

# Police Recover \$3,300 Stolen From Store

More than \$3,300, stolen from the Certi-Bond store at 601 S. Arlington ave., was recovered by Torrance police Friday and returned to surprised store managers who had never expected to see the money again.

The money, recovered by Lt. Douglas C. Cook, Torrance juvenile officer, came to \$3,337, including \$700 in checks, and was the store's Christmas receipts.

A 12-year old Torrance boy readily admitted theft of the money which was in a bag waiting to be picked up by an armored car service and transported to the bank December 27.

The boy was being questioned about the theft of a purse, when he readily blurted out the story of the money bag. He told police he had slipped into the Certi-Bond store the day after Christmas, seen the bag lying under the counter, and slipped out of the store without being seen by any of the employees.

Parents of the youngster assisted Lt. Cook in recovering the money. The boy assisted police further by telling them of his friend, another 12-year old, who had snatched the purse.

## Approve Alondra Park Recreation Building

With major improvements now under construction at the south part of Alondra park, progress is also being made toward the second phase of developing the northwest section of the park, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn reported this week as the Board of Supervisors approved schematic plans for a large recreation-activity building.

Former site of a veterans housing unit, which had served as the northwest portion of the park had never been developed or improved for public use until last spring when Supervisor Hahn succeeded in having the 13-acre site developed, landscaped and three baseball diamonds built.

Plans for the combined recreation-activity building call for a building containing nearly 500 square feet. Included will be a large activity room, multi-crafts and meeting rooms, a kitchen, offices, rest rooms and storage.

The new recreation building will be of brick construction, and of the most modern functional design. Plans call for a large paved patio extending around all sides of the building. Heating and ventilation are also provided, as well as walls, walks and landscaping.

This fine new building will be both beautiful and practical and will meet a need which has long existed for expanded recreational activities for the people using Alondra park, Supervisor Hahn declared.

He pointed out that the building can be used for a variety

of purposes, including meetings of civic organizations, veteran groups, youth groups, square dancing, as well as the regularly scheduled and supervised recreation and craft programs.

Improvements now being made, and those planned for Alondra park are in line with Supervisor Hahn's program to develop the park into one of the finest regional recreational centers in Southern California.

Located between Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach boulevards, Dominguez channel and Prairie avenue, Alondra park serves the people of a wide area, including South Los Angeles, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lennox, Lawndale, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Moena Gardens, Howard townsite and adjacent communities.

Construction work now going on at the south end of the park, near the swimming pool and lake will provide a bathhouse, major improvements to the lake, additional parking, park lighting, and a specially designed children's playground, which should prove one of the park's major attractions.

Supervisor Hahn is carrying out the park improvement program in accordance with his belief in the importance of providing the people with adequate recreational facilities.

"It is very important that children have clean, healthful, wholesome recreation available to them. Adults, too, need open, green areas where they can relax from the tensions and strains of modern living," Supervisor Hahn declared.

He stated that he believed that it is much wiser to invest in providing good recreational facilities than in building new juvenile halls, jails, and hiring more police and probation officers.

Refinery Limits Set

Wendell B. Barnes, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, proposed that petroleum refineries with fewer than 500 employees, including affiliated firms, and production capacity of less than 20,000 barrels a day, should be defined as small businesses.

About 130 refineries in this category, he explained, will be eligible to share the opportunities of small businesses in Government purchases of goods and services.

"Companies interested in the new definition," Barnes said, "may present their comments to me in writing before January 20, 1958, and unless a substantial reason for a change in the definition is presented it will be adopted."

At the same time Barnes said the Small Business Administration has extended until March 31, 1958, small business certificates of six refineries previously classified as small for Government procurement purposes.

He said the extension will enable those six companies as well as the other 130 small refining companies to enter competitive bids on \$25,000,000 in proposed purchases of fuels by the Military Petroleum Supply Agency on January 14.

The \$25,000,000 has been set aside for exclusive bidding by small business firms, and is part of a \$185,000,000 semi-annual fuel procurement by the Department of Defense. These companies must also bid on the fuel requirements open to large companies in order to be eligible to bid on the part restricted to small firms.

In connection with oil refinery products purchased by Military Petroleum Supply Agency during 1957, procurements awarded to small business under the set aside program, amounted to \$30,692,000, Barnes said, pointing out that an additional \$74,869,000 was awarded to small firms in open competition.

INSTALLATION of officers of the Southwest Branch of the Los Angeles County Medical Association took place at the Palos Verdes Country Club Saturday night. Taking their office were Drs. Rodney Stetson, Philip Halloran, George Peake, John Nussall, Arthur Olson, John Rebolon and John Beeman.



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# Juvenile Officers Turn Detective, Track Down Youthful Sex Offender

## Arrest Teacher for 'Necking' With Pupil

"I know I did wrong," the 29-year old high school music teacher told Torrance police. "If you let me go, I promise, I'll never do it again."

But it was too late for Donald R. Buck, the Leuzinger High school music teacher. He was booked on charges of suspicion of statutory rape, and his career as a teacher was doomed.

Buck had been arrested by Torrance police Thursday evening as he was sitting in a car with a 15-year old Hawthorne girl, one of his pupils. Residents of the area on Maple st., north of Maricopa, had become suspicious of the car and had called police.

The teacher, a resident of 19418 Sturges dr., and the girl were to go to a school func-

tion, but drove to the dark, lonely spot along Maple st. instead.

"We were just necking," the 15-year old high school student told police officers. "We didn't do anything bad," she added.

For Buck, however, the escapade was worse than bad. He jeopardized his career as a teacher.

And he may have jeopardized his marriage. His tearful wife, eight months pregnant, looked at her husband disdainfully as he emerged from jail after being released on \$250 bail Friday evening.

He was to appear before Judge John Shidler in South Bay Municipal Court in Torrance this week to answer charges.

## DRALE OPPOSES ISEN IN RACE FOR MAYOR

Two candidates were poised at the starting line in the race for mayor: Albert Isen, Torrance's present mayor, and Nickolas O. Drale, a former mayor.

Isen announced his candidacy on October 30, a day after voters approved an amendment to the city charter providing for direct election of the mayor and enlargement of the city council to six members. Drale announced his candidacy last week.

Both had jumped the gun in the campaign. Formal filing for office does not begin until January 23, and closes February 13. The election itself takes place April 8.

Drale, a resident of North Torrance for the last 23 years, was first elected to the city council in 1948. He served as mayor for a year during 1954 and 1955.

Born in Indianapolis 42 years ago, Drale graduated from the Clariston, Pa. High school in 1933 and came to Torrance a year later. He was employed at Columbia-Geneva Steel division of U.S. Steel for 20 years and held office as vice president and grievance committeeman in Local 1414 of the United Steelworker of America.

In 1955, Drale left the steel mill to go into the real estate and insurance business. His wife Frances, shares an office with him and operates Fran's Letter Shop. The couple has three children, Michael, 20, an El Camino student; Stephen, 12, in the sixth grade at Evelyn Carr Elementary school; and Patty, in the fifth grade at Carr.

Torrance voters will fill the post of mayor and three council seats in the April 8 election. Council seats now held by Mayor Isen and Willys G. Blount, are at stake, plus an additional seat created by the voters in the special October 29 election. Remaining in the present council are Victor Benstead, Robert Jahn and Drale. Drale's term has two more years to run.

Drale issued the following statement last week: "In announcing my candidacy for the office of Mayor of Torrance, I have been guided by a few important principles.

"To begin with, I grew up with the community and I realize and understand its many problems. For the past ten years, nine as a councilman and one as mayor, many important decisions had to be made and I am proud to have played an important part in making those decisions and guiding the destinies of our rapidly growing city. To my knowledge, no other community has had such astounding and well rounded growth.

"I have always kept myself close to the people of Torrance and I believe I know how they stand and what they want. This, as far as I am concerned, will not change. I aim to always keep in touch with the good people of our city and carry out their wishes whenever it is humanly possible. On controversial issues my stand has always been to refer the matter to the people.

"In the past few months many of our outstanding citizens have approached me and urged me to run for the office of mayor. They, as you can readily see, have helped me make this decision and I will not let them down. God willing, I will do my level best to win the election and carry on the quality of work which will make our good city a better one."



NICKOLAS O. DRALE

## Nab 19-Year Old After 2 Day Hunt

A meager clue was all Torrance Juvenile Officers Gus Rethwisch and Buck Ingram had Wednesday evening, after a ten-year old boy had reported to police that he had been molested by an older boy.

That meager clue was all Rethwisch and Ingram wanted, and needed. In the end, two days after they received the report of the crime, they tracked down a 19-year old sex offender, a Los Angeles resident who worked in Torrance.

The story of the two-day hunt opened at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday when the ten-year old boy and his 12-year old brother were walking on Maricopa st., near the city dump.

The 19-year old, driving a car along the street, stopped and called the youngsters over. He grabbed the 10-year old boy, dragged him toward the dump and began pulling at the boy's clothing.

The boy resisted. His brother, at first frightened, tried to strike the older, stronger youth. The youth increased the ferocity of his attack, flung the younger boy to the ground and resumed his attack. Finally, the younger boy broke loose, and with his brother, ran toward the street.

As they ran, they took a look at the car driven by their attacker. It was a Ford. And in the dusk, they made out part of the license number: "FXC."

Shaken, breathless and bruised, the boys told Rethwisch and Ingram what had happened to them. They told the juvenile officers about the car and the tag number.

That was all the officers needed. The two went to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles record office in Los Angeles, obtained the records of more than 1,000 vehicles with license numbers prefixed by FXC, and spent the night sifting the records.

"We had to work fast," Rethwisch said. "We knew we had to get this man fast, before he did something worse. In a situation like this a man will kill in order to satisfy the aroused feeling he has. We know this from experience."

In the morning, the two juvenile officers had narrowed their list down to 131 possible suspects. After a few more hours, they cut down the list to six—all registered to the same owner, a Los Angeles business firm with an office in Torrance.

The two drove to the address on the registration record. "The boy gave himself up as soon as we talked to him," Ingram said. Rethwisch added that the 19-year old youth also admitted many offenses of indecent exposure in Torrance and Redondo Beach in the past few months.

The youth will appear in South Bay Municipal Court this week to face charges of molesting a juvenile.

Local Chiropractor Attends Symposium

Dr. Roy R. C. Sanderson, prominent local chiropractor and civic leader, will attend special classes at the Hotel Statler this coming weekend, January 18 and 19.

The Sanderson Chiropractic Center, which he heads, will be closed these two days. Also attending the symposium on "Professional Economics" will be his two assistants, Mrs. Betty J. McNabb and Dr. Ruth Kurtz.

Doctors of Chiropractic from all Southern California will be attending these lectures in their constant effort to improve their standards of practice.

## PFC Rutherford Re-Enlists in Army

PFC Blane F. Rutherford, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Meritt B. Rutherford, 21101 E. Sharon ave., recently re-enlisted in the Regular Army in Munich, Germany.

Rutherford, who originally entered the Army in April 1955, is a driver in Headquarters Company of the 11th Airborne Division's 503rd Infantry.

The former Gardena High school student arrived in Europe in February 1956.

## Narbonne High Assembly Hall Contract Awarded

A contract for construction of the Narbonne High School assembly hall was awarded Thursday by the City Board of Education, upon recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Ellis A. Jarvis.

The contract was awarded to the Hight Construction Company which submitted a successful bid of \$422,135, lowest bid of ten firms seeking the project. The Hight firm has a total of 365 calendar days to complete the structure.

Plans and specifications for the 1,000-seat building have been prepared by architects Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall—the firm which also designed the newly completed school.

The building will complete the master plan for the city's newest senior high school—one of the most modern and unique in the country—which was built at a total cost of \$5,000,000.

## PUC Denies Petition on Phone Rate Increase

The California Public Utilities Commission denied a petition for rehearing filed by the City of Los Angeles, which charged that the commission lacked authority to raise charges for multi-message unit telephone service in the area because full hearings had not been held.

The interim decision on which rehearing was sought shortened mileage steps and thus raised charges for certain calls in the Los Angeles extended area of over 450 square miles.

Only rates on multi-message unit traffic for calls outside the individual subscriber's calling area, were affected and not basic monthly exchange rates. At the same time, the Commission's original order denied a raise in the rate per message.

It was estimated the customers of four telephone companies providing the service would pay an additional \$15,371,000 per year.

In its order this week the Commission declared that: Five days of public hearings were held which were entirely concerned with the matter of charges for multi-message unit service within the Los Angeles extended area.

A representative of the City of Los Angeles was present at each of the five days of hearings, extensively cross-examined witnesses for the telephone companies and made oral argument against the motion for an interim increase which the companies filed.

The presiding Commissioner asked all parties, including counsel for the City of Los Angeles, if they had any direct evidence to present and they replied that they did not.

All parties were offered full opportunity to cross examine witnesses, to present evidence themselves, and to argue on the motion of the telephone companies for an interim increase.

No suggestion or request was made by any of the parties for a continuance to permit presentation of additional evidence.

The Commission decision added that "in these circumstances, the repeated insinuation of petitioners that the interested parties were denied an opportunity to be heard and that a full hearing was not had on the motion for interim relief in disingenuous, to say the very least."

The decision declared that "the record in these proceedings and the law constitute a complete refutation of petitioners' unsupported allegations."

The decision pointed out that "the commission represents the public interest and is charged with protection of that interest."

And, the decision added, "The fact that a disappointed party makes unfounded charges in a petition for rehearing respecting commission action is no proof that the commission has failed to lawfully discharge its public trust."

Because the petition for rehearing suspended the order until action upon it was taken, the Commission amended its order to make the new rates effective on and after January 20, instead of on January 6.

In two other decisions the Commission denied the joint petition for rehearing by the City of Long Beach and ten individuals and denied a similar petition by Ronald J. Herzig, John D. Dinsmore and Harriet B. Davis. The decisions stated briefly that the petitions had been considered and no cause for granting rehearing had been found.

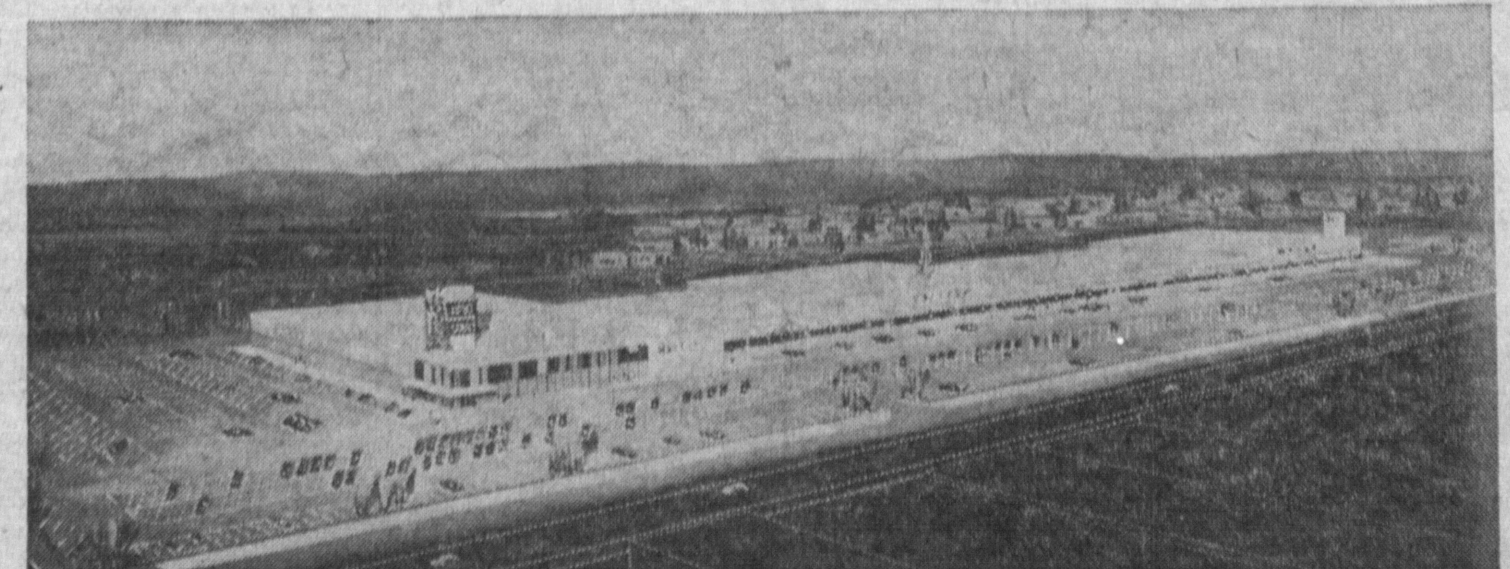
## 1450 Petition For Vote on Gambling

Petitions calling for a vote on Gardena's poker ordinance were filed with the City Clerk by the Gardena Civic Improvement League last week.

Bob K. King, President of the anti-gambling organization, said the petitions contained 1450 signatures. Names of about 1000 qualified voters are needed to force the gambling issue to a vote in the April 8 municipal election.

King said that more than 20 volunteer petition circulators are "standing by" to gather additional signatures if the required number fail to qualify for "technical reasons."

The anti-gambling leader predicted that when the issue comes to a vote, the anti-gambling forces should win by a vote of 2300 to 1700 "if the District Attorney's office can help us keep this an honest election, and if we receive enough funds to keep bringing the truth about the card clubs to the voters of Gardena."



NORTH TORRANCE shopping center being developed by the Dominguez Estates Co. on 190 st. between Anza and Inglewood aves., is shown above in an artist's rendering. Food Giant Markets and Sav-On Drugs, Inc. are the two main

tenants of the \$2,000,000 shopping area that will have parking space for 650 cars. Ground was broken last week on the project, and completion of the Food Giant market and Sav-On Drug store is expected in July or August.