

JAMES DORAIS

# The Golden Age of Crime Noted by British Expert

Is crime a partisan problem?

A man whose car is stolen can be either a Democrat or a Republican. A purse snatcher seldom inquires into his victim's party registration.

Yet in California, Republicans tend to blame the sharply upward trend in crime statistics on the fact that Democrats hold most of state and local political offices. And Democrats defend the charge by denying that the crime statistics are valid.

In this kind of argument, the causes of rising crime rates are effectively obscured. A helpful bit of perspective is contained in a recent address by a prominent British attorney, Lord Shawcross, before the Chicago Crime Commission. Shawcross, who has held important law enforcement posts in British government under both the Labor and Conser-

vative parties, observes that the crime problem is just as alarming in England as it is here.

He cites several obvious causes, which he considers secondary: decline in religious belief, breaking up of homes through divorce, the increase in working mothers, diminution in parental responsibility and discipline, increased mobility. All of these factors certainly exist here as well.

But the principal reason he gives for the increase in crime in England — also a reason that certainly would seem to apply here — is simply that crime pays. "The criminal," Shawcross observes, "is living in a golden age."

It is his contention that crime is booming because more and more people get away with it. The chances are good and the rewards are high. "There is no doubt," he declares, "that the probability of detection and punishment, rather than the severity of punishment itself, is one of the most potent deterrents, when it exists. But it is ceasing to exist."

One problem, according to Shawcross, is that in England the police are grossly undermanned and under-equipped. He points out that there are more police in the city of Paris than in all of England. Another problem is that criminal law is too heavily weighted in favor of the criminal and against the innocent. If a criminal is apprehended and pleads not guilty, the chances are over 50 per cent in his favor of being acquitted.

In England, as in America, prohibitions against search and seizure, self-incrimination, wiretapping, etc., have increasingly been strengthened to protect the criminal and hamstring law enforcement agencies.

Lord Shawcross also questions the age-old concept of the role of the judge under the Anglo-Saxon system, which America inherited, under which the judge is like an umpire in a game of sport whose prime duty is to see that both sides play by

the rules. In most foreign systems of law, he points out, the judge's role "is akin to that of a scientist in a laboratory: to ascertain the truth by all proper means."



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JOAN BALDWIN Lady Geologist

## Instructor Member of Field Team

El camino College instructor Joan Baldwin took to the air and hills this past summer as a member of the First Basin and Range seminar conducted in Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, and California.

The Basin and Range field is a physiographic province of the U.S. including part of all of the four states. Miss Baldwin and 34 other geology instructors were there to find and study rock specimens, earth formations, fossils, and faults. Part of their study included flights over the province to take aerial photographs of the area.

The trip was sponsored by the National Science Founda-

tion and headed by Joseph Lintz of the Mackay School of Mines, University of Nevada.

Born in Hermosa Beach, Miss Baldwin now lives in Manhattan Beach. She was graduated from Redondo Union High, and earned a BA degree in geological science from Berkeley.

From Berkeley she went to Los Angeles to work in the seismological and geological department of Shell Oil Co. for a period of five years.

While working for Shell Oil, she attended night school at USC. In 1957 she left petroleum work to attend school and to finish requirements on

## Walteria School Elects Officers

Elected president of Walteria Elementary School Student Council this week was Richard Wilkinson.

Other officers are: John Millinder, vice president; Jackie Garrabrandt, secretary; John Clark safety chief; Gregory Darin, upper boys' athletic director, and Gerard Ducut, intermediate boys' athletic director. Faculty advisor is Mrs. Elaine King.

## Registration For Voters Open All Week

Seven-day-a-week voter registration for residents of Los Angeles County is available at 23437 S. Main St., the residence of Bertha Potter.

As deputy registrar, Mrs. Potter will register persons from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from 12 noon to 10 p.m. Sundays. Registration appointments are available by telephoning Mrs. Potter at TE 5-5777.

## Revolving Fund Gets More Study

Establishment of a \$2,000 revolving fund for the city of Lomita has been delayed at least until Dec. 13.

Lomita councilmen Monday voted to continue a public hearing on the proposal until their Dec. 13 meeting.

The revolving fund would be used to pay city bills during the month when the council does not meet. Lomita councilmen meet only once each month, resulting in some difficulty when bills are presented, according to City Administrator Stanley Green.

Under the proposed revolving fund, Green could pay bills up to \$500 provided Mayor Clyde S. Bernhardt first gives his approval. A maximum of \$2,000 would be set for the month.

## Carson Area Road Project Is Under Way

Work is now under way on two Carson area road projects which will cost a total of \$24,850.

A major project, costing \$15,000, will be repaving a portion of Normandie Avenue near Sepulveda Boulevard, according to the Board of Supervisors. The new paving will connect with a curb and gutter project completed by a property developer.

The second street job will include new paving, curbs and gutters along a portion of Vermont Avenue in vicinity of 228th Street.

Road Department engineers designed the projects and will supervise the improvements.

## TRAIL RIDERS

Twenty-five children from the Tee Pee Trail Riders Club of the Torrance YWCA will be guests of the 40th annual Great Western Exposition and Livestock Show to open Nov. 17 at the Great Western Exhibit Center, Santa Ana Freeway and Atlantic Boulevard, Los Angeles.

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