

# Wide Search for Men Who Held Family Hostage

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# NEW PARK BOND PETITIONS READY

## Fugitives Lay Siege to Family

Police combed Southern California as far as the Mexican border today to track down two desperadoes who kept a Torrance family captive for more than 24 hours.

Bound and gagged in their home were Mrs. Lola Garrett, 40, of 1664 W. 205th st., and her three children, Thomas, 20, Ray, 22, and Mary, 16.

### Jail Break

The suspects, escapees from the San Luis Obispo County Jail, took off in a stolen white Thunderbird, after tying up the owner and his friend who resides at the same apartment house as the Garretts.

Police were hunting for Bart Blackburn, 23, and Ronnie Rhonemus, 21, who were facing robbery charges when they fled jail Tuesday with a third man who gave himself up.

The suspects accosted Thomas Garrett while he was in Hermosa Beach early Wednesday morning waiting for his brother to get off work.

### Forced Home

They asked Thomas for a light fuse and then forced him and his brother to take them to the Garrett home, where Mrs. Garrett and her daughter were sleeping, at gun-point.

The two suspects spent most of their time watching television and did not molest members of the family.

Late Wednesday night one of them bought adhesive tape with which he and his companion later tied up the members of the Garrett family.

They forced Mrs. Garrett to call her daughter's school and Ray's employers saying the children were ill and would not be able to show up that day.

### Spot Neighbors

Just as the gunmen were ready to leave, David Carrell, 40, of South Gate and Lill Ann Kiley, 27, a resident of the apartment house drove up in Carrell's white Thunderbird.

The suspects tied up Miss Kiley and Carrell in her apartment, robbed the latter of \$50 in cash and his watch and drove off.

Carrell and Miss Kiley managed to attract the neighbors' attention by pounding on the floor at about 3 a.m.

## Bandit Suspect Nabbed Moments After Holdup

A robbery suspect was captured by Torrance police minutes after he allegedly held up a service station at 1800 W. 174th st., early Thursday morning.

Leland Eugene Glover, 26, a transient of Renton, Wash., told arresting officers Richard Humphrey and William Crow: "I lost my job before Christmas and I haven't been able to get work."

Harry Jardine, attendant at the service station, told officers the suspect walked into his lot and asked him for a map.

A moment later, the suspect whipped out a gun and ordered the victim into the station demanding that he open the safe.

When Jardine answered he did not have the key, the suspect was quoted as growling: "O.K., don't get wise."

When the attendant demonstrated that his key did not open the safe, the bandit removed the contents of the cash register and ordered Jardine into a rest room.

The victim hailed a passing police car whose occupants spotted the suspect walking along Western ave., and stopped him.

A search revealed the suspect had \$121 in a paper sack and a nickel plated revolver, officers said.

### Gas Tax Revenue Up

Torrance will receive \$275,440 in State gas tax for the 1958-59 fiscal year.



HONORARY MEMBER—Mayor Albert Isen, center, is being presented with an honorary membership in the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce by Douglas Horlander, left, membership chairman, and Fred Hansen, past president. Press Photo

## Mayor Isen Given Honorary Junior Chamber Award

Mayor Albert Isen was presented with an honorary membership by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce this week during a ceremony in which 10 new members were installed.

One of the members is Lt. Geoffrey Yelland, of Australia, who is studying training methods of the National Guard in Torrance.

Other new members are Robert Bartz, Al Bjorkland, Dave Cleveland, Vern Hesson, Robert Monroe, Bob Morris, Richard Rankin and Jack Stephens.

A Jaycee rally will be held at the Torrance National Guard Armory March 2.

Doug Horlander, membership chairman, announced that young men between the ages of 21 and 35 who are interested in becoming members, are invited to attend club meetings.

## Three Injured in Traffic Collisions

Three persons were injured in two traffic collisions Friday.

Samuel Weiner, 44, of 435 N. Gardner st., Los Angeles, and Daniel Luis Currier, 53, of 1933 W. 241st st., both drivers, suffered injuries in a collision on Lomita Blvd., east of Hawthorne Blvd., officers reported.

Mrs. Charles Kennedy, of 721 Calle de Arboles, was hurt in a collision at Hawthorne Blvd. and Talisman Ave., while she was a passenger in her husband's car. The other machine was operated by Thomas Nathaniel Green, 24, of 20029 Beel-mare Ave., police said.

## TORRANCE BAIL COLLECTOR FACES PRELIMINARY TRIAL

Jack Gee, 53, accused of pocketing money he collected as Torrance's bail collector, will appear in South Bay Municipal Court Friday, for preliminary hearing.

At that time he will face charges of embezzlement and falsifying public record when he appears before Judge Otto B. Willett.

In the meantime Gee is due in Superior Court March 5 on previous charges of embezzlement arising from a Grand Jury indictment following an extensive investigation by the District Attorney's office.

Gee was arrested for the second time Tuesday, when Torrance Policeman Jack Hahn, kicked in the door to Gee's

## Rezoning Request Studied

Request by the Great Lakes Carbon Company for rezoning its property in Rolling Hills, today was under study by the Regional Planning Commission.

The company wants a zone change for property fronting 3200 feet on the west side of Crenshaw Blvd., extending approximately 8500 feet west along Crest Road.

It asked the commission to change the irregularly shaped parcel from residential agricultural and quarry zoning to scientific research development, restricted commercial and unlimited residential.

The company recently announced it will shut down its mining operations at the end of the month because its dilapidated deposits have been exhausted after nearly 30 years of operation.

City officials said that two additional swivel chairs to seat the two additional councilmen have been ordered and will be available when the enlarged Council holds its first meeting following the April 8 election.

## City Attorney Job Vote Asked

Request that the City Council make the city attorney's office elective, by placing a special measure on the April 8 ballot, will be considered Tuesday.

The change was urged by the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association.

John G. L. Crain, president of the organization, said that the request is being forwarded following a unanimous vote by his members.

Presently the city attorney's office is appointive.

## SWANK BEVERLY HILLS APARTMENT

Until Gee's troubles with the law began, he was employed by Torrance to serve warrants on out-of-town defendants who had failed to show up in court.

Charges against Gee are that he collected bail money from the defendants, but failed to turn the money over to the South Bay Municipal Court. Instead, he is charged with returning the warrants as being "unserved."

The latest case came up when a defendant produced a bail receipt allegedly signed by Gee, even though court records indicated he had never posted the bail.

Gee has been steadfastly professing innocence.

## 15 File for City Council

Fifteen candidates will be gunning for three City Council posts in the April election as filings of nominations closed Thursday noon.

Five men are in the race for the Mayor's job, three persons are candidates for City Clerk and two are seeking the City Treasurer's office.

Opposing Mayor Albert Isen for reelection are Councilman Nicholas O. Drale, Walter G. Ryan, Dearl Craft, John B. Feltes.

City Clerk Albert H. Bartlett, who has chalked up 36 years in office, will seek his 10th consecutive four-year term. He is opposed by Herma Tillim, owner of an employment agency and former chairman of the Recreation Commission. The third candidate is Bernard (Barney) Miller, who lists himself as an unemployed administrator.

Incumbent City Treasurer Harriett Leach is opposed by Frank W. Hunter, a salesman.

Willis Blount is the only incumbent to seek reelection as councilman.

This is because two new Council seats were created by a charter change under which the mayor is elected directly by the people. The terms of Blount and Isen are up, but the latter will seek the newly created mayor's post.

Prior to this year, the mayor was selected from among members of the Council.

Candidates for Council seats aside from Blount, are Richard Wilson, a realtor, Albert Hinz, industrial relations director, Roger P. Hogue, sheetmetal foreman, Virgil D. Hancock, service station owner.

Thirvin D. Fleetwood, John A. Beasley, members of the Planning Commission, Tom Abrams, chairman of the Airport Commission, Clifford Peterson, attorney, Muriel A. Reeves, George A. Bradford, businessman, George Vico, former professional baseball player, now a public relations man, Alexander Lloyd Mazza, David V. Figueredo, Planning Commission member.

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## 18 THS Seniors Receive Honors

Eighteen senior students at Torrance High School have qualified for life membership in the California Scholastic Federation, according to Mrs. Alice Hammond, sponsor of Torrance High School Chapter 121 of the California Scholarship Federation. To qualify for life membership, a student must have maintained a high scholastic record for six of the eight semesters of high school.

Successful seniors were: Kent Bartholic, Janice Bishop, David Burdick, Bill Colby, Tom Carter, Judy Lundblom, Irene Masaki, Alice Mewborn. Other senior students qualifying for membership were: Paul O'Kain, Jackie Sherer, Linda Shortes, Wood, and Betty Yoshioka.

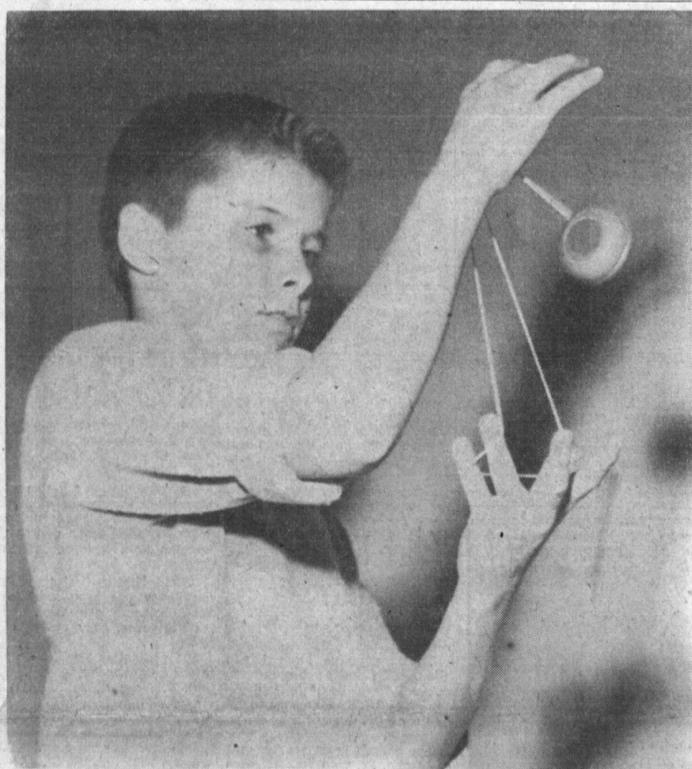
Life members of the California Scholarship Federation are awarded at graduation exercises by the placement of the gold seal of the California Scholarship Federation upon the student's diploma.

## Southwood Meet

City officials will be guests at the meeting of the Southwood Homeowners association to be held Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Anza Elementary School, 21400 Ellenwood drive.

Little League, Boy Scouts and street lighting will be on the agenda.

Joe Bonchonski, membership chairman, announced that he needs volunteers to serve as block chairmen.



LOMITA CHAMP—Demonstrating the technique which won him the boy's championship in the Lomita Park Yo-Yo Tournament, is Ricky Irons, 13, of 2107 W. 237th St., who has now won the

title three years in succession. He and Judy Fenev, who copied the girls' title will enter the County regional competition in Alondra Park. Press Photo

## Jungle Cat Owner Fights Pet Ouster

A North Torrance woman who believes her cheetah and two ocelots are perfectly harmless animals will fight a city order to oust them from Torrance.

"I won't part with them, the cheetah is worth \$5000," declared Mrs. Joseph Giacinto, of 2715 W. 178th st.

She said she most certainly will appear before the Planning Commission to defend her right to keep the animals.

Not Domestic City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer, in a tentative opinion, ruled this week that keeping the animals is in violation of the city ordinance which provides a resident in an R-1 zone can have no more than two grown dogs and cats.

"Cats mean domestic animals," Remelmeyer said. "I can't believe that R-1 can be used for wild animals."

Mrs. Giacinto said she uses the animals in publicity work and the cheetah, Jate, of African origin, has been in movies and in fact will make another one in Mexico this year.

"Why, the kids would die if we had to get rid of the animals. Dogs can be wilder than Jate," she declared.

Has Own Room She keeps the cheetah in her home where he has his own room.

Police advised her to get rid of the animals. (Continued on Page 2)



PET OR PERIL?—The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Giacinto don't appear to think that their cheetah, Jate is a dangerous pet, but under ordinance interpretation by the city attorney, it does not come under the domestic cat family designation and must leave Torrance. Petting Jate, are from left, Jerry, Jana and Joey Giacinto.

## Council to Get Bond Signers

Petitions to place a \$3,000,000 bond issue for park development on the April 8 ballot are expected to be handed to the City Council Tuesday.

Mrs. Eva Bisou, chairman of the drive to collect a minimum of 2087 signatures, said that the decision on whether to submit the petitions Tuesday or hold off until the final day, Feb. 24, will be made at a meeting Monday.

As Many Signers "We are trying to get as many signatures as possible to allow for some disqualifications," Mrs. Bisou said.

She said that people appear quite willing to sign the petitions, but that the drive has been slow due to lack of circulators.

"Everything is going along fine," she said. She said the only problem is to have more than the required number of signatures because invariably some persons names are disqualified because they are not registered voters, or for other reasons.

Will Carry Mrs. Bisou said she is sure that the bond issue, once placed on the ballot, "will carry this time."

"It definitely has a better chance. People understand it more this time," she said.

The bonds were defeated in a special election last October, immediately after the elections plans were conceived to place it on the regular ballot in the April municipal election.

The \$3,000,000 issue is designed to enable the city to purchase needed land for park purposes before real estate prices skyrocket, and also to develop recreation sites already owned by the city.

If sufficient signatures are obtained the measure will go on the municipal election ballot in addition to candidates for city offices.

## Arlington Opening Closer

Opening of Arlington ave., between 190th st. and Del Amo Blvd., moved a step closer this week when the city was granted permission to construct a grade crossing over the Santa Fe tracks.

Next step will be to obtain an easement from the railroad company and another easement to cross the General Petroleum property, according to John Patrick, assistant city engineer.

"It will open up another north-south traffic artery to relieve Crenshaw Blvd. and Western avenue, and will also serve as a direct shot to the downtown Torrance area," the engineer said.

Patrick said it is projected to make the roadbed 44 feet wide. Cost of the street opening project for the three-fourth of a mile segment will be between \$75,000 and \$80,000, he estimated.

The State Public Utilities Commission authorized the street-level crossing and ordered the two flashing light signals be erected at the crossing.

The city must carry out its work within a year, the order said.

## Garbage Dump Rule Modified By Plan Board

Modification to permit dumping of garbage, was granted this week to the Bak Disposal Company, located between Main st. and Avalon Blvd., southerly of 189th st.

The Regional Planning Commission will permit the operator to dump garbage, not to exceed two per cent by weight and five per cent by volume.

## Burglars Hit Home, Business

Five burglaries in which thieves went after cash and merchandise, were reported to Torrance police Wednesday and Thursday.

Largest haul was made at the construction site of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, 2000 W. 174th St. where \$269 of building materials were stolen.

Five bottles of liquor, \$100 in cash were stolen from the Retreat, 3602 Pacific Coast Highway, after burglars broke a window to gain entry, police reported.

Candy and cigarettes, worth \$1.25, were taken from the home of Clyde A. Malseed, 4026 W. 173rd st. after the thieves pulled a window loose, the victim complained.

The motor to a hole-digging machine was stolen from Kenney's Wholesale Nursery, 8335 1/2 S. Western ave. the firm placed loss at \$270.

An undetermined amount of cash was taken when burglars broke into the administration office at Torrance High School, 2200 W. Carson st., and attempted to force their way into the student store.

Two skylight burglaries of dental offices at 2164-68 Lomita Blvd., were reported to the Lennox Sheriff's Station.

Drs. Trevor Wilson Bullock and Milton F. Flagg said nothing appeared missing.

A third skylight burglary was committed at the Skipper Inn, 18330 Hawthorne Blvd., where a thief made off with \$50 from the kitchen, owner Luis Milovich told Torrance police.

Filet mignon, \$40 of it, and \$30 cash were stolen from a meat store at 3616 W. Pacific Coast Highway, officers were informed.

## First Aid Class At South High

A First Aid class will open at South High School Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., according to Victor Kilburn, director of Adult Education.

Students who pass the five week course at the campus at 4801 Pacific Coast Highway, will receive a Red Cross certificate.