

Crime Reports

By Evan Ortega

STOLEN PATIENT FILES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

A man parked his vehicle in front of his house around 9 p.m., leaving his briefcase and another bag in front of his residence in the 2100 block of 30th Street. Leaving his bags unattended, he parked his vehicle and walked into his residence with the bag. He left his \$300 burgundy leather briefcase complete with wheels and a handle outside. It contained a cheap black umbrella, \$75 diabetic kit and an unknown number of patient files. The man took a phone call while in his home, exiting fifteen minutes later to find his briefcase missing.

STOLEN LUNCH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

A woman went to the police department lobby a week after somebody broke into her daughter's locker at Mira Costa High School. The thieves stole the girl's lunch and the woman's \$800 digital camera its \$50 camera case. She had lent her daughter the camera for a photography class project. The woman did not know the serial number of the camera or locker number.

STOLEN SHELLFISH THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

A deliveryman parked his vehicle in the loading dock of a business in the 1200 block of Morningside Drive at 9 a.m. After unloading his delivery from the truck, the man closed the rear door and secured the latch without a lock. An hour later while on another delivery, he noticed the rear door was unlatched and somebody stole several boxes. They contained: ten pounds of raw Octopus worth \$136, eight pounds of raw shrimp worth \$46, five pounds of Longostino meat worth \$57.50 and two dozen raw Oysters valued at \$12.58.

STRING OF CAR BURGLARIES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Rosecrans Avenue
Half a dozen vehicles were broken into, with suspects smashing windows to gain entry.

A man parked his 2001 Ford Explorer in the 400 block of Rosecrans Avenue around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Around 2 a.m. the next day, an officer noticed his right front passenger window was smashed and left an orange notice on the car asking the victim to contact police. The victim made contact with police, reporting his \$500 satellite radio receiver was stolen. The damage to the window cost \$500.

Rosecrans Avenue
A woman parked her black 2008 Mercedes in front of her home around 9 p.m. Wednesday night and locked it. She returned to her vehicle just before 7 a.m. when she saw the front passenger side window had been smashed. The only item stolen was her \$150 Kate Spade sunglasses that she'd left in the center console. They were brown in color with rhinestones.

Rosecrans Avenue
A man parked his 2009 Nissan Altima in front of his home in the 700 block of Rosecrans Avenue around midnight, returning around 7:30 a.m. to discover his front passenger window was smashed. He reported nothing stolen. A neighbor said he heard a car alarm around 2:30 a.m. but didn't see

anyone when he went outside to investigate. Bayview Drive
Somebody smashed the front driver side window of a 2005 Acura TL in an unsecured parking garage in the 2800 block of Bayview Drive. The brother of the owner of the car called police to report the crime and said the owner is out of town and will return in five weeks. The victim's brother said he last saw the car intact around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. Because the victim is out of town, it is unclear whether anything was taken from the car.

26th Street
A woman parked and locked her Toyota Sequoia near her residence in the 200 block of 26th Street around 5 p.m. Wednesday. She returned at 7:45 a.m. to find the front passenger window of her car, and her neighbor's car, were smashed. No items were stolen from the vehicle.

26th Street
A woman parked and locked her black 2009 Mercedes near her residence in the 200 block of 26^h Street around midnight. Around 8:20 the next morning, her neighbor told her that somebody had broken into her car. The owner went outside and found somebody has smashed the front passenger window of her car, although nothing was stolen.

CAR BURGLARY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

A woman called police after she and her husband saw a suspicious man loiter near a car and later rummage through it. It happened around 10 a.m. in the area of 42nd Street and Highland Avenue.

It started when the woman noticed a heavy-set Hispanic man who was wearing a blue baseball cap, red shirt and shorts loitering around a white 2007 Toyota Camry. The suspect paced back and fourth several times, appearing to check if he was being watched, before squatting down near the front passenger side tire. He tried to look like he was tying his shoe, but the vigilant woman could see he appeared to be fiddling with the vehicle. The suspect realized he was being watched and walked away.

About ten minutes later the suspect returned and this time he was being watched by the woman's husband. He saw him standing next to the car with the trunk and front passenger door open. A car pulled into a parking space in front of the car, startling the suspect who closed the trunk and door before walking north on Highland.

The husband and wife called police, who searched the area and took a report. Because there was no sign of forced entry or victim, officers left an orange notice on the car asking the owner to call police if a crime occurred.

A little over an hour later the owner of the car returned to his vehicle after a couple hours of surfing and read the police department notice.

He tried to retrieve his electronic car key near the front passenger side wheel well but discovered it missing.

The victim walked to the police station and called his wife, who brought him a spare key. The only thing missing was the man's wallet, which was taken from the trunk. It contained his driver's license, \$25 cash and several credit cards. •

How Well Do You Know Your Town's History?



December 1955, Girls League Christmas project at Mira Costa, collecting 2,344 cans of food and \$230.05. Standing around the tree, left to right are: Jim Green, Verl Cunningham, Gwen Strong, Claudia Rhind and Bill Morse.

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

The 1950s had a playful air about them with Miss Manhattan Beach Beauty Contests, all ages surfing the high ocean waves, the first paddleboard races and the first Woman's Open Volleyball Tournaments all taking place here in the city. The Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department and the Chamber of Commerce sponsored the first annual Beach Volleyball Tournaments championship, while combining the event along with the International Paddleboard Festival activities.

Mr. Hal Perry, Honorary Mayor of Manhattan Beach and the star of the radio show *The Great Gildersleeve*, brought many starlets and actors to the Chamber's promotional events. Among the celebrities: Robert Stack, Michael Landon, Jock Mahoney, Shirley Jones, Jennifer Holder and Cathy Case. More information and photographs about the seaside events can be found in the book *Manhattan Beach Pier* by Jan Dennis, available at the Chamber office or Hillside Pharmacy.

Like the area around the municipal pier, the school system was also experiencing an increase in activity. Mira Costa High School, formerly known as Manhattan-Hermosa High School, had opened its doors on August 10, 1950, and became a four-year facility in 1952. Realizing the need for more school space, Pacific Elementary campus, through the use of bond monies, underwent expansion in 1951 with several more additions over the next decade.

The first Intermediate School, Center, also would see additional floor space. During the 1950s, there would be five lower grade schools added to the Manhattan Beach School District: Meadow Elementary, Peck Intermediate, later to be renamed Foster A. Begg, Morningside, later to be renamed Robinson Elementary, Aurelia Pennekamp Elementary, and Ladera Elementary.

Three other facilities were built on District property: the Administrative Offices located at 1212 Laurel Avenue, the Maintenance and

Warehouse building at 1200 Peck Avenue and the Community Swimming Pool located adjacent to the Foster A. Begg Intermediate School. By the end of the 1950s, the District's average daily attendance was 5,343 students.

With the elementary schools expanding, there was a need for additional high school space. On November 11, 1957, a new high school was dedicated in North Redondo Beach. Aviation High School was attended by hundreds of youngsters from Manhattan Beach.

With the city population steadily growing, it became evident that the community was evolving into multiple-family residents, with more commercial enterprises and small home remodels. All departments kept pace. The Manhattan Beach Police Department, under the command of Chief H. Jerome "Jerry" Withers, had grown 68 percent from 31 employees to 52, and the Fire Department, under the command of Chief Rothwell H. Swain, enlarged its force by 10, reflecting a 42 percent increase in personnel in 1955.

Early in 1957, the Public Works Department was created, thus putting all public works-related activities under one director. With this reorganization came reduced manpower, which saved the taxpayers more than \$1 million in nine years without any service losses or cuts. The massive amount of capital improvements during those years stood out and made the '50s the city's most progressive decade.

New projects were also developed. A second fire station, located on Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Rowell Avenue, was dedicated in 1954.

Due to the increase of water usage, a new 7.5-million gallon water reservoir was constructed on 6th Street near Rowell Avenue. Roads were graded, curbed, widened and resurfaced, while multi-million dollar storm drainage systems were installed. Parks were improved and Polliwog Lake Retention Basin was contained.

To be continued... •



TO TURN OFF LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE A ROOM YOU WILL NEED:

1

2

3

WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Ad Council | LoseYourExcuse.gov

small step no. 19

REPLACE SUNDAY DRIVE WITH SUNDAY WALK

TAKE A SMALL STEP TO GET HEALTHY

www.smallstep.gov