

Drug, Theft Charges Jail Man After Chase

Torrance

Press-Herald

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PERFORM TODAY . . . Director Jim Davidson (right) goes over a section of the "Fun/Thru/Music" concert this afternoon at Torrance Park with three members of the band, (from left) Teri Sjodin, 10; Frank Maxim, 14; and Michael Farrell, 9. The 100-member band will feature a 90-minute program of music ranging from Tijuana Brass rhythms to the songs of yesteryear. (Press-Herald Photo)

Young Musicians in 10th Concert Today

More than 100 young musicians will swing out in concert at Torrance Park beginning at 2 o'clock this afternoon to celebrate the 10th year of the city's "Fun/Thru/Music" program operated by the recreation department.

The program will lean heavily on Tijuana Brass stylings in the 90-minute concert, and will include marches, popular tunes, and some old favorites.

Today's program will be at the bandshell at Torrance Park, near Santa Fe and Arlington.

The concert will climax the summer-long Fun/Thru/Music program that has involved nearly 200 youngsters in an instrumental music program at four locations, McMaster Park, WALTERIA Park, El Retiro Park, and the Torrance Recreation Center.

Jim Davidson, veteran teacher in Torrance schools and director of the recreation department's music program will be in charge of today's concert.

Assisting will be by Carl Childs, a student at the University of Arizona; and Dora Wahl, a student at Cal State Long Beach.

Officers said the thief picked the tool box lock, removed the power tools, then closed the lock. Flores apparently discovered the theft Friday.

Office equipment of an undetermined value was taken from Tri-A-Craft, Inc., 2415 Amsler St., Wednesday or Thursday, according to Joseph C. Hentschel.

Hentschel discovered the theft Thursday when he reported to open the firm's office about 8 a.m. The burglar entered the building by removing a sliding glass door.

She's Sorry, But He's Missing \$400 in Cash

A Torrance fireman lost \$400 in cash to a woman pickpocket early Friday morning, he told Torrance police.

William C. Winton, 35, told police he was at a restaurant at 21180 Hawthorne Blvd. when a woman about 30 or 35 years old bumped into him.

"I'm sorry," she told Winton, then left the restaurant.

Sometime later, Winton told police, he reached for his wallet to pay the check and discovered it was missing. He told officers the woman was the only person who was close enough to him to have taken the wallet.

In addition to the cash, the wallet contained identification cards and papers, he said.

Three other major burglaries were under investigation by Torrance police yesterday.

Ledna F. Luigo, 53 of 23541 Madison Ave., told police someone entered her home Thursday evening and took two purses containing \$105 in cash. Police were unable to determine how the burglar entered the home.

Power tools valued at \$600 were taken from a Long Beach man, he told police Friday. Paul Flores said the tools were taken from a tool box which had been left on a truck at 713 Amapola St. He said the theft occurred July 18 or 19.

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Racing Bicycle Taken by Thief

Theft of a 10-speed racing bicycle valued at \$65 was reported to Torrance police Friday.

Martha C. Maudlin, 26, told officers somebody took the bicycle Tuesday from under a staircase at 20917 Amie St. She said she was moving and discovered the theft when she went to get the bicycle.

Burglary Ring Broken As Police Arrest Six

ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Chamber Intern Completes Work

A Chico State College student completed four weeks of work with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Friday and packed a suitcase to move to Los Angeles.

Dan Bequette, who will be a senior when classes resume Sept. 12, is one of three students participating in a state-wide intern program sponsored by the California Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

He has spent the summer working in chamber offices

throughout the state applying some of the lessons learned at Chico State in the day-to-day activities of the chamber.

BEQUETTE WILL spend the next four weeks in Los Angeles, where he will work on projects in the public relations, membership, agriculture, statistics, and finance divisions of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

The past four weeks he has served as an aide to J. Walker Owens, manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Bequette's work here has included an economic base survey of the community, activities in connection with the Rancho Days rodeo and the queen contest, and a round of meetings with chamber executives and directors.



DAN BEQUETTE Chamber Aide

Crash Ends Chase, Man In Custody

A 20-mile chase throughout the Southwest area ended Thursday evening with the arrest of a 27-year-old Torrance man on suspicion of grand theft auto and possession of dangerous drugs.

Rex M. Pearson, 2137 W. 225th St., was taken into custody by Gardena police after he led officers from several area law enforcement agencies on a 20-minute chase.

Police said the chase began after two Gardena patrolmen, Garry Garrett and James Martin, observed a car make an illegal left turn at Budlong Avenue and Redondo Beach Boulevard about 8 p.m. The officers tried to stop the car, but the driver started north on the San Diego Freeway.

UNITS FROM the Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Street and West Los Angeles stations, the Inglewood, Culver City, Police Departments, the Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol joined the chase before it ended.

The speeding vehicle, which officers said exceeded 100 miles per hour several times, collided with another vehicle at LaCienega Boulevard and Stocker Street in the Baldwin Hills area, ending the chase.

ROTH VEHICLES burst into flames, officers said. A

IN JUNE, he worked for four weeks in the Hanford Chamber of Commerce, where he conducted two retail promotions and set up a shoppers' guide for residents of the Northern California town.

A native of Auburn, Calif., near Sacramento, Bequette is majoring in personnel and industrial relations at Chico State. He has been accepted for training by the Peace Corps and hopes to spend two years in Southeast Asia after graduation next June. He will be assigned to community development work with the Peace Corps, he hopes.

Eventually, Bequette plans a career in Chamber of Commerce management.

BEFORE packing his bags Friday, he took time out to celebrate a birthday — his own 21st.

What impressed him most about Torrance? "It has the conveniences of a large city with the atmosphere of a small town," he told the Press-Herald. "And being from a small town, I like the atmosphere."

"I have enjoyed my stay in Torrance," he added, "and I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for the chance to apply some of my classroom lessons in working for the chamber."

Four Hurt In Traffic Collisions

A 17-year-old Torrance High student was injured Friday when he rode his bicycle into the path of a car on Western Avenue.

Stanley Michael Labonawski, 1818 W. 235th St., was taken to Harbor General Hospital with a severe puncture wound in his thigh.

Driver of the car was identified as William A. Bailey, 31, of 24619 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita. He was not held.

Police said Bailey was driving south on Western Avenue when the youth rode his bicycle into the roadway. Labonawski started across Western Avenue after coming out of a residential service road, officers said.

The accident occurred about 3:30 p.m. just south of Sepulveda Boulevard.

TWO PERSONS sustained minor injuries in a three-car crash about an hour later, police reported.

Martin Jimenez, 33, of 7832 Hobart Blvd., Gardena, and Harvey Gerald Springer, 43, of 22428 Ravenna Ave., Wilmington, said they would

Officers Find \$25,000 Worth Of Equipment

A burglary ring believed responsible for the theft of some \$25,000 worth of construction equipment and tools apparently was broken by Torrance police with the arrest of six persons Wednesday and Thursday.

Police recovered construction equipment — much of it taken from a site at Carson Street and Hawthorne Boulevard July 28 — valued at \$25,000.

Arrested were: Allen Ray House, 18, who resides in a trailer park at 223rd Street and Vermont Avenue;

Beach home later Wednesday morning and Knapp was taken into custody late Wednesday at a Wilmington auto wrecking yard.

Donovan, a partner in the operation of the wrecking yard, and the second juvenile were arrested Thursday, police said, after further investigation into the burglaries.

John Frederick Clafin, 35, of 2703 Huntington Lane, Redondo Beach;

Allan James Knapp, 30, of 21114 Martin St.;

Donald Levell Donovan, 50, of Long Beach; and

Two 16-year-old youths who reside in the Carson area.

POLICE SAID the stolen property was recovered from the House trailer home, at the wrecking yard, at Clafin's Redondo Beach home, and at the home of one of the juveniles.

The six are believed responsible for at least five burglaries involving Dominguez and Carson area construction equipment.

(Continued on Page A2)

Bedrooms Ransacked By Burglar

CLAFIN was charged with burglary and receiving stolen property, while House and one of the youths were charged with burglary. Donovan, Knapp, and the second juvenile were booked on suspicion of receiving stolen property.

All five are scheduled to be arraigned on the charges in Division 3 of South Bay Municipal Court tomorrow or Tuesday.

Police said the arrests began early Wednesday after a construction site at Los Angeles International Airport was reportedly burglarized.

A coin collection worth \$300 and several other items were taken Thursday by a burglar who ransacked a bedroom in a North Torrance home.

The house, located at 17230 Dela Ave., is occupied by four men.

They are Larry O. Felt, 26; Richard G. Hereford, 24; John B. Reed, 27, and Jimmy L. Felt, 23.

The burglar, who left the front door open when he left, ransacked the bedrooms in the house. Taken were a camera, a portable television set, three rifles, a shotgun, \$25 in cash, binoculars, and some jewelry.

The items, including the coin collection, are valued at \$870.

STATE, COUNTY DISAGREE City Widens Gap in 'People Race'

Torrance may have 139,000 residents as far as the State of California is concerned, but the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission won't admit it.

The commission, in an estimate of population as of July 1, put the city's population at 138,414 — up 212 from the April 1 estimate. The commission's report was released Friday.

The state, however, estimated the city's population at 139,000 late last year — and that is the figure used by the state for the apportionment of gas tax funds.

Torrance continues to widen its lead over Glendale as the county's third largest city. Glendale had a population of 136,348 — an increase of only 99 in the past three months.

Countywide, the commission estimates population now exceeds 7 million. The Aug. 1 figure for the county was placed at 7,002,200.

Lomita posted a gain of 53 over the April 1 estimates and now has a population of 19,972, the commission said. Redondo Beach, with a gain of 121, has 57,686 as of July 1.

Population for other area cities on July 1 were estimated at: Gardena, 44,355; Lawndale, 26,142; Palos Verdes Estates, 12,515; Rolling Hills Estates, 5,382; and Rolling Hills, 2,003.

Los Angeles County is adding new residents at the rate of 415 persons each day. The county now has 37 per cent of the state's population and 21 per cent of the population of the 13 western states, the commission said in its report.

A total of 42,441 dwelling units are now located in Torrance, the report added.

Teenagers Take Purse From Girl

Three teenage girls who threatened to "burn your eye out" with a cigarette took a purse from a 14-year-old Torrance girl Friday afternoon at the Del Amo Center.

The girl told Torrance police she was shopping in the huge center when the three girls first approached her and threatened her.

One of the girls told her, "I'm going to burn your eye out with this cigarette. We're going to beat you up."

The girl told officers the trio approached her several times and one of the girls grabbed her purse while she was walking in front of a jewelry store in the center.

The purse contained about \$6 in cash and her identification cards, the girl told police.

Rodeo Performance Today

Final performance of the Rancho Days Rodeo is scheduled this afternoon at 2 at the Del Amo Center. Tickets for the rodeo, sponsored by the Torrance Mounted Police and the Torrance Elks, will be sold prior to the performance. A capacity crowd witnessed yesterday's performance at the arena, which is located near Sepulveda Boulevard and Madrona Street.

Theater Windows Hit

Three large plate glass windows at a Torrance theater were fired at late Friday afternoon by unknown persons, the theater manager has told Torrance police. The manager told officers the windows were intact at 3 p.m., but an hour later had several small holes in them. Officers said a pellet gun was probably used. Damage was estimated at \$250. The theater is located at 2535 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Council, Board to Meet

Both the Torrance City Council and the Board of Education will hold meetings this week. School board members will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the board offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo, while councilmen will convene Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the city hall. Both groups face routine summer agendas. School board members are expected to authorize the sale of \$710,000 in school bonds—the last remaining bonds in the \$8 million issued voted in 1963.