

'Mystery' Victim Identified



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Bandit Gets \$18,000 With 'Perfect Crime'

No Leads Yet, Detectives Say

TORRANCE — A brazen, mid-day bandit may have committed "the perfect crime" in his \$18,000 holdup of CMA discount department store Friday.

Police theorized the lone gunman may not have been seen by anyone in the crowded parking lot as he fled with a sackful of currency from an office vault.

Det. Lt. Don Hamilton admitted the lack of leads or witnesses may seriously hamper his department's search for the bandit.

According to Charles C. James, 34-year-old credit manager for CMA, the gunman walked into the credit office shortly after 4 p.m. and handed him a handwritten note reading:

HOLDUP NOTE
"This is a holdup. Don't give any alarm or you will be shot. Clean out the safe and open the back door. I have a friend outside. If you go out, you will be shot."

James said the bandit displayed a revolver inside a paperbag and forced him to open the safe. James removed an estimated \$18,000 in 20's, 10's, 5's and 1's and placed it in a bank bag with the note, he said.

SOUNDS ALARM
"He walked out the back door," said James, "and I called the switchboard to sound an alarm."

But by the time security guards began a search of the parking lot, the bandit had fled. Only lead, police said, was a witness who saw a late model white Cadillac drive off shortly after the holdup. But that lead, too, proved of little value.

County Seeks Legal Action In Sump Case

DOMINGUEZ — County legal action against a San Diego Freeway contractor was to be initiated this week for alleged violation of oil sump fencing regulations.

Supervisor Burton Chace requested the action after learning two unfenced oil sumps are being maintained south of railroad tracks near the San Diego Freeway.

The sumps constitute "a dangerous and hazardous" condition, Chace charged.

Park Job Held Up

CARSON — Development of Carson Park got a temporary setback this week with announcement the lowest construction bid was nearly \$40,000 higher than county estimates.

The proposed development at 213th and Delores Sts. includes a recreation activity building, softball diamonds, playground facilities, basketball and volleyball courts and public parking area.

Supervisor Burton Chace said the entire project will be re-examined in view of an apparent low bid which was \$37,000 over the county's park budget.

Plan revisions are expected in order to bring the project within the budgeted amount, Chace said. Construction will take an estimated five months after the bid is let.

School Official To Discuss CD

TORRANCE — R. W. Cosby, civil defense coordinator for the Torrance Unified School District, will speak Monday at a meeting of the Civil Defense Commission.

A film, "Civil Defense in Schools," will be shown. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in City Hall. The public has been invited.

Inside the Press

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'MYSTERY' VICTIM

Police Identify Body Found in Vacant Field

TORRANCE — A "mystery" dead man found here Thursday has been identified as Frederick E. Padilla, 22.

The county coroner's office said Padilla, whose body was found dumped in a field near Emerald and Earl Sts., probably died from an overdose of narcotics.

A housewife discovered the body shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday and called police. Detectives said Padilla's body was covered by a sheet. He had no identification, but later was found to have lived at 1318 W. 227th St.

They said the victim may have been dead as long as 24 hours before his body was found. There were no signs of violence, but officers said Padilla's upper clothing was wet.

They theorized someone may have tried to revive him by pouring water on his head.

The coroner's office set Monday to perform an autopsy, but said a toxicological examination probably will be required to determine the actual cause of death.

SHERIFF PHONES CHANGED

Lomita, San Pedro, Peninsula residents:

Clip and save these new telephone listings for the Lennox sheriff's substation:
376-7901
376-7902
376-7903
376-7904

The new listings became effective Sept. 26, 1962.

Masterpiece Paintings

CARSON — Public display of 43 masterpiece paintings will be offered through October at the Carson Library, 22102 S. Main St.

Edison Company Slashes Rates

TORRANCE — Rate reductions saving Torrance and Lomita residents nearly \$185,000 annually in their electric bills were announced this week by Southern California Edison Company.

The rate slice will mean an approximate \$1 per month saving to the average householder, according to L. E. Jenkins, Edison district manager.

PUC APPROVAL

The Public Utilities Commission recently authorized Edison to lower its rates for all 30,707 Torrance customers and all 4600 in Lomita. Their action was based on "spectacular community growth" of the two areas, Jenkins said.

New rates became effective Oct. 11.

Jenkins said the company regularly reviews its electric service rate zoning and recommends reductions in certain communities or areas.

Ordinarily, he said, changes are the result of growth and are based on customer density.

Edison's current rate zoning revisions in all areas exceed half a million dollars for about 100,000 customers, or roughly 350,000 persons, Jenkins said.

The reduction brings Torrance on a par with other neighboring communities.

NEW COMMISSIONER

TORRANCE — City Council has named Arnold Tauch to fill a vacancy on the Traffic Safety Commission. Tauch will replace Bert Herzog, who resigned.

Hit-Run Driver Object of Search

TORRANCE — A wide search was launched here Friday for the hit-run driver who struck and seriously injured a teen-age bicyclist Sept. 30.

The youth, Kenneth Haswell, 14, suffered multiple head and leg injuries.

California Highway Patrol investigators said they currently are searching for a couple who assisted the injured boy and brought his mother to the scene. "These people, in their frantic attempts to comfort the youth, failed to leave their names and addresses," said CHP officer L. B. Strawn.

The couple was believed driving behind the hit-run vehicle and may have information regarding the driver's identity, Strawn said. Persons with information regarding the accident, which occurred on Carson St. between Main St. and Delores Ave. at approximately 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30, have been asked to contact Strawn at CHP headquarters, Davis 3-5450.



TRASH CLUTTERED CURBS are mute evidence of need for city-wide educational program, now being initiated by Torrance Beautiful Commission. Photograph was taken on 190th St. east of Inglewood Ave. New council-appointed commission will undertake a general cleanup campaign as part of initial program. —PRESS photo by William Schell

Sunken Garden Slated

TORRANCE — An actual replica of 3500-year-old Oriental sunken gardens will be built in Torrance Civic Center.

The announcement came Friday from Torrance Beautiful Commission, which said the gardens would be an unmatched cultural and educational facility.

Construction of the gardens will be undertaken by a Japanese community group under direction of Kenny Uyeda. Mrs. Roy Apsey, commission member, disclosed the plan. Mrs. Victor Benstead is chairman.

The project will be part of a continuing beautification program conducted by the new commission, Mrs. Apsey said. Major initial work will be directed toward cleanup of city streets, sidewalks and vacant lots.

POLE SITTER?



NOPE, just a workman installing traffic signals on Hawthorne Blvd. north of Pacific Coast Highway. What's more, he made it down without a splinter! —PRESS photo

NEWS BRIEFS

County Building Tagged

TORRANCE — A proposed county building in Torrance Civic Center has been officially designated as the "Torrance-South Bay County Building."

The wording "Southwest District Superior Courts" will appear directly below the name line on the proposed \$1.5 million structure.

The four-story building, slated for construction late in 1963, will house Superior Courts and other South Bay county offices.

Research Grants Given

TORRANCE — Three physicians at Harbor General Hospital have been awarded research grants by the Long Beach Heart Association.

The grants are part of \$396,523 being spent throughout Los Angeles County for research into heart disorders. Local doctors awarded grants are Robert A. Astone, Prescott C. Rasmussen and Barton R. Spitz.

Library Advisors Named

LOS ANGELES — Two Torrance-area residents have been appointed to the County Regional Library Advisory Council.

They are Mrs. Hallie P. Crow, 2375 W. 248th St., Lomita, and John Calas, 21730 Avalon Blvd., Torrance. Appointments were announced by Supervisor Burton Chace.

Paving Project OK'd

LOMITA — A \$1000 paving project on Narbonne Ave. was authorized this week by county supervisors.

The project, to be completed by the County Road Department, will be undertaken south of Pacific Coast Highway.

It will include additional paving to join new curbs and gutters completed under a separate contract.

Walteria Drain Work to Start

WALTERIA — Construction of the Walteria Lake storm drain will begin early next week, the county Flood Control District says.

Initial work will be done in a proposed retention basin near 236th St. and Hawthorne Blvd., according to officials.

Radco Construction Inc., a Los Angeles firm, filed a low bid Sept. 7 of \$975,724. Included in the contract

will be installation of 1160 feet of reinforced concrete pressure pipe, 1675 feet of main line, a concrete pump station and other related structures.

The pump station and adjoining retention basin will be built northwest of 236th St. and Hawthorne Blvd.

The main line will run from the pump station west in 236th St. to an existing drain at Madison Ave.

SOS: SABIN-ON-SUNDAY

Oral Vaccine Clinics Scheduled This Month

TORRANCE — More than 50,000 persons will be spared the threat of polio after inoculation here Oct. 21 and 28 during a crash Sabin-On-Sunday (SOS) oral vaccine program.

"PREP (Pre-Registration Ends Polio) week will precede SOS days.

Registration forms will be given to participants in advance of the clinic program, according to Ann Boyer, Southwest District coordinator for Los Angeles County Medical Association.

A copy of the printed form will appear in the Torrance Press as a convenience to readers.

"PREP week will save participants the job of filling out the forms when they come to be inoculated," she said.

Dec. 2 and 9 and Jan. 2 and 27.

LOCATIONS

According to Dr. Shery, the Sabin vaccine will be administered at the following locations: Anza School, 2100 Ellenwood Dr.; Arlington School, 17800 Arlington Ave.; Flavian School, 5038 Hallison St. Greenwood School, 1520 Greenwood Ave.

Others are Hillside School, 25600 Crenshaw; North High School, 3620 W. 182nd; Riviera School, 365 Paseo De Arena; Seaside School, 4651 Sharlynn Lane; South High School, 4801 Pacific Coast Highway; Torrance High School, 220 Carson St.; and Wood School, 2240 W.

Miss Torrance and Friends . . .



IT'S FEEDING TIME at the old Guaranty Bank corral, where pert Bobbett King, Miss Torrance, tries her hand at city-fied farming. "I just couldn't resist," she says, no matter what anybody thought. Miss King and other civic dignitaries, including those at rear, were on hand for bank groundbreaking ceremony last week. An enterprising public relations agency brought along the donkey and a playmate (see page 2). At rear are (l-r) Keith Hall, bank president; J. A. Beasley, city councilman, and Albert Isen, Torrance Mayor. —PRESS photo by Carolyn Perkie