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Three Women Arrested in Sheriff's Vice Raids

Code System Used in 'Steering' Patrons

Three women and a man were scooped up in a vice raid with one of the females linked with a suspect in the murder of an alleged Mafia chieftan.

Inez Moore Graham, 37, who claims to be a real estate saleswoman, was picked up early Thursday on charges of "steering" vice officers to an alleged prostitution establishment in the Carson area.

Mrs. Graham, out on \$500 bail pending a plea in Torrance Municipal Court Tuesday, was arrested at 2080 Middlebrook road.

This is the same address listed as his home by Henry Thwait, 45, now facing murder charges for the slaying of Tony Mirabile, San Diego cafe owner, and allegedly a big man in the Mafia.

Thwait was accused of being the man who arranged for the actual gunman who killed Mirabile in his apartment.

Vice officers also swooped down on a house at 618 W. 215th St., where they arrested 25 young women on an "offering" charge and a man as a procurer.

The women were identified by deputies as Vera Ferguson, 22, of West Los Angeles, and Kim Lee, 22, of Baldwin Hills.

The man was identified as Harold Forister, 29, of Venice.

Officers said that Mrs. Graham was the asserted contact woman who would "clear" customers. The plainclothesmen said that an elaborate code system was used based on their birth dates.

They reported that they were sent to the Carson St. address, where Forister gave them another check before they met the girls.

Officers used marked \$10 bills after being admitted to the house.

Miss Lee and Miss Ferguson pleaded not guilty to the offering charges at their arraignment in Compton Municipal Court, where they appeared Thursday. They were released on \$200 bail each.

Officers speculated that the number code system assertedly used was to protect the names of customers.

The investigation was launched after Police Chief Percy Bennett passed a tip along to the sheriff's officers.

The business committee which will solicit retail and small business is headed by Mary Pagac this year, who was chairman of last year's successful residential campaign. She has as an assistant Mrs. George Shelton who also worked in the residential campaign last year.

Remelmeyer, who is also heading the residential campaign as well as being over-all volunteer chairman for Torrance, this year, has invited the approximate 400 women volunteer door-to-door workers to attend a kick-off meeting Friday afternoon, March 6th at the YNCA at 1:30 p.m.

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PICKIN' COTTON—Fireman Ed Carter won the title of the most cotton-picking fireman Tuesday night, when he pulled the stuffing out of a couch in the home of Mrs. Laura M. Wrey of 24418 Neece St. to make sure the fire was all out. —Photo by Ray Deurloo

Six Hurt in Accident Binge on Roads Here

Six persons were injured in four traffic accidents Wednesday and Thursday.

Three persons, including both drivers, were injured in a two-car collision at Hawthorne Blvd. and 179th St.

Mary H. Cale, 47, of 15236 Korbium Ave., Lawndale, and David Norman Tillson, 22, of 1027 W. 228th St., told police they would see their own doctors, but Ruth T. Tillson, 49, of 20819 Brighton Ave., was taken to Harbor General Hospital. She was a passenger.

John Joseph Fraser, 24, of 14805 Hawthorne Blvd., Lawndale, a motorcyclist, received minor injuries in a collision at 174th St. and Arlington Ave., with an auto driven by Grant William Davies, 21, of 2618 W. 180th Place, officers said.

Rhoda Margaret Curry, 61, of Costa Mesa, was taken to Harbor General Hospital following a collision with a car driven by Ralph Joseph Cavino, 28, of 3705 W. 182nd St., at Hawthorne Blvd. and 174th St., police reported.

City OKs Drain Extension Fund

Torrance will kick in up to \$5400 to improve the Hollywood Riviera storm drain, but if Redondo Beach wants a more luxurious program, it will have to pay the balance.

That was the decision of the City Council Tuesday, after reviewing an engineering report on the project. The present drain does not work properly to relieve the area, it has been charged by residents.



SEAL BACKERS—Tommy Wilkins, 2, held by his father, David Wilkins, watches as Mayor Albert Isen signs proclamation supporting Easter Seal campaign, which will be headed here by Mrs. Herma Tillim. Drive begins next week. —Press Photo



BUSINESS LEADERS—Commerce and industry volunteers in the 1959 Red Cross Fund Appeal got their campaign on the way with a breakfast Thursday morning. They have a goal of \$2500, which they will try to raise by March 9. Left to right are, standing: James Wayt, Cecil Mortensen, Ted Olson, Joe Sullivan and Doug Rigby. Seated, front row, are: Jesse Jaimes, Don Anderson, John Heninger and Merrill Peavy.

Library Rent Deal Blasted

Bidding procedures used in acquiring a Lomita branch library were rapped today by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

A lease deal for the new facility came under fire of the Supervisors, after testimony revealed that only three firms had been invited to bid on the pact which would have cost the county \$142,000 for a 15-year lease.

The county property management department had recommended awarding a contract for the proposed new library to Dr. Meyer R. Titleman and Sidney J. Freeman.

When it was testified that only three bidders had been contacted, the board rejected all bids and instructed officials to secure a transferrable option on a suitable site convenient to all Lomita schools through advertised bids.

Chace said that completion of the library will provide a considerably improved service with 25,000 books to be contained in the 5000 square foot building.

The present library at 24704 Narbonne Ave. will be abandoned as soon as new facilities become available.

Airport Report Blasted

Assertion by a councilman that the rent of an airport tenant had been quadrupled without notification to the City Council, drew a sharp rebuttal from an airport commissioner.

Commissioner Dick Floyd charged that Councilman Robert Jahn was "misinformed," in making the report. He asserted that this kind of report creates poor relations, not only between the council and the commission, but also with tenants.

Jahn said Tuesday that he understood that the rent of Acme Aircraft had been raised from \$190 to \$800 per month and that the council had not been informed of this hike.

At a commission meeting Thursday, Floyd said that the rent boost was still in the leasing committee hands and had not even cleared the commission.

The commission recommended that the rent on the property be raised to \$500 per month.

STEAL CHURCH PROPERTY—A sneak thief stole a portable typewriter from the Church of Christ, 6122 Pacific Coast Hwy., while the minister, Rev. O. M. Bradford, was conducting a class.

Red Cross Business Drive to Start Tomorrow, Plan Residential 'Blitz'

Determined to engineer a "swift and effective 1959 campaign for the Red Cross," Stanley Remelmeyer, volunteer chairman of the Torrance Red Cross Fund Appeal, this week held kick-off meetings of both his commerce and industry and small business divisions.

There business men and women volunteer workers will begin an intensive drive March 2nd in an effort to coordinate their campaign with the one-day residential campaign of Monday, March 9th, for the purpose of raising drastically needed funds to maintain the 10 services program of the Red Cross.

"We hope to be able to report the Torrance goal of \$8500 over-subscribed on March 9th and we expect to be among the first in the Los Angeles chapter," said Remelmeyer who expressed satisfaction with this year's volunteer organization.



SMILES TRIUMPH—Red Cross volunteers debated the merits of a Red Cross bag or a Red Cross cap for use in their Fund Appeal this week, and then decided that a Red Cross smile for their neighbors would be most effective. Left to right: Mrs. George Shelton and Mrs. Mary Pagac.

Planning Cut Law in Effect

One of three Planning Commission members may be ousted Tuesday when a law cutting the board from nine to seven members goes into effect.

Three commissioners, whose terms expired Jan. 15, have been serving under a rule that they will keep their posts until their successors are appointed.

The three whose posts are at stake are President Bert Lynn, and members John Mulvihill and Kenneth Uyeda.

Since there are five other members now serving on the commission, one or all of the three could be relieved by the simple process of not reappointing them.

Nomination for reappointment may stir some controversy among councilmen at the time nominations are made.

Chamber Lauded for Work

Harry Lintz, district manager of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, presented the Torrance Chamber of Commerce a citation for "All Around Achievement," this week.

Lintz said the award is outstanding, considering that there are more than 4000 local Chambers in the nation and of these, many hundreds were judged in the Annual Awards program of the National Chamber. Only 187 received the citation, eight of them in California.

The award is for a well-rounded program of work, particularly in the fields of business development, community betterment, economic understanding, legislative action and organization improvement.

In presenting the award to President Fred W. Mill at brief ceremonies at the Chamber office, Lintz said Torrance is now in final judging for national honors to be announced next month.

Other California cities qualifying in the "outstanding" category, were Pasadena, Monrovia, Redwood City, San Bernardino, San Leandro, Santa Ana and Santa Monica.

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CHAMBER AWARD—Fred Mill, seated, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, beams proudly as his organization is presented an achievement citation by Harry Lintz on behalf of the U. S. Chamber. —Press Photo

Armstrong Victim of Strongarm

A young man by the name of Armstrong had more than his name turned around when he became the victim of a strong-arm Tuesday night.

The newsboy told police that he was pumping his bicycle eastbound on 238th St. when he was accosted by two big bullies who robbed him of \$14 and tied his hands and legs with ropes and gagged him.

The victim, Dallas Armstrong, 15, of 2468 W. 237th Place, said he hobbled to a nearby parking lot in the rear of a store, where a helpful motorist cut the bonds.

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