

# Crime Reports

## Compiled by Evan Ortega STOLEN BIKE MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

A man locked his bike in the outdoor carport of his apartment complex in the 1100 block of Tennyson Street on September 2, finding it missing several days later. Because he assumed he wouldn't be able to find his bicycle he never filed a police report. For the next month the man and his girlfriend monitored Craigslist to look for his bike. They eventually found an ad posted on Saturday 10/3 advertising a "Beach cruiser for sale \$120. Electra 26 inch wheels." This matched the description of the \$350 bike and the ad also showed a photo of the bike. The victim was certain the bike on the Craigslist ad belonged to him. He told police both the bike in the photo and his stolen bike were missing a front reflector. The man said he still has the broken reflector and has glued it onto the bike several times in the past. He explained the reflector is broken on the back with a jagged edge so it matches the bike "like a puzzle piece."

## VACUUM THEFT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

A woman walked into a department store in the 1200 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard around 8:45 p.m. While a male suspect waited in a vehicle, the woman selected a vacuum cleaner and walked out of the store without paying for it.

## CAMPING STORE THEFT THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

An employee of a camping store in the 1800 block of Rosecrans Avenue was walking through the shopping center to his work when he saw two males exit the store together. One of them was pushing a green stroller with store merchandise that wasn't in store bags, sparking the employee's suspicion. One suspect walked to the parking lot while another walked toward the parking lot and both eventually reunited at a white Dodge Caravan. They loaded the vehicle with the merchandise, left the stroller in the parking lot and drove on Rosecrans toward Aviation Boulevard. The employee called police and asked employees if the suspects bought anything. His fellow employees said they didn't see the suspects and that they didn't see them buy anything. The stolen merchandise was a green Sierra Designs tent worth \$400 and a blue sleeping mat worth \$80. Police dusted the stroller for prints, lifting one partial print. They also collected the stroller, booked it into evidence and held it for DNA.

## MAILBOX FIREWORKS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

The mailbox to a residence in the 100 block of Village Circle was vandalized after somebody detonated a firework inside it between 6 p.m. Friday, October 9 and 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

## VEHICLES VANDALIZED

Five vehicles were reported vandalized over a two-day period:

Sunday, October 11: A vehicle parked in the 1600 block of Sixth Street was damaged with a pellet gun sometime between 7 p.m.

Friday, October 9 and 2 p.m. Sunday. Sunday, October 11: A man parked and locked his vehicle in the 700 block of North Dianthus Street at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 10, returning at 10 a.m. on Sunday to find the window of the driver side door shattered. Nothing was stolen.

Sunday, October 11: A suspect apparently used a pellet gun to destroy the rear driver side window of a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Sixth Street sometime between 10 p.m. on Saturday, October 10, and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Monday, October 12: A man parked and locked his vehicle in the 500 block of Rosecrans Avenue at 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 11, returning at 7:30 a.m. on Monday to find that somebody smashed the rear window of his vehicle.

Monday, October 12: A vehicle parked in the 200 block of First Street was vandalized between 10 p.m. Sunday night and 8:30 a.m. Monday morning after somebody smashed an egg and smeared fecal matter on its exterior.

## STOLEN RECYCLING BINS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

A woman placed her two recycling bins on the northwest side of her home in the 1500 block of Fifth Street around 6 p.m. Thursday, October 15. The next day around 7 a.m. the woman noticed them missing and could not find them after walking around the block. She called the city's garbage company Waste Management, which promised to replace the bins.

## SAWED TREE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Suspect(s) sawed three branches off of a juniper tree on the property of a home in the 2700 block of North Ardmere Avenue sometime from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 POLICE CAR VANDALIZED

A Manhattan Beach Police Department black and white got a little more black after somebody vandalized MBPD Unit 175 with black spray paint. It happened on the corner of Oak Street and Rosecrans Avenue sometime between 5:50 and 10:30 p.m.

## ELECTRONICS STORE THEFT MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

A Loss Prevention Officer (LPO) at an electronics store in the 3600 block of North Sepulveda Boulevard arrested a man for shoplifting. The LPO told police he observed the suspect via closed circuit security camera system select LED lights and replacement batteries worth \$73.82 and put them in his pockets. According to the LPO, the suspect then walked out of the store without paying. Two LPO's detained the suspect and recovered the merchandise. The LPO's told police the suspect explained his actions by saying "My friend asked me to." Police accepted the LPO's private persons arrest and read the suspect his Miranda rights. The suspect agreed to talk to police. Although he had two credit cards and \$760 in person, the suspect told officers he took the merchandise because of, "Stupidity, I did it for a friend."

# How Well Do You Know Your Town's History?



Walking up 15th Street from Ardmere Avenue, May 31, 1958, Opening Day parade of the Manhattan Little League.

Abridged from *A Walk Beside the Sea*  
By Jan Dennis

With the use of school buildings, playgrounds, tennis courts, swimming pool and other school-owned facilities, the citizens enjoyed community recreation programs. New lighting systems and baseball field improvements at Live Oak and Manhattan Heights made it possible for expansion of Little League, Pony League, softball and football.

Premier Little League was the original little league in Manhattan Beach, with its field located on the old Brown Ranch, now Polliwog Park. Today that field, which was completed in 1955, is still known as Premier Field. In 1954, the league was incorporated by the State of California, chartered and franchised by Little League Baseball, Inc. In 1988, Premier League was incorporated into the Manhattan Little League.

Another baseball organization, east of Sepulveda Boulevard, was the Mira Costa League, now known as Mira Costa Baseball, with youngsters ages five to 14 from Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beach.

Prior to the formation of a little league west of the highway, the City of Manhattan Beach Recreation Department provided a baseball program. However, due to complaints about the expense of taxpayers' dollars, the program was canceled. In 1958, with the help of many volunteers and Monsignor Edmund O'Donnell, pastor of American Martyrs Church, Manhattan Beach Little League was in place for "downtown boys."

The first roster showed a total of 242 young boys who made up the complement of four major teams and 10 minor teams. Due to the City's unwillingness to support the program and the Recreation Department authorities not to allow the school playgrounds to be used for Little League baseball games, the new

league had to find a playing field.

It was Monsignor O'Donnell who felt that every young boy should have the opportunity to play baseball. With his help and enthusiasm, a field that was once the location of a pottery dump for the Metlox Company was created on the church's school grounds. The arrangement was much the same as today: The League was to improve the field, take care of it and let the grade school use the facility during school hours.

Eventually another ballpark facility was developed on land owned by the church. "O'Donnell Field," was located on what is now known as "Laurel Square" at the corner of Laurel Ave. and 13th Street

The Little League programs were but one of the social activities that occurred in the 1950s. It was a time of many organizations receiving their charters both for social and charitable work. Many are still very involved to this day: The Rotary Club (1950), Liberty Village Women's Club (1950), American Association of University Women (1952), Coordinating Council (1953), Soroptimist Club (1953), Optimist Club (1954), Hermosa-Manhattan Business and Professional Women's Club (1954), Kiwanis Club (1956), Police Department Softball Team (1957), Loyal Order of Moose-Lodge 323 (1957), Women of the Moose (1957), Knights of Columbus (1958), The Manhattan Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce (1958), The Friends of the Library (1958) and Dolphins (1959).

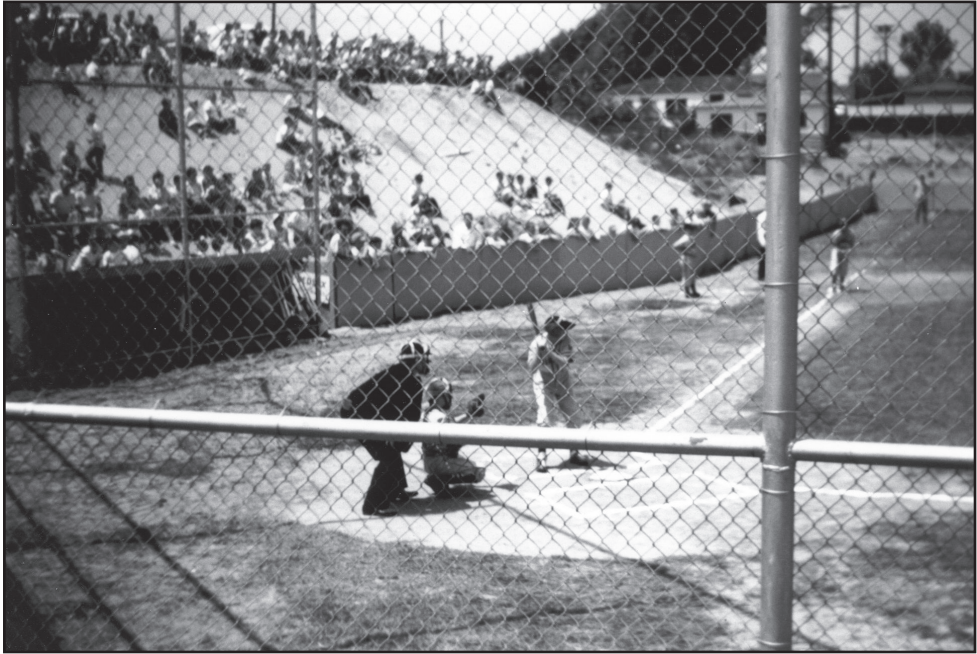
With all the activity the 1950s, it was still the beach that provided the most social and recreational activities. By the end of the decade, the City and private owners had sold the remaining beach acres to the State, so now the Manhattan Beach shoreline was truly a public beach.

To be continued... •



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First Manhattan Little League game in 1958 at American Martyrs before the concrete bleachers were built. It was like sitting at the beach.