

Teeners Suspected in Valuable Coin Theft

Torrance Press-Herald

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Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879

Series II, Volume II, No. 88



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Sunday, May 8, 1966

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail \$12 Per Year

16 PAGES



FEDERAL AID LIST . . . Bert M. Lynn (left) of the Torrance Board of Education and Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, display a large chart listing federal funds available to local schools in 1966. The list contains capsule information about all aid-to-education programs being administered this year by the United States Office of Education. Lynn obtained the list during a recent meeting in San Francisco regarding vocational education programs. All federal programs are administered through the State Department of Education, Lynn said. (Press-Herald Photo)

Cabbie Questioned in Shooting of Teenager

Suspect Trio in Custody

Three teenagers accused of taking \$1,000 worth of coins, valuable documents, and stocks from a North Torrance home are being held by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, it was reported yesterday.

Torrance police said the items were taken from the home of John Mainhood, an airline pilot, at 3634 W. 169th St. Friday morning. The youths apparently entered the home through a "dog door" and took a cash box containing the valuable papers.

Mainhood said stock certificates worth several hundred dollars, his automobile ownership papers, and various documents concerning his home were in the cash box. A variety of foreign coins, as well as several American coins, also were taken.

SAN BERNARDINO County sheriff's deputies said the youths had the cash box when they were apprehended.

Several hundred dollars worth of property was reported stolen in several other burglaries here Friday.

A wristwatch valued at \$100 was taken from the boy's locker room at the South High gymnasium, according to school officials. The watch, believed to have been taken about 2:45 p.m., belonged to Donald Greene of 5502 Calle de Ricardo.

Power lawn equipment worth \$340 was taken from a Compton man, a stereo tape player valued at \$120 was removed from a car in Central Torrance, and tools and fishing gear worth \$115 was stolen from another Central Torrance home.

Thieves entered two cars in the Del Amo Center parking lot, taking a spare tire and wheel from a station wagon and a ladies purse.

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INVESTIGATORS MEET . . . Members of the Southern Delegation of the Great Western Safe Burglary Investigators met in Torrance Friday night where officers of the Torrance Police Department served as hosts for the quarterly meeting. Shown here from left are Torrance officer Robert Dunn; Torrance Chief Walter R. Koenig; Lt. James Crowell, National City police officer and president of the group; Lynn D. Compton, assistant district attorney; and James Davis, Torrance officer. Dunn and Davis head up Torrance's commercial burglary detail. Compton spoke to the group of about 100 Southern California officers on the problems of law enforcement. (Press-Herald Photo)

Murder Charge Studied

Torrance police jailed a 25-year-old cab driver early yesterday on suspicion of murder after a teenager was shot to death in downtown Torrance following an apparent street fight.

Jailed was Robert Charles Andrus, 2014 Torrance Blvd. He is being questioned in connection with the murder of James Howard Sonju, 17, of 21013 Donora St.

Sonju was shot just before 1 a.m. yesterday in the parking lot of the Palms Restaurant, 1925 W. Carson St. He was rushed to Little Company of Mary Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead at 1:34 a.m.

POLICE SAID the shooting occurred during a fight involving several teenagers and young adults.

Andrus told police several youths had driven past him and made "rude, vulgar comments, then came back." He told police he fired several warning shots into the air after the youths formed a semi-circle around him.

"They kept coming," Andrus said, "they jumped me, knocked me down, and started kicking me and hitting me, so then I shot one of them." "He's not hurt bad, I only shot him in the side," Andrus added.

ONE OF the youths told police he, Sonju, and two other teenagers were driving in the downtown area and saw several other teenagers and young adults in the parking lot, but went on to a drive-in restaurant at Carson Street and Western Avenue, where they met two friends.

They returned to the parking lot after someone said a group there was "looking for a fight."

The youths told police Andrus took a gun out of his pocket and began firing at the group, so the youths wrestled him to the ground in an attempt to take the gun away from him.

ONE TEENAGER told off. (Continued on Page A-2)

General Pace Slackens

Home Building Leads in April

Building permits valued at slightly more than \$2 million were issued by the city of Torrance in April, according to a report just released by John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety.

The April figures reflected a slight decrease over the \$2.4 million in permits issued in April, 1965, but pushed the 1966 totals to \$10,658,529 — up about \$500,000 over the four-month totals for the same period in 1965.

Home construction accounted for almost half the total value of all permits issued in April, McKinnon reported. Eight permits, with a total value of \$582,340, were issued for the construction of 25 single-family homes, while a single permit worth \$314,340 was issued for the construction of a 40-unit apartment building. One duplex valued at \$36,000 was listed in the report for April.

Commercial construction valued at \$642,105 was begun during the month, according to the report, while more than \$72,000 in permits was issued for industrial building. Largest single permit was

Five Hurt In Traffic On Friday

Five persons were injured in two traffic accidents here early Friday evening. All sustained minor injuries and told police they would seek private medical attention.

A man and his three daughters were hurt about 6:45 p.m. when they were involved in an accident at 231st Street and Crenshaw Boulevard. Paul V. House, 2427 W. 237th St., and daughters, Terri, 3, Debbie, 7, and Cheryl, 9, were driving north on Crenshaw Boulevard when a car driven by Charles A. Franklin Jr. of Los Angeles pulled into traffic in front of them.

Police said Franklin had stopped at the 231st Street intersection before completing a left turn. High weeds on the corner of the street obscured Franklin's view, police reported.

The fifth person was injured at 182nd Street and

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Three Win Top Awards in Elementary Science Fair

Roy Ball, Spencer Reid, and Margaret Phillipson won the grand trophies Friday evening as the Torrance schools completed the first Elementary Science Fair at the Torrance Recreation Center.

Ball won the top prize in the physical science division and Reid was named top winner in the earth sciences category. Miss Phillipson was cited for her biological sciences entry.

More than 2,500 persons viewed the 215 exhibits which were set up by students from 34 elementary schools during the three-day fair. Students were on hand to explain their projects to the judges.

RECEIVING third prizes were: Kenneth Madick and Glenn Allen, primary grade, physical; Bruce Forestal, middle grade, physical; James LaMontagne, upper grade, physical; Mark Hays, primary grade, earth; Steve Overby, middle grade, earth; James Nancarrow, upper grade, earth; Pat Watts, primary grade, biological; Carolyn Kameya, middle grade, biological; and Melvin Floyd and

Joseph Pasquale, upper grade, biological.

THIS WAS the first year the elementary fair was held separately from the high school science fair. Fair chairman was Dr. Lloyd Jones, curriculum consultant. Robert Allen and Dr. Donald Duncan, curriculum consultants, served as assistant chairmen. Judges included: Dr. Kurt Shery, physician and member of the Torrance Board of Education; William Hanson, chief research chemist at Dow Chemical Co. and member of the board of education; Dr. William Ball, physicist at Hughes Aircraft; William Webb, engineer at Hughes Aircraft; and Captain Glenn Kingsley, Air Force Pilot. (Continued on Page A-2)

Suspects Ask Dismissal

A Torrance physician and six co-defendants have asked for dismissal of charges filed after a Grand Jury indictment in a \$700,000 swindle case. Dr. Lester Sacks of Torrance and six other defendants asked for dismissal of the charges due to insufficient evidence. An eighth defendant is scheduled to answer to the charges tomorrow. Indicted with the Torrance physician on charges of making loans on fictitious accounts receivable and phony checks were his brother, Ira Sacks, Bel Air; Gordon Iler, Santa Monica; Philip Sanders, Los Angeles; Samuel A. Longo, Garden Grove; Luther Swink, San Pedro; Joseph Cvecko, Lakewood; and Charles Wall, Canoga Park.

Western Avenue Project

Improvement of Western Avenue between the San Diego Freeway and 25th Street in San Pedro is ready for scheduling as soon as agreements with the cities involved can be completed, it was reported in Sacramento Friday. State highway engineer J. C. Womack said the project calls for rebuilding the entire roadway to make it all four-lane with left-turn pockets and modern signalization. Cost has been estimated at \$2,620,000 of which the state would pay \$1,310,000. The project probably would take six years to finance and complete, Womack reported.

Term Papers Taken From Med Student

A medical student at the University of Southern California is looking for two term papers today, following the theft of a brief case from his car.

Police said Hushnand Taghdiri of Los Angeles parked his car on Amie Avenue north of Torrance Boulevard early Friday while visiting friends in Torrance. Someone managed to unlock the car, apparently using a wire tool, and took the brief case.

Taghdiri said a medical dictionary, a library book, and two term papers were in the brief case.



COMPLEX SYSTEM . . . Lt. Ronald L. Benton, of Elyria, Ohio, explains the intricacies of the instrument panel in a B-52 Stratofortress to Susan Foster, reigning Miss Torrance, during a visit to March Air Force Base. Miss Foster visited the base last week to welcome units of the Strategic Air Command into the seventh annual Armed Forces Day parade here May 21.