

PAIR SUSPECTED OF HEROIN USE

Five Suspects in Drive-In Stabbing Death Released



(Herald Photo)

MURDER VICTIM . . . John Emmett Edwards, 17-year-old Hawthorne boy, was stabbed fatally in the rest room of a local drive-in theater Wednesday night. Torrance police and sheriff's deputies still are investigating after releasing five suspects in the slaying.

Sheriff Joins Hunt For Youth's Slayer

Five men held in connection with the fatal stabbing of a 17-year-old youth at a drive-in theater Wednesday night were released Friday by police and sheriff's deputies handling the case because of lack of evidence against them. John Emmett Edwards, 243 E. 137th St., died within minutes after he was stabbed at during a tiff in the men's rest room at the Roadium Drive-In Theater, 2500 Redondo Beach Blvd. An 11th grader at Leuzinger High School, the lad was stabbed in the chest with a narrow blade sharp instrument.

Sheriffs Assist
Because many of the persons present at the movie were from a widely scattered area, Acting Police Chief Percy Bennett called for assistance from sheriff's deputies. Heading the field investigation is Sgt. Jim Walke of the Sheriff's homicide detail.

Mrs. Hazel Lizon, 20, Manhattan Beach, who was using a phone near the entrance to the rest room said she saw four men accost a boy, who was knocked down by one of them. The quartet then went into the rest room and she heard sounds of struggle and argument.

A few minutes later, she reported, she saw the boy stagger from the rest room and

she asked him, "Why don't you turn them in?" Without replying, he fell to the pavement. He was dead when help arrived.

Men Arguing
Leon Hyatt, 18, Manhattan Beach, told officers he saw two pairs of men arguing in the rest room about the time of the stabbing.

Five men in a car at the theater were picked up and questioned intensively for 24 hours. The witnesses reported that two of the five resembled persons seen around the scene, but definite identification could not be made.

Held for investigation, but released, were Johnny Washington, 21; Phillip Rucker, 25, and Robert P. Richards, 29, all of Los Angeles; and Benny C. Meyers, 27, and James C. Rucker, both of Willowbrook. All were Negroes.

Teen-Age Movies
Young Edwards had gone to the restroom during the intermission of the showing of "Rock All Night" and "Drag Strip Girl." He was attending the movie with his girl friend, Frances Clemons, 16; her brother, Leo Clemons, both of Lawndale, and Frances Hill, 20, Redondo Beach.

Officers searched cars leaving the theater after the slaying and confiscated a half dozen knives, screw drivers, and similar instruments, but none of these could be identified as the murder weapon. Police and an ambulance were summoned to the scene by Einar Petersen of 7055 Eastendale Ave., Long Beach, assistant manager of the theater.

Parents Stricken
The slain boy was the son and stepson of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Edwards of the Hawthorne address. He was born John Edward Tabeau, but took his stepfather's name.

The grief stricken parents identified the body at Harbor General Hospital, where the lad was pronounced dead on arrival. The body was removed to the county morgue. Police issued an appeal for witnesses of the fatal fight to contact police. They said they were particularly anxious for the help of the young man who was beset outside the restroom before the Edwards youth was slain.



(Herald Photo)

SLAIN BOY'S PARENTS . . . Marvin Edwards comforts his wife after the fatal stabbing of their son, John, at a Torrance drive-in theater. They identified the body at the County Morgue.

Armstrong Given Top Chance for Local Judgeship

Donald R. Armstrong, of the Torrance law firm of Armstrong, Mewborn and Hiltcheek appeared yesterday to be slated for appointment to the judgeship of the new Torrance branch of the South Bay Municipal Court.

Armstrong could not be reached yesterday at his office or his home in Palos Verdes to confirm a rumor that Governor Goodwin J. Knight had already made his decision.

Armstrong, highly regarded as a lawyer and civic leader in this area, is a lifelong Republican and actively supported the governor at the time of his election.

Among many other activities the Torrance lawyer is a member of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the Torrance Rotary Club, and was formerly city attorney for Torrance and Palos Verdes Estates.

Teenager, Companion Held After Police Raid

A 21-year-old Torrance man has been bound over to Superior Court for a hearing and his 15-year-old companion has been lodged in Juvenile Hall after Torrance police raided a home here, apprehending the pair and confiscating three capsules of heroin and one-half can of marijuana.

In the raid, led by Lt. D. C. Cook of the Police Juvenile Department, Joe Walker, of 22514 Gaycrest Ave., and his 15-year-old companion were caught in the bathroom of a home at 1503 Crenshaw Blvd. Bert Cobb, resident of the address, was not held.

Lieutenant Cook said he and other officers had the house under observation when the two suspects entered. A few minutes after the pair entered the Crenshaw Blvd. house, police broke in, trapping the suspects in the bathroom. Arresting officers reported that the two were apparently preparing to get a "fix" with the heroin. The paraphernalia normally associated with dope users was confiscated.

CLEAN-UP OF FORMER HOG RANCH ORDERED

Operators of a former hog ranch at Madrona Ave. and Spencer St. have agreed to clean up the location by Nov. 6, according to City Prosecutor Robert Pannell.

He said Francis P. Foley made the stipulation as the result of criminal and civil court complaints filed by the city. The complaints resulted from use of the site as a garbage transfer point after the swine were removed two months ago.

Pannell said the City Council agreed to the deadline since it was doubted if the court actions would result in improvement of the situation before that time. The property is used as a transfer point for garbage from about 200,000 homes, Pannell stated.

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Two Commissioners Quit In Recreation Dispute

There will be at least three new faces on the Torrance Recreation Commission as a result of three resignations, two of them protesting the Council's handling of park planning in connection with the upcoming \$3,000,000 recreation bond issue.

Chairman Herma Tillim and J. H. Paget handed in their resignations at a Wednesday night meeting of the commission, indicating their ire over the "by-passing" of the Recreation Commission in setting up an election to provide cash for a system of parks and playgrounds for the city. Commissioner Herbert Albright, contacted by THE HERALD, said he also would resign soon, but because he was moving from the city.

Three Will Stay
Three other commissioners—Lawrence Gitschier, George Vico, and Robert Cramer—told THE HERALD that they had no plans to resign, while the other member of the commission, Mrs. Mary Lee Boswell, was on vacation and could not be contacted.

Although Mrs. Tillim and Paget blasted the council's handling of the recreation issue, they indicated they both favored the upcoming bond issue. Mrs. Tillim was vocal in her support of a \$5,000,000 issue for parks.

"To be on the commission and not do any good is a waste of time," Paget declared. "We were in disagreement over where to put parks and how to acquire them."

What's the Use?
Mrs. Tillim concurred with Paget, declaring, "What's the use of making plans? We hire an expert to study the situation and then the council decides they're experts and do it their way."

She referred to the Gold Report, which was drawn up by Robert L. Gold, who was hired by the city to make a master recreation plan for the city. The Recreation Commission had studied this report, making some changes in a tentative recommendation, but had made no final recommendation at the time the Council acted to put the bond issue on the Oct. 29 ballot.

In its plans for the recreation bond issue, the Council set a \$3 million figure to be used for acquisition of 10 new sites totaling 132 acres.

Sites Picked
In so doing, the Council approved sites for purchase and

Commission Vico said he had missed the last two meetings because he is playing baseball for the Hollywood Stars this summer. He expressed regret at the two resignations and hoped that it would not hamper the effectiveness of the Recreation Commission.

On Vacation
Mrs. Boswell has missed several meetings while out of town on her vacation.

Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem said he was sorry to lose two good members of the commission and hoped that their resignation would not set the program back.

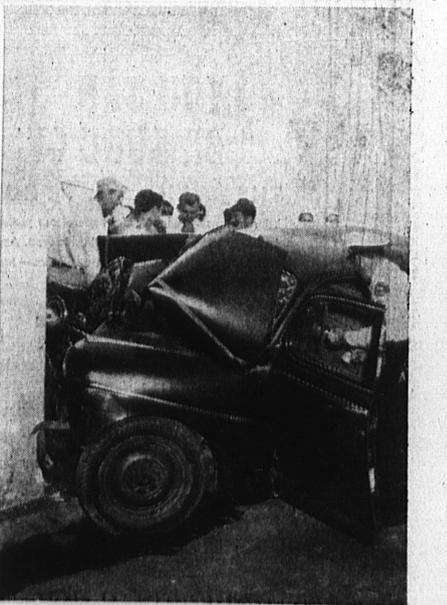
Paget has been a member of the commission since 1953, while Mrs. Tillim joined the group a year later. She is now in her second term as chairman.

Thieves Hit New School

New Narbonne High School, scheduled to open in September, was burglarized of more than \$1000 in equipment Thursday night.

Isaiah Crawford, of 14106 S. Central Ave., Compton, caretaker, said thieves entered by breaking a side window in the storage room.

Taken from the school, located at 24300 S. Western Ave., was a mimeograph machine, calculating machine, and a typewriter.



(Herald Photo)

CAR MOVES IMMOVABLE OBJECT . . . A woman was critically injured when her car struck this railroad abutment on Torrance Blvd. between Cabrillo and Western Aves., late yesterday afternoon. The front end of the car was smashed flat. The woman, about 30, could not be immediately identified, although the car was registered to David Murphy, 422 W. 108th St., Los Angeles.

Area Leaders Will Ask for Freeway Cash

Rivets Reports

It was 85 yesterday and it'll probably be about the same today, according to the HERALD weatherologist, Rivets, as he made plans to go to the beach. "Sunny and continued warm" is the official forecast.

High and low temperatures this week included Thursday (81-62); Friday (85-64); and Saturday (85-63).

A delegation of South Bay civic leaders, including several from Torrance, are planning to make a united appeal for funds for completion of the Harbor Freeway between 124th and 190th Sts. before the State Highway Commission in Sacramento, Thursday.

At least 15 of the 50 persons who attended the session called by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn indicated they would attend a special budget hearing. They will ask the money for completion of the freeway section to be included in the budget for the next fiscal year.

E. T. Telford, assistant district highway engineer, said

Carl Dean Hurt In Plant Mishap

Reported satisfactory at Torrance Memorial Hospital yesterday, was Carl L. Dean, 2664 Torrancia Blvd., a National Supply Co. employee who was seriously injured in an industrial accident Thursday morning.

Dean, an employe of the firm's heat treat department, received multiple compound fractures of his right leg at the plant when a car loader used in his department tipped over crushing the leg.

He was rushed to Torrance Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery for repair of the damaged leg. In addition to the fractures, he suffered exhaust burns and cuts along the limb.