

Liquor Store Robbed

While two customers distracted a clerk, a third opened a cabinet at Torrance Liquor Store, 2514 Torrance Blvd., and emptied it of \$1,240 in currency and checks.

The robbery occurred Saturday afternoon when store owner Lowell R. Spring of 1219 Date Ave., left the premises, leaving his wife in charge.

At 3 p.m., Mrs. Spring told police, two young men entered the store and diverted her attention to the wine department for several minutes. She said she first noticed the money was missing at 3:25 p.m., after the men had left.



INSURANCE PAYMENT . . . Frank J. Smolar (second from right) of Kott and Smolar Ford in Wilmington accepts a check for more than \$60,000 in settlement of an insurance claim. The check represents settlement in full for the total value of all parts in the Kott and Smolar parts department. The department was severely damaged recently in a fire. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Robert Murrays, claims representative for the Farmers Insurance Group; Vernon Shields, claims supervisor; and Mel Steffes, Capital Protection Services for Automobile Dealers, agent for Farmers Insurance Group.

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HAHN REPORTS

Unique Ambulance System Helps County Save Funds

By **KENNETH HAHN**
 A unique chassis-replacement system for Los Angeles County's fleet of ambulances is saving taxpayers more than \$250,000 every two years.

As chairman of the County Mechanical Department, I'm proud to announce these savings and commend the department for its ingenuity. The system works like this: First, instead of buying a fully-equipped ambulance for \$10,632 (even more for the Cadillacs used by private ambulance companies), the county purchases a stock Chevrolet 3/4-ton panel truck for about \$3,200.

IN OUR OWN shops, the vehicle is modified to ambulance specifications, bringing the total cost to \$8,302.

There's an initial savings of \$2,330 per vehicle. But there's more, much more.

When that vehicle has gone 70,000 miles, the ambulance unit is lifted from the chassis (frame and engine).

It is transferred to a new chassis (costing \$2,400). Therefore, a replacement savings of \$5,902 is realized.

THIS PROCESS is repeated an average of four times, insuring that the engine and frame are always low mileage but saving the cost of buying new ambulances.

Mechanical Department Director Robert Sudduth says the average ambulance rolls up 70,000 miles in from one to two years. There are 43 ambulances in

the county fleet. Thus, each receives a new chassis—and virtually becomes a new vehicle—at least once every two years. At \$5,902 a cycle per vehicle, that's a savings of \$253,786.

A SKILLED and dedicated crew of assistants—particularly Sylvester Keener, body and fender foreman—deserves the credit for these accomplishments.

Coed 'Patched' At San Jose

A Torrance coed is among 34 occupational therapy students honored recently in a "patching" ceremony at San Jose State College. She is Kerry Warden of 1617 Amalpa Ave.

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Benefits Extended To Women

As a by-product of the recent changes in the social security law, women have moved a step closer to equality of treatment with men, according to Miles A. Davis, district manager of SSA in Torrance.

The 1967 amendments to the Social Security Act provide that a child can now be deemed dependent on his mother under the same conditions as he previously was deemed dependent on his father.

To qualify for child's social security benefits the child must be dependent on an eligible or deceased parent.

BEFORE the 1967 amendments, the child was not actually dependent on his mother, but was deemed dependent if the mother had credit under social security for 18 months out of the three year period prior to retirement, disability, or death.

This requirement is what formerly ruled payment to many children of mothers who had worked long enough to qualify for retirement or disability benefits, but had not worked recently, and were not providing at least one-half of the child's support.

THE CHANGE in the law is effective with benefits for February, 1968.

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