

Six Injured in Traffic Accident; Driver Arrested

Second Robbery Try Proves Big Mistake

A repeat performance of a service station robbery proved to be unlucky for a suspect who wanted to raise his fare for a trip to New Jersey.

An alert Torrance policeman nabbed him a few hours after he allegedly robbed a service station at Hawthorne Blvd. and 182nd St. for the second time in 48 hours.

Booked on suspicion of robbery is Noel Benedict Petrakian, 20, of 21909 Linda Drive, who told detectives he needed money to return to his home in New Jersey since he was unable to find a job out here.

The suspect was arrested by Officer Cliff Smith, who recognized his car from a description received from a witness to the robbery.

Police said that although Petrakian had a fully loaded .22-caliber revolver in his glove compartment, he offered no resistance to Smith, who stopped him at Madrona Ave. and Carson St.

The officer said he also found a paper sack used by the suspect, who robbed the service station for the first time Monday night, as a mask, inside the glove compartment.

The same bandit who held up the station for approximately 30 Monday night returned Wednesday night for an encore. The second time he forced the attendant, David Graves, to hand him \$37 from the cash registers.

Although he wore the paper-bag mask with slits cut for the eyes, the first time only, on both occasions he wore a leather jacket and dark pants.

Woman Injured in 4-Car Crash

One of four drivers involved in a collision at Pacific Coast highway and Rolling Hills road Thursday complained of injuries, police reported.

She was Virginia Jones, 50, of 20 Chuckwagon Road, Rolling Hills. Other drivers involved in the crash were Martha E. Morrison, 54, of 5301 Paseo de Pablo; Charles Allen Vosper, 39, of 2323 Dalemead St.; and Clair Anderson, 22, of San Diego.

Get Sewer Easement
An easement to allow a sewer connection for Seaside School was accepted by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday.

The easement, obtained from Mrs. Thomas Rosenthal, will allow the district to connect the school to Torrance sewers. The school is the last in the district which still uses a septic tank. The tank has been giving trouble recently.

Attorney Confused by PUC

Clarification of a Public Utilities Commission order in the dispute between the city and the Dominguez Water Corp. for service in Southwest Park will be sought this week by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier.

The city's legal officer said he was "bewildered" by the commission's conclusions in the case, which involves a conflict over service of nine tracts in the northwest area of the city.

Dominguez Water has challenged a 1953 agreement it made with the city, under which Torrance would receive the water distribution systems and right of sole service of the area in 1963.

In its finding, the commission said it denied the request by the private water company to disapprove the agreement.

However, Remelmeier said that the ruling is "quite confusing" from a legal aspect and that he will check with attorneys with the PUC and the Dominguez company to determine exactly what it means.

The Dominguez company signed the agreement with the city to turn over the entire system in nine tracts after a 10-year period. Later the company asked that the agreement be voided.

The area in dispute is bounded by Del Amo and Hawthorne Blvds., 190th St. and the west city limits.

Trio Arrested on Narcotics Charge

A raiding party of eight Torrance policemen and sheriff's narcotics officers arrested a Torrance couple and a friend Wednesday night.

Taken into custody and turned over to narcotics officers on suspicion of narcotics charges were Rodriguez Baca, 23; his wife, Jacqueline Louise, 20, and Ralph Leroy Ventre, 18.

Officers said that Baca had been under surveillance for some time.

Kindergarten Moppets Get Language Lesson Early as Part of Teaching Experiment Here

Parlez vous Français? Habla Espanol? Sprechen sie Deutsch? Comprehendes Latiam? Coborute po-rusky?

Questions like these are and have been familiar sounds in Torrance high schools' foreign language classes, but they are also becoming more frequent in school.

A survey indicates that in a number of elementary schools where qualified teachers are available, youngsters are learning Spanish, French, German or Latin.

Testing the theory that a younger child can learn a foreign language more easily, several other Torrance schools also have language clubs or basic foreign language teaching in classrooms where the teacher is qualified.

In her kindergarten class, Mrs. Widney uses several methods of instruction. She teaches the children simple phrases such as "Bonjour" or "comment ca va" (how are you?). Then, after learning such simple phrases, the children take turns speaking to each other in French over miniature telephones.

Mrs. Widney also has specially designed French records which she plays. The children repeat the phrases after the voice on the record.

She also uses "game records" from which the children learn French songs. As they sing, they make appropriate motions as in this song:

"I clap my hands. You clap (Continued on page six)



TOCHEZ LA TETE—That's what Dana Helvey is telling fellow students in Mrs. Kathryn Widney's kindergarten class at Newton School. Under a pilot program under study by Torrance school officials, the group is learning simple French through use of new teaching aids.



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Businessman Kidnaped In Downtown Robbery



IT'S SPRING AGAIN—A pretty girl on a field of stocks makes a nice combination to inaugurate spring. The girl is Judy Raymond, 16, a Torrance High School junior, while the pretty flowers belong to Tomii Chi Minemato of 4733 Spencer St.

—Press Photo

4 Children Injured in Auto Crash

Six occupants of one car, four of them children, were hospitalized Friday night, while the driver of the other vehicle was arrested on suspicion of felony drunk driving.

Police said the small station-wagon which was driven by Mrs. Evelyn Louise Laugherty, 27, of 627 Harbor Hills, Lomita, was struck broadside at the intersection of Cabrillo Ave. and Plaza del Amo.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital following a delay in ambulance service, according to police, were Mrs. Laugherty, her four children, Steven E., 7; Margaret, 12; Tony K., 9, and Brian, 16 months.

Also injured was Mrs. Mary Grisson, 55, of 625 Harbor Hills, a passenger in Mrs. Laugherty's vehicle.

Police reported that George William Souder Jr., 21, of 1940 West 145th St., Gardena, was arrested on suspicion of felony drunk driving charge. He was freed on a \$2000 writ, returnable in Municipal Judge John A. Shidler's court Monday.

Officers said that evidence indicated that Souder, southbound on Plaza del Amo, apparently ran the boulevard stop.

Mrs. Laugherty was traveling west on Plaza del Amo.

Held up Leaving Bank

A midsize bandit kidnaped a service station owner from the downtown Torrance Bank of America and then robbed him of approximately \$3500 Thursday afternoon.

William Love, 35, owner of a service station at Carson St. and Western Ave., told police that as soon as he returned to his pickup truck after making a bank withdrawal, the robber climbed into the cab of the vehicle.

Pointing a pistol at the victim, the bandit told him: "No funny business. Do as I say. You're being watched."

He ordered Love to drive the truck which had been parked on Post Ave. across the street from the bank, through the downtown area to Crenshaw Blvd. and Sonoma St. There he ordered the victim to get out.

He then took off by himself and abandoned the vehicle at Crenshaw and Torrance Blvds.

Love described the bandit as about five feet, four inches tall, and weighing 120 pounds. He was about 45 years old and wore dark prescription glasses.

Detectives speculated that the bandit may have had a companion who picked him up after he left the truck.

Love told police that after he left the bank, he carried the money in a sack and walked directly across the street to his parked vehicle.

As soon as he had seated himself, the door on the passenger side was jerked open and the robber climbed in, waving a gun in front of him.

STEALS CASH
While she was at the beach Wednesday, someone broke into the home of Maria E. Boston, 21609 Marjorie St., and stole \$68, police reported.

APPROVE SUBDIVISION
Approval for a 21-home tract on four acres north of 223rd St. east of Normandie Ave. was granted to Everett Powell by the County Regional Planning Commission this week.

Full Recreation Program to Be Held During Vacation

Twenty-two play areas will be open this week as area youngsters have their spring vacation from school, according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

Highlights of the week's activities will be an Easter egg hunt at El Prado Park and band concert starting at 10 a. m. March 28.

Special craft sessions are planned for 2 to 4 p. m. Wednesday and Thursday at the Arts and Crafts Center, 1511 Cravens Ave., for youngsters from 6 through 15 years of age. Reservations may be made by calling the center at FA 8-9624 or the Recreation Department at FA 8-4108.

A teen-age tournament is scheduled for 9 a. m. Monday and Wednesday at the Sea-Aire golf course, 22730 Lupine Drive. The event is being sponsored by Sea-Aire Teen-age Golf Club.

School playgrounds to be open from 11 a. m. until 5 p. m. March 21 and 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. March 23 through 28 are Anza, Arlington, Casimir, Crenshaw, Flavian, Greenwood, Hillside, Perry, Riviera, Seaside, Sepulveda, Steele, Wood Parkway and Welteria.

El Nido, El Retro, Sea-Aire parks and area adjacent to the Benstead Plunge will be open from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. March 23 through 28. McMaster and Welteria Parks will be open from 9 a. m. until 9 p. m. week days and from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. Saturday. Torrance Park will open from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m. weekdays and from 9 to 5 on Saturdays.

Activities at the parks will include movies, story telling, model racers, cook-outs, games and tournaments.

Instruction in modern dance will be given March 24 through 27 at Civic Auditorium for all youngsters from 7 through 17 years of age. Classes for beginners are scheduled for 10:15 and 11:15 a. m. while sessions for youngsters of 12 through 17

Narbonne Dedication
Dedication of a \$422,000 auditorium at Narbonne High School will be held April 3 at 8 p. m. Mrs. Georgiana Hardy, president of the Los Angeles Board of Education, will be the principal speaker. The building has a seating capacity for 1000 persons.



CLOSE CALL—Mrs. Lars Holt cuddles son, Michael, 17 months, whom she rescued from swimming pool. The mother used her first aid instruction to good advantage when she revived youngster who had turned blue.

—Press Photo

Mother Saves Boy from Pool Drowning

Fast action by a North Torrance housewife trained in first aid, saved the life of her 17-month-old son from drowning in the family's swimming pool.

The toddler, Michael Holt, was back home again today after a day's observation in Hawthorne Community Hospital.

The mother, Mrs. Lars Holt, of 16838 Thornberg Ave., jumped into the pool when she observed her son floating under the water, Wednesday afternoon, and pulled him out.

His face was turning blue and he apparently was unconscious when Mrs. Holt started to apply artificial respiration. She had taken two life-saving courses from the Red Cross.

She was assisted in her efforts by a neighbor, Mrs. Olive Dinkelman, of 16838 Thornberg Ave., who heard Mrs. Holt call for assistance.

The boy was breathing and crying again by the time the fire department rescue squad arrived.

"He's as good as ever," declared Mrs. Holt. "Even better, because he seems to have gotten over his cold."

Walteria Baby Breaks Hospital Length Record

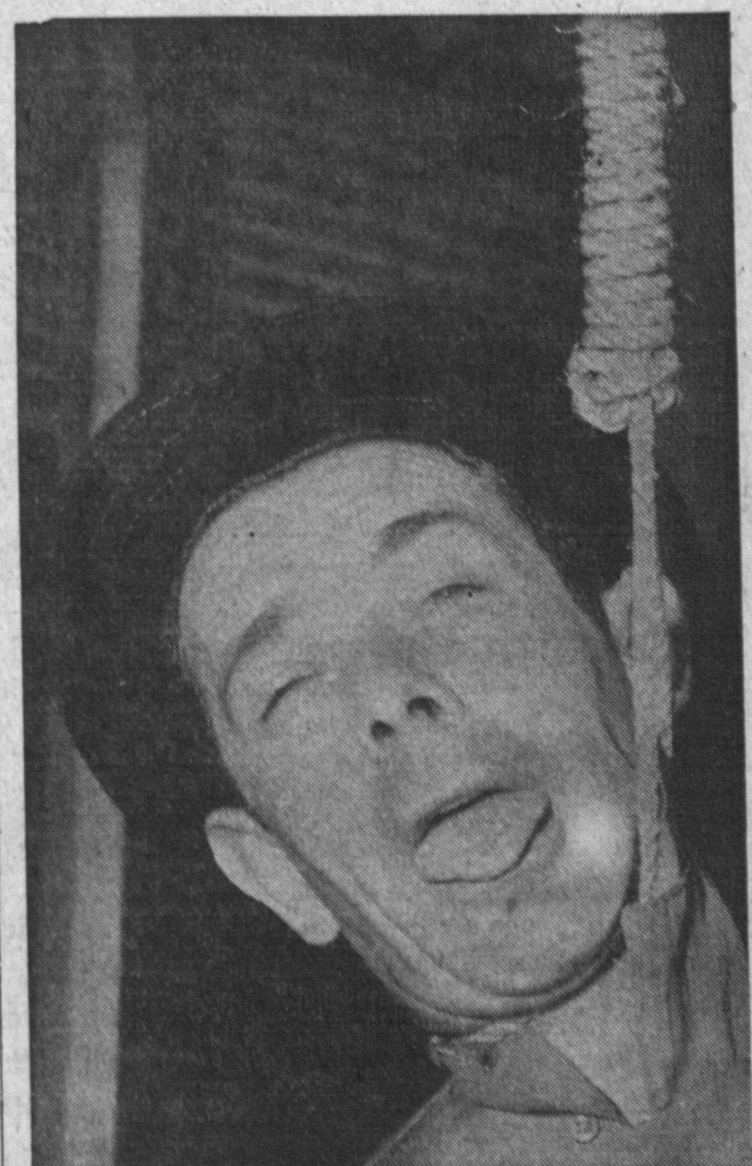
On his first day in the world, William Lee Baskett shattered a hospital record.

At birth he measured 24 inches in length, breaking a record at Long Beach Osteopathic Hospital, where he was born Wednesday to Mrs. Arland Baskett, 24467 Ward St.

Not only is the baby long, but came in as a heavyweight at a strapping 10 lbs., 12½ ozs.

The proud mother is the former Betty Atkins, who was a 1955 Miss Walteria runner-up. The father is employed by the Manchester Lumber Co., Gardena.

DON'T DO IT, MAN!



ROPED IN—Bill Metcalf, dangling from hangman's rope, didn't really commit suicide, but he was tempted. For his reason, turn to page two.