions and to make a house to house campaign.

The boys held their second annual barbecue Sunday at the Burk home, 5104 Zakon rd., from 12 noon till midnight. More than 75 guests were present, including parents and friends of the members.

"These are not hot-rodgers," said Mrs. Burk, "they are boys dedicated to helping others."

The group repaired over 500 toys last Christmas for patients at Harbor General Hospital; they help at various civic gatherings, and they stand ready to donate blood when needed at the hospital. They were winners of the George Putnam award this spring. Their club aim is to work for the betterment of their community and particularly, their neighborhoods.

Fred Mill Succeeds Trueblood As President of Chamber

O. R. Trueblood stepped out as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Tuesday in a move designed to put the organization on a fiscal year basis.

Fred Mill, 59, veteran civic leader, moved up from first vice president and will head the Chamber until June 30, 1959.

The new president explained that Trueblood stepped out of office after serving only six months in order to facilitate the switch from a calendar to fiscal year basis. Mill said the move was taken to put the Chamber on the same financial schedule as the city government's which contributes to the Chamber.



Fred Mill

Industrialist

Mill is division controller and assistant secretary of the National Supply Company. Trueblood is manager of McMahan's Furniture Store.

Under the reshuffle, J. H. Paget, manager of the Newberry store, will become first vice president; Dick Pyle, manager of the Pacific Telephone Company, second vice president and Glenn Koger, manager of Rome Cable Corp. will be treasurer. The terms of members of the board of directors will not be affected by the reshuffle.

Mill came to California in 1910 from Chicago, and started employment with the Union Tool Co., now National Supply, in 1919. He has served as director, treasurer and vice president of the Torrance Chamber, is past president of the Controllers Institute of America, Los Angeles Control, and past president of the Long Beach Chapter of the National Association of Accountants.

Active Leader

He is also an active member of the Torrance Rotary Club, Torrance Educational Advisory Council and serves on the taxation, fuel, power and water, and

\$15,000,000 Bond Issue for School Building Discussed

A \$15,000,000 bond issue for new school construction was discussed by the Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District Tuesday.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent, said that construction of buildings during the next seven years will require approximately \$12,500,000.

The bond issue, slated tentatively for election in fall, would provide funds for West High School as well as several elementary schools.

Clinton B. Cooke was elected president of the board, and Walter Garabranti, vice president, at the meeting. William C. Boswell, newly elected member, was officially seated at the meeting.

Some 300 of the 750 children at

Beach Patrol

In order to cut down on petty thefts, the department will shortly inaugurate a beach patrol in the afternoons and evenings to protect parked vehicles from thieves, Bennett said.

Torrance Ford Wins Youth Run

A Torrance car won first place in the lower price class of the fifth annual Youth Safety Run from Pomona to Yosemite and back.

Paul Grutis of the Senators and Jim Azzaro of the Greek Gods Car Clubs drove the winning entry sponsored by Vel's Ford. They scored first prize in their division with 18.69 miles per gallon and 43.171 miles in their Ford.

Officers A. L. Jackson and S. J. Piazza accompanied the youths on the arduous run which included detours, 110 degree temperatures and 38 miles of freeway travel.

Postpone Action On Tract Plan

A tentative subdivision map for 428 homes was shelved by the City Council Tuesday until a zone change hearing has been held.

The tract is located between Henrietta st. and the west city limits and from Torrance to Del Amo Blvds.

Little Red Schoolhouse Plan Adopted For Three Other Elementary Schools

Torrance's "Little Red Schoolhouse" is going to get bigger—about four times as large as it has been for the past three years.

The "Little Red Schoolhouse" is, of course, the program at Walteria School under which elementary youngsters from three different grades (1-2-3 and 4-5-6) are placed in the same classroom for teaching, instead of the traditional single grade classes.

Since studies of this program have indicated its value, the multi-grade classes will be added this fall at Seaside, Steele, and Wood Schools. Each school will have two classes of first, second, and third graders. Steele School will have two classes of fourth, fifth and sixth graders, but Seaside and Wood Schools will only have one. There also will be regular single-grade classrooms as usual, since the program is entirely voluntary.

Studies were made, comparing the academic and personal development of children in the multi-grade classrooms and those in traditional single-grade rooms. Findings indicated that in most cases, the multi-grade youngsters did better than their single-grade contemporaries in reading, arithmetic, language, and in emotional growth and behavior.

When queried, 95 per cent of the parents indicated that they were happy with the multi-grade classes.

Both older and younger children in the rooms seemed to learn better. Older children helped the younger children with their work and both groups seemed to benefit. Teachers reported that the set-up was more interesting and challenging to teach.

Since the plan was started at Walteria School in 1955, many visiting educators from various parts of California and even states as far away as Texas have visited the classrooms. Several school districts have since adopted the plan.

Ex-Con Steals Car to Bring Pal Home from San Quentin

William Ray Loudermilk, 33, of 21324 Harvard blvd., will be arraigned Monday on charges that he stole an automobile in which he picked up a pal from San Quentin Penitentiary.

The defendant appeared before Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong Tuesday to plead guilty to grand theft auto and bad check charges, but was told to enter his plea after he has talked to the public defender.

Torrance Det. Sgt. Mickey Fischer and Myles Hamilton said that Loudermilk was paroled from a robbery charge three months ago.

They said he passed four checks without an account and admitted the burglary of Television Service, 1811 Torrance blvd., where five checks were stolen.

Police said that Loudermilk stole an auto in Wilmington June 20 and drove it to San Quentin, where he picked up a friend who was being released.

He was arrested in San Pedro Friday night on warrants charging him with auto theft and passing worthless checks for between \$250 and \$300.

Rodeo Queen to Be Named Today For Rancho Days

Torrance's Rodeo Queen will be selected today at 2 p.m. at the Torrance Police Station, it was announced today.

The winner will reign over Torrance's Giant R.C.A. Rodeo scheduled as a highlight of the 2nd Annual Rancho Days, July 23-27. The Rodeo sponsored by the Torrance Mounted Police and the Torrance Lions Club is slated for 2 p.m., July 26 and 27 at the Civic Center.

Judges will be Sam Van Wagner, president of the Torrance Lions Club; Chief of Police Percy G. Bennett; and Police Lt. D. C. Cook.

Burglars Break Into Churches

Burglars broke into two churches this week, stealing cash and radio equipment.

The cash, \$17, was taken from the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 330 Palos Verdes blvd., after the thieves broke out a window pane and entered the office, police said.

Four crystal sets were stolen from the Sunday School room of the Narbonne Baptist Church, 24780 Narbonne ave., Lomita, deputy sheriffs said.