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FAMILY SEEKS TO FORGET ORDEAL AS NET SPREAD FOR DESPERADOES

Escapes Said 'Very Polite'

By TOM RISCHE
Herald Staff Writer

Although the story isn't ended, a local family has finished its part in a tense drama which rivals some of the TV thrillers, and they are glad of it.

Almost back to normal after being held captive in their apartment for nearly 24 hours by two escapees from the San Luis Obispo County Jail are Mrs. Lola Garrett, 52, and her three children, Mary, 15; Ray, 18; and Tom, 21, of 16664 W. 205th St. They hope the only dramas of this kind they see again will be of the TV variety.

Family Held

They were held by Bart James Blackburn, 22, and Ronnie David Rhonemus, 22, who made their getaway by stealing a car from one of the Garretts' neighbors. At last report the pair were still at large, although the stolen car was discovered in Los Angeles.

Police and the Garretts both hope that some other family

Torrance police were momentarily excited yesterday afternoon as they discovered the white Thunderbird in which the two jail escapees fled after holding a local family captive for 24 hours.

Police watched the car in downtown Torrance, but were soon informed that the car had been recovered in Los Angeles and returned to its owner, David Carrell, South Gate. Carrell was visiting a neighbor of the Garretts at the time his car was stolen. He apparently was shopping when local police found the car yesterday.

Isn't playing hosts to the polite desperadoes, who escaped from the jail by sawing out a bar and sliding down a knotted bedsheet.

Aside from the indignity of being bound and gagged, the Garretts reported that they spent a not unpleasant day with the pair, watching television, playing cards, and talking.

But everybody was a little nervous because the two men had guns, and nobody was just sure whether they would use them.

Not Scared

"After I found out what was happening, I wasn't scared, although I don't think they

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Man Suggests Annexation Of Gardena

A proposal that Gardena annex itself either to Torrance or Los Angeles will be presented to the Gardena City Council at a special meeting Monday night by James Singer, an irate citizen of that neighboring city.

At the last council meeting Tuesday, Singer objected to discussions of a \$1.81 tax rate for Gardena. The council indicated that if moves to oust the controversial card clubs from Gardena are successful, taxes would have to be increased from 80 cents to \$1.81.

Singer said that if this happens, a \$1.81 tax rate for Gardena would be ridiculous compared to \$1.22 in Torrance. He termed himself "a taxpayer who is fed up to the teeth with getting nothing for his money."

Torrance's reputation as an All-America City and its other advantages might well be worth consideration on the part of Gardena, he said.

Some time ago, a proposal that north Torrance be annexed to Gardena was a source of controversy in Torrance.

Small Blaze At National Extinguished

A small fire in the timber and pipe storage area of the National Supply Co., 1524 Border Ave., was quickly extinguished Friday.

The fire apparently was caused by a cigarette thrown in some freshly sprayed weed killer, according to Torrance firemen.

In other action, the firemen got in a little burning of their own as they burned down a house at 185th and Prairie Ave. in a drill. The house was scheduled for demolition and the drills are used to train new firemen in fire-fighting techniques.

The firefighters also put out a small blaze at the Lionel King home, 18019 Daphne Ave., caused by a defective clothes dryer.

The rescue squad failed to revive Aileen Powers, 31, 2828 W. 175th St., after they were called because she was having difficulty breathing.

Rivets Reports

There'll be some high clouds today, but mostly sunny weather will prevail, according to RIVETS, HERALD weather-dog. There's a chance of rain late tonight or tomorrow.

High and low temperatures this week included: Thursday (70-50); Friday (69-44); and Saturday (70-46).

Pair Held in Armed Robbery of Station

Two men are being held in Los Angeles County jail, in lieu of \$2000 bail, following an armed robbery in Torrance, Thursday.

Judge John A. Shidler, Friday, set Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m., as the date for preliminary hearing for Leland Grover, 26, and Mark Caldwell Taylor.

The two are charged with

the armed robbery of a service station at 174th St. and Western Ave.

Grover was apprehended by local police as he was leaving the scene of the robbery. Police found the gun used in the holdup and a paper sack containing \$121 with the man.

Man Identified

Grover was identified as the robber by the gas station attendant Harry Jardine, 41, of 1724 Kerr Dr. Jardine, who told police he was forced to hand over the money from the outside register, was ordered to stay in the restroom by the gunman.

An unemployed electrician from Washington, Grover later implicated Taylor who reportedly was waiting in a nearby car.

Officers Bill Crow and Dick Humphrey were flagged down by the station attendant shortly after the robbery and caught the gunman as he fled the scene.

Parents Will Query Board About Book

Several irate mothers indicated yesterday that they will question the Torrance School Board Tuesday about use of a supplementary text, "About You," at South High School.

The schools informed the mothers that the book had been withdrawn from school use and Dr. J. H. Hull reported that it was used "in error" at South High School and the district stopped using it some time ago. The book, however, is or has been used at other nearby school districts.

The parents were not pacified by the withdrawal of the book. Mrs. Salvador Guagenti, 22722 Draile Dr., termed it "trash" and wanted to know why it had been used at all. She said she and other parents would seek an explanation from the school board as to whether the social studies program was more "social than studies."

The book, she said, is too advanced for use in ninth grade freshman problems classes and gave erroneous ideas to the students. She and other mothers object to treatment of such topics as sex, narcotics, and alcohol. They also object, she said, to treatment of family life, where "children are asked to psychoanalyze their parents."

Library Plans Discussed by Carson Group

The branch library at 225 E. Carson St. was the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Carson Civic Betterment Assn. last Tuesday night at White Junior High School.

Mrs. Irene Klein, branch librarian, and Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson of the county library staff told of the facilities of the local branch and the county library. They pointed out that there are over 1,000,000 volumes available to readers, catalogued by subject, title, author, and fiction.

The association asked for a library building that is more conspicuous and with more parking space. It requested a member of the county library staff to be present at the meeting of the executive board on Feb. 25 to discuss library problems.

39 Per Cent Of Goal Hit In 'Y' Drive

The Torrance YMCA reported Friday that more than 200 volunteer YMCA Campaigners have thus far raised \$11,533 for the local youth organization.

This sum represents 39 per cent of the YMCA goal for 1958, which will serve more than 7,000 local youngsters with YMCA clubs and camps.

The clubs and churches division of the campaign went over the top with 100 per cent of its YMCA goal. Bill Speck and Mervin Schwab, co-chairmen of this division praised the cooperation of many civic groups.

Generous support was received from Torrance Lions, Torrance Rotary, Torrance Y's Men's Club, TAPS, Vickers Rod and Gun Club, Junior Women's Club, North Torrance Lions Club, Oil Workers Union 1-519, Torrance Woman's Club, and WALTERIA Businessmen's Club.

Schwab and Speck stated that they hope to achieve 150 per cent of their goal because many civic groups or churches have not yet made a contribution. They urged all groups to help because support is reduced because of business conditions.

Al Isen, chairman of the overall YMCA campaign, said that his workers have set a goal of \$10,000 to be raised during the next five days.

Homeowners Ask Officials To Meeting

A number of city officials will be honored guests at the regular monthly meeting of the Southwood Homeowners Assn. at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Anza Elementary School, 21400 Ellinwood Dr.

Invited are the mayor, city councilmen, city manager, and city engineer. On the agenda are discussions of Little League, Boy Scouts, and street lighting.

Block chairmen currently are being sought by the group, according to President Jack Curran. The drive is headed by Membership Chairman Joe Bonchonski.

Juvenile Apprehended For Coin Box Thefts

Gardena police apprehended a 17-year-old Los Angeles youth Friday shortly after the juvenile broke into a telephone coin box.

The youth admitted the Torrance burglary at 3858 Redondo Beach Blvd., as well as a series of other phone coin box thefts.

FIRST AID COURSE SET AT SOUTH HIGH

A standard first-aid course will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening in Room J-10 of South High School, 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy., according to Adult School Principal Victor Kilburn.



THEY'LL TAKE TV . . . Tom and Ray Garrett, who were held captive in their apartment by two jail escapees for 24 hectic hours Thursday, agree that they prefer the TV thrillers to those in real life. The youths' mother and sister also were held captive. Although the handouts were very polite, leaving them \$10 "till payday," they don't think they'd like to repeat the experience. (Herald Photo)

Slates Completed for City Vote; Five in Mayor Race

Slates for the April 8 city election were filled this week with five candidates entering the contest for the mayor's post, 15 for the three city council posts, three for city clerk, and two for the city treasurer's post.

Deadline for filing nomination papers was Thursday noon. Registration for voters for the April 8 election closed at midnight, Thursday, but deputy registrars throughout the area are continuing to register voters for the spring primaries and the general election this year.

Several nominating petitions which were issued by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett were not returned. Among them was a petition issued to John Kesson, north Torrance civic leader,

who had told the HERALD he planned to file for council "inasmuch as my letter to the city started the whole thing about the seven-man council."

Three for Clerk Albert Bartlett, who has been city clerk here since 1922, will be opposed by two candidates in his bid for a 10th four-year term. Mrs. Herma Tillim, former member of the recreation commission and operator of a personnel agency, has filed for the office as has Bernard H. Miller, who lists his occupation as an administrator. Mrs. Tillim lives at 16914 Osage Ave., Miller at 1418 Hickory Ave.

Seeking re-election to the city's treasurer's post she has held for many years is Mrs. Harriett V. Leech, of 1630 Ampola Ave. She will be opposed

by Frank William Hunter, of 2604 Dalemead, a salesman. Thumbnail sketches of the candidates for mayor and council follow:

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ATTORNEY SAYS

Lion, Ocelots, Cheetah Must Go

Mrs. Joseph Giacinto has been ordered to show cause why she shouldn't reduce the size of her household within 30 days.

The city of Torrance Thursday ordered her to get rid of part of her family—which presently includes a lion, cheetah, and several ocelots—all on the Giacinto property at 2715 W. 178th St.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmyer ruled that cheetahs, ocelots, and lions do not fall in the "domesticated animals" classification of the city's land use ordinance, which allows two full-grown "domesticated" pets.

Wild Animals "Even if they are tame, they still fall in the 'wild animal' category," Remelmyer said.

Mrs. Giacinto indicated that she would appeal to the Torrance Planning Commission at its meeting next Wednesday evening, asking them to show cause why she should dispose of the animals.

For some time, the cheetah has been a pet of the Giacinto family, occupying a separate room adjoining the living rooms and the ocelots have been kept in a cage in the backyard.

Lion Added

What precipitated the crisis was complaints from neighbors about the addition of Caesar the Lion to the household last week.

Obtained from Griffith Park Zoo, the big cat was being trained in South Gate by Mrs. Giacinto and Tiny Huer, South Gate trainer. They had planned to train him for circuses and grand opening work. Caesar's cage was the back of a panel truck which was kept in the Giacinto garage.

The Giacintos also had a timberwolf, which was being trained for circus work and three skunks, which were to become pets, but Mrs. Giacinto indicated that these were only temporary visitors.

A Penny for your Thoughts

Scanning the week's headlines, The HERALD'S inquiring photographer asked: "Do you agree with President Eisenhower that the worst part of the 'recession' is over and that business will pick up soon?"

Gaye Wilson, 3960 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., El Camino student: "I agree. My folks own their own business, which has been slow for quite a few weeks. It's starting to pick up again just recently."

Jim Krell, Inglewood, salesman: "Until I see an improvement, I won't believe it's over. I'm no prophet, but I believe it when I see it. There seems to be a lot of people being hurt."

Mrs. Henry Martinez, 21324 Denker Ave., proofreader: "No. People from other states seem to be coming here and taking jobs from the people that are here now. I don't think it will get better."

Melvin Norton, 2315 S. Denker Ave., air-craft worker: "Yes, he's right. Who should know better than the president of the United States? Whatever he says, I believe is right."

Mrs. Alice Rynhart, 1207 Hickory Ave., cafeteria employee: "I just wonder. All I can say is that I hope so. From what I hear, many people have been laid off and some of them are in serious trouble."

Dick Rivers, 1830 W. 242nd Pl., machinist: "Definitely, things should pick up. They can't help it, with all this defense spending. People will get hurt, but things should get better. It's similar to the 1949 recession, or maybe a little rougher."

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