

Check Trio Tracked To Lair By Merchant

Miffed when he was stuck with a phony check for \$50 last week, local merchant Jim Siegrist spent two days tracking the suspected forgers in true Mickey Spillane style, finally bringing them to justice in a whiskey-drenched Gardena motel room on Christmas Eve.

Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett, of the Torrance police, and Lt. Roy Tracy of Gardena arrested Raymond Howard Hall, 29, Henry Grady Branch, 266, and Marilyn Louise Stine, 22, of 1621 W. 248th St. on suspicion of forging almost \$3000 worth of checks in Harbor area cities.

Same Spent Here
Four or five to the worthless checks were supposedly passed in Torrance and police asked local merchants to search their bogus check files for checks made out on either the First National Bank of Bellflower or the Bank of America and signed "George W. Bruce." The checks, usually made out for \$38- or \$50, had "Xmas Bonus" written in the lower left hand corner, and were made payable to Branch or Hall.

Siegrist became suspicious when Hall acted nervous while writing a check. The merchant called the Bank of America and found that the check was forged. This information set the dauntless Siegrist off on two days of amateur detective work which led him through Harbor City and back to Gardena, where the suspects were apprehended.

Traces License
By tracing Hall's auto license, Siegrist was led to a house in Harbor City where he saw the car. The next day, he drove back to the Harbor City address, saw the woman leaving in her car and followed her to the Gardena motel. He then phoned the police, and while they charged into the motel,

guns drawn, Siegrist blocked the front entrance. Ten minutes later the suspects would have been gone, police said. Police said the room was littered with whiskey bottles and that one of the suspects asked if he could finish his drink before going to jail.

Forged "Lots"
When asked how many checks they had forged, the suspects casually told police: "Oh, lots of them." Hall and Branch both have prior records, Bennett said. The two men allegedly met the girl in a bar about a month ago and all three have been friends ever since. Hall and Branch are accused of stealing a book of payroll checks from the Al B. O'Brien Painting Contractors in Long Beach and of forging Boerner's name to worthless checks made out in the amount of \$97.92. Long Beach police had a warrant out for their arrest, and the two men have been turned over to them.

Third Rap
The same two men are suspected of buying a 1951 Pontiac from a used car lot in Los Angeles on Nov. 28 and paying for it with a bogus check made out for \$1582.25. A grand theft auto charge may arise from this caper. Police said that the three suspects threw away much of the merchandise purchased with their ill-gotten wealth, but that some of it has been recovered.

Church To Hold New Year's Watch Night Services
Special New Year's Eve Watch Night services will be held to night at the First Baptist Church of WALTERIA, corner of Park and Newton Sts., with Elgar Rubright as guest speaker. Services will begin at 8 p.m. and last until midnight. On Sunday, the Rev. Andrew Duty, pastor, will speak on "Christ the Prophet" at the 11 a.m. worship service. Supervised nursery care is provided for children during the service. Sunday school meets at 9:30 a.m. and the Baptist Youth Fellowship will meet at 6:30 p.m. During the 7:30 evening service, a study of the book of Colossians will be continued.

Christmas Program Draws Crowd, May Repeat in '54
Response to the Recreation Department sponsored Christmas program on Dec. 19 in the Civic Auditorium has prompted the Department to make plans to repeat the show next year, it was announced this week. Almost 300 parents attended the Christmas play, directed by Betty Thomas and staged by 60 children from the local area, and all of the younger children in attendance got a chance to talk to Santa Claus.

Reflections
By J. HUGH SHERFEY, JR.
HAPPY NEW YEAR
January 1st is only a date on a calendar or it can be a starting point to get all the things we want. I watched a huge plane take-off. It had a destination. It might run into storms, be obliged to land prematurely, wait for clearing weather, then proceed to its destination and land like a feather. That plane could be like 1954. We have plans. Let's take off in 1954, see our plans take shape, avoid the storms or ride through them, go on to a glorious landing, where those nebulous plans become reality in fact. A Happy and Prosperous New Year to each and all of you is the wish of each and all of us. Happy Landings.

WE HAVE SERVED THIS COMMUNITY FOR 31 YEARS!
STONE & MYERS
Mortuary
1221 ENGRACIA AVE.
Phone FA 9-1212

1954
Come on in, 1954, and bring all our friends a bountiful measure of health, happiness and all of the joys of life!
We will be closed from New Year's Eve until Monday, January 4.
ALLEN JEWELERS
1321 SARTORI AVE.

Round the Riviera Yule Decor Makes Riviera Wonderland

By MARY and JACK WEBB
FR 5-3051

We must say that Riviera need take a back seat to no one when it comes to outdoor Christmas decorations. No matter what street you drive, no matter which way you gaze, our Yuletide lighting and outdoor decorations make Riviera a Christmas wonderland. We've been casting an appreciative eye over the various efforts of our neighbors, and let's go on record, right now that we feel much happier and more Christmasy because of the myriad lighting and decorations.

On our meanderings around, we tried to pick out a few that we felt you all would be particularly interested in seeing, decorations that we felt typified the spirit of the season. Let us recommend first the display done by Mr. and Mrs. Harlan K. Inglis at their home at 121 Via Los Altos. Appropriately floodlighted for full effect, you'll find a giant Santa Claus waving, a greeting from atop the Ingles home. It's plain to see he's either just about to go down the chimney or has just finished the chore. Then out on the front lawn, you'll find a three by four foot high choir boy standing next to a very feminine angel complete with halo. It is all done in full colors and very effectively. To top it all off, the Ingles have strung multicolored lights around the edge of their garage which is next to the street.

Over at 111 Via Sego, the Douglas McCabes have achieved an unusual and beautiful effect with their treatment of their front picture window. The huge window is framed with blue lights. In the center of the window stands a white Christmas tree with round blue Christmas tree ornaments and silver tinsel decorating it, but no tree lights at all. A floodlight plays up into the tree from a hidden position beneath it, with white prismatic curtains hung in position at the window. The whole effect is as pretty as we've seen.

Down the street at 120 Via Sego, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Chase have decorated their patio for an unusual Christmas effect with their faces in the street front picture window. The huge window is framed with blue lights. A white tree with blue Christmas lights stands in the center of the blue-lit patio, while red-lit pine cones nest in the Chase's patio barbecue. A little lighted village under the tree finishes the very Christmas scene, giving a quietly beautiful wintry effect.

Then over at 210 Camino del Campo, you'll find the Fred Salatin home worth viewing. You'll find floodlighted on the roof of Santa C. himself, complete with many of his elfin helpers. The scene shows them gathered around the Salatin chimney with their carts piled high with presents. One lone helper is half-way up the roof, dragging the last Christmas present behind him. Like the Ingles home, these wooden lifesize cutouts, fully colored, show the real effort behind them to make a truly worthwhile and effective outdoor display.

You'll find the W. A. Garbrandt home at 305 Camino de las Colinas worth a second or third look too, when you see

954 Good Luck
May horseshoes surround your every endeavor in 1954, bringing your dearest dreams to fulfillment. That is our good wish for all of you who have been so good to us throughout the year now departing.
Across from the Torrance Post Office
• Bostonians • Mansfield
• Massagic • Foot Pads
• Quality Work Shoes
Fenwick's
Quality Shoe Repairing
1420 MARCELINA AVENUE • TORRANCE



SPECIAL SAMPLE . . . City Manager George Stevens receives a special sample of Colorado River Water from Board Chairman Joseph Jensen, of the Metropolitan Water District. The sample is a token of the water being brought to Torrance and 49 other cities in the district.

Six Singing Sad Song After Loss Of Driver Rights

Six local residents, forced to face New Year's Eve without wheels, were singing sad songs today after the Department of Motor Vehicles suspended their driver's licenses.

Losers were Lillian Bell, 1413 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., Harbor City; Doyle Gibson, 21109 S. Hobart Blvd.; Raimon Gonzales, 25410 Bellepointe Ave., Harbor City; and John Lindsey, 688 W. Carson St., all suspended following an accident for failure to meet the requirements of the financial responsibility law; John McMaster, 20415 S. Vermont Ave., suspended on a first drunk driving offense; and Ed Otto, 4415 Torrance Blvd., suspended on a second drunk driving offense within seven years. Convicted of a violation, but with no suspension recommended by the court were Glenn Heidelbaugh, 1728 Abalone St.; Doris Horrell, 2211 Andree Ave., and Paul Keefe, 3111 W. 186th St.

Licenses have been reinstated to James and Eunice Clark, of 1750 W. 254th St., Lomita; Selma Denton, 1916 Grammeey Ave.; Cletrje Drury, 20324 Andree Ave.; David McWhirter, 16714 Patonella Ave.; Frank Muniz, 4176

TRADE IN SPECIAL!

GOOD ONLY WEEK OF DEC. 27 to DEC. 31st

LIBERTY and NORGE WILL ALLOW YOU UP TO \$100 ON THE PURCHASE OF A NEW DELUXE NORGE RANGE

NO DOWN PAYMENT

1st SMALL PAYMENT STARTS IN FEBRUARY

LONG EASY TERMS ON THE BALANCE

LIBERTY HOME APPLIANCE CO.
TORRANCE'S FASTEST GROWING APPLIANCE STORE
1623 CRAVENS Phone FAirfax 8-5410
SEE US FOR COMPLETE APPLIANCE REPAIR SERVICE

Walteria P.O.

(Continued from Page 1)
in Washington, D. C., congratulated Mrs. Conner on the handling of the record volume of mail here during the past few weeks. The telegram, which was received this week, said: "We believe the people of your community should know of the fine job you and your employees have done handling the apparent nationwide record-breaking volume of Holiday mail."

FIVE FLAGS
Five flags, those of France, Spain, England, the Confederacy and the United States have flown over Mississippi.

ONE DOLLAR
and your old washer puts A New MAYTAG in your home Famous Maytag Gyration Action Easy Terms Liberal Trade-In!

FRANK'S FURNITURE
1334 EL PRADO, TORRANCE

Get-Acquainted Invitation

We here at Daniels, Charley and his Staff, want you to know what fun it is to "EAT WITH CHARLEY." So, if your name appears on the list below, we urge you to come in and have a fine dinner on the house. Come on in, enjoy your meal and tell the waitress or Charley who you are. You'll say it's "real livin'!"

CHARLEY'S GUESTS OF HONOR

For the following week are:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31—
Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Adams
24717 Winlock Drive
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1—
Dr. and Mrs. William Davies
2825 Sonoma
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2—
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Moon
1024 1/2 Amapola
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3—
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hull
1746 Manuel Ave.
MONDAY, JANUARY 4—
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Inman
1730 W. 234th St.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5—
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lee
1918 Marina St.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6—
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Vallandigham
16941 Arlington

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL From Charley and the Gang

YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND IT A PLEASURE TO—
Eat with Charley at
DANIELS CAFE
1625 CABRILLO — TORRANCE
We Serve Smooth Cocktails
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A FRIEND'S NAME TO APPEAR HERE, CALL CHARLEY, AT FAirfax 8-3642

New Treatment For Arthritis And Muscle Pain

TORRANCE — If you have been suffering for years from arthritis and muscle pain, do not despair. Dr. Larson's new application of the latest in scientific therapy is promising new hope for relief of the crippling torture of arthritis and rheumatic conditions. You are invited to come in for a complete examination to discover the true cause of your condition. Price for this examination is only \$3.00. Phone FAirfax 8-3788 before coming to offices of Dr. R. A. Larson, D. C., P. H. C., 1110 Sartori Avenue, Torrance (three doors north of Torrance Blvd.) —Adv.

