

# Hahn Suggests Crime Commission



**LOCAL** surf enthusiasts are heading for trouble if they continue to carry their boards to the beach in the manner shown above. Police have issued a warning which states the carrying of surfboards sticking out car windows is illegal. Persons are subject to citations if stopped for the offense. PRESS photo

## Law Controls Carrying of Surfboards

Surfers who drive city streets with their surfboards sticking outside windows of their cars are in violation of the California vehicle code, Highway Patrol officers warned this week.

Section 35111 CVC prohibits objects projecting more than six inches from the "line of the fenders" on the right side of the car. The same law forbids motorists to hang anything on the left or drivers side of the auto which will stick out beyond the fender line.

Police stated this week that there is an increasing number of local residents who transport surfboards in their cars with the board's nose protruding several feet out a side window.

Persons illegally carrying surfboards are subject to citations, CHP officers warned. Convictions could bring stiff penalties, it was added.

**Carrier Boys Wanted**  
DA 5-1515



**YOUNG FOLK FAVORITE** Miss Barbara, of the children's TV show, Romper Room, will be at the downtown Newberry's store Saturday, November 16, from two until four in the afternoon. Boys and girls will have an opportunity to meet and talk with the star of the popular TV kids' show.

## Supervisor Suggests Crime Commission

Does Los Angeles County need a major Crime Commission combat the rising cost and impact of criminal activity?

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn posed this question as he reviewed statistics showing the cost of fighting crime in Los Angeles County during the past 10 years has increased six times faster than the population.

"This is a dismal picture," Hahn declared, calling for a major conference to determine if Los Angeles needs a Crime Commission to coordinate the attack of all law enforcement and social agencies.

On Hahn's motion, the Board of Supervisor called for a meeting of Presiding Judges of the Municipal, Superior, and Juvenile Courts, Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, District Attorney William B. McKesson, the Superintendent of Schools, Coordinating Council and PTA representatives to study statistics compiled by Chief Administrative Officer L. S. Hollinger.

"The results of this conference could well provide one of the most far-reaching actions ever taken to combat crime in Los Angeles County and the nation," Hahn said.

Hollinger's report shows appropriations to the Sheriff's Department have jumped from \$13,378,816 in 1954-55 to \$40,952,404 in 1963-64.

an increase of 206.1 per cent. Budgeted positions for the Sheriff's Department have grown from 2,367 in 1954-55 to 4,824 this year — an increase of 103.7 per cent.

In this same period, the County's population has increased only 33.9 per cent, from 4,847,043 to 6,491,871.

During the past 10 years, the County budget for all other County departments increased 135.3 per cent and staff positions increased 33.3 per cent.

The jail and prison camp population in institutions maintained by the Sheriff has jumped from 5,181 in 1954-55 to 9,510 this year—83.6 per cent.

The Supervisor also cited figures of District Attorney McKesson disclosing the workload in his office increased by 19 per cent in the last two years, compared to a rise in population of only 5 per cent.

Applications for felony and misdemeanor complaints totaled 231,395 during 1962-63, up 50,969 over 1959-61. The District Attorney obtained convictions in 92.2 per cent of the felony complaints and 94.6 per cent of the misdemeanor charges.

Hahn stressed Los Angeles County's Sheriff, District Attorney's and Probation Departments, its courts and school system, are "among the finest in the nation."

"I have no criticism whatever of these fine departments, but I feel strongly it may be time for Los Angeles to organize a hard-hitting Crime Commission to organize a hard-hitting Crime Commission to attack this major increase in crime at its source."

Greatly concerned with the fact that the rate of crime is increasing faster than the population Hahn cited as a probable cause the breakdown of the family unit in our metropolitan society.

"The County Clerk informs me in a routine report that in 1962 there was one divorce in Los Angeles County for every two marriages," he said.

"This could be the key to our crime problem. The responsibility for an orderly, law-abiding society rests in the home, and if the home is shattered by strife the children and their future are the real victims."

Hahn added the breakdown of the family relationship becomes apparent as society has to spend millions of additional dollars for new jails and corrective institutions. (Jail and Sheriff Station construction cost \$42,790,469 in the past 10 years.)

During 1962, 44,922 marriage licenses were issued and 24,237 divorces were granted.

## Lone Bandit Strikes Local Store

A lone bandit walked into a Torrance liquor store Wednesday night, leveled a blue steel revolver at the owner and made off with over \$200.

Harold Wharton, 49, clerk on duty at Walts Liquor Store, 16602 Crenshaw Blvd., told police he was in the process of counting the money in the cash register when he looked up and saw the robber. The bandit pointed a gun at Wharton and produced a paper sack demanding all the money.

The suspect got all the money in the cash register and fled. Total loss was estimated to be \$298.

## Request Chief Appear Again

Police Chief Percy Bennett appeared this week before investigators of the California Attorney General's office in answer to a subpoena issued last Friday.

Bennett was ordered to testify at an investigative hearing into alleged irregularities in the Torrance Police Department. The chief appeared Wednesday and was requested to return Thursday.

He was to appear last week, but was hospitalized at Torrance Memorial Hospital for a "severe weak condition." The second subpoena was served to Bennett in his hospital room.

## Freeway Study

The U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, with the cooperation of the State Division of Highways, began a special traffic study this week on local freeways. During the next two weeks study teams will be stationed at various on and off-ramps on the Hollywood, Harbor, Golden State and Ventura Freeways, where they will observe traffic flow. A series of signs with instructions will request motorists to cooperate by turning on their headlights in the study zone. Studies will take place daily between 6:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.

## Storage Shed Is Destroyed

Four Torrance fire companies battled for over two hours Wednesday before controlling a huge blaze in a tarpaper storage shed.

The blaze exploded in a small building at 2008 W. Artesia Blvd., leased to a several persons including a plastering company and a masonry company for storage purposes.

Equipment in the building was a complete loss according to firemen, and damage was estimated at more than a thousand dollars.

The building is owned by Herman O. Barton of 740 W. 157th St. in Gardena.

## Hints for Driving in Winter's Fog

With one of winter's most treacherous driving hazards—fog—now confronting motorists almost daily in many areas of the state, several tips on fog driving are offered by the California Highway Patrol.

Reduce your speed and turn on your headlamps. These, declares California Highway Patrol Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden, rank as the first and second most important requirements for safe driving in fog.

"The state's basic speed law now states that weather and visibility are factors that must be considered in determining whether a given speed endangers the safety of persons or property," Crittenden said. "This means that driving at the normal speed limit is illegal if fog makes that speed unsafe."

"Headlamps must be turned on when visibility is such that a person or vehicle is not clearly discernible for 500 feet. Never use parking lights instead of

headlamps; they are not only ineffective but are illegal to use as driving lights."

Other tips for safe driving are:

Increase your following distance. A sudden slowdown ahead then won't find you short of room to stop.

Be alert for side traffic. A car entering from a side road is not easily seen, and a split second may save you from a collision.

## WEATHER

Cloudy with rain today. Scattered clouds tonight. Clearing on Saturday. High, 63; low, 55.



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# More City Officials to Testify in Probe

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**HONORED** last night at a retirement dinner planned by the Torrance Police Officers Association was Lt. Alex (Porky) Thompson, center, a member of the local police force for 20 years. The dinner was held at the Elks

Lodge and officers and friends attended. Shown with Thompson are Charles Oats, of the police association and Assistant Police Chief Mervin Porter. PRESS photo



**STUDENTS GATHER** around an overtuned television set as Mr. Warren Cross, instructor at South High shows them the various parts and explains their functions. Local schools are observing National Education Week by making the public aware of the new subjects

and courses offered to students. South High has recently started an Auto mechanics class as well as an electronics class to prepare students for the technical trades.