

Santa Claus Arrives in a Piper Cub

BY JERRY RUHLow
Times Staff Writer

GUADALUPE, Mexico—The wind whipped his white beard and brought color to Santa's cheeks as he leaned through the open door of a Piper Cub circling low over the desolate Baja landing strip to wave at the more than 800 children waiting below.

There were already six planes on the ground, their cargo of toys and candy ready for distribution.

Pilot Eddie Bruce headed in for a landing, but pulled up at the last moment as a cow wandered onto the strip.

Refueling delays in Ensenada had delayed the aircraft and the children had been waiting in the hot, dusty field more than three hours, but they waved and screamed in excitement as Santa's propeller-driven sleigh skimmed low over the field.

They had come from throughout the Guadalupe Valley, 25 miles north-east of Ensenada. Some were from the nearby orphanage, others from scattered farm villages and an Indian reservation in the distant hills.

The children last Saturday had come on foot or crowded into the backs of battered pickup trucks, well-scrubbed and dressed in their Sunday best for an early Christmas made possible by young people from the Centinela-South Bay area and the Hawthorne Disaster wing of the Christian Pilots Assn.

More than 7,000 Redondo Beach school children and another 5,000 Girl Scouts, Mariners and members of other youth groups from the area are preparing the Christmas gift packs as part of the Kids to Kids program originated four years ago in the beach city.

The toys are delivered by volunteers of the Hawthorne Disaster Wing, who will be carrying the gifts to remote villages throughout the 1-

Please Turn to Page 10



GIFT OF LOVE—Young Mexican boy gets the finest present of all in the Kids to Kids program: a hug from Santa Claus, who is Times reporter Jerry Ruhlows. Santa's "sleigh" was one of six planes delivering Christmas gift packages prepared by more than 12,000 youngsters from various communities throughout the Southland.

Photo by The Times by Nadine Correll



HERO'S WELCOME—Santa Claus (Ruhlows) is engulfed by a throng of Mexican children and their parents.

Airport Crime Rises 48%, Police Report

Car Thefts Pace Upsurge; Security Forces Beefed Up

BY ROBERT J. ALLAN
Times Staff Writer

WESTCHESTER—At Los Angeles International Airport, where the airplane reigns supreme, the automobile is the most perplexing crime problem. The airport's crime rate is up 48% this year and cars are the most frequent "victim."

According to Lt. George Trusel, who heads the 35-member Los Angeles Police Department contingent based at the field, auto thefts have risen 40% over last year.

Most cars are stolen from the four major auto rental companies which maintain a stock of thousands of cars on lots in and around the airport.

The rental agencies, Trusel said, have problems maintaining tight security over their fenced storage areas. But he said one of them recently hired two former Los Angeles police officers, an ex-sergeant and an ex-lieutenant, to beef up security.

For every private car stolen from one of the airport's public lots or parking structures, three are stolen from rental agencies, Trusel said.

Most of the cars are taken for joy rides, he said, because about 95% are recovered after being abandoned within two or three days.

Ranking second on the list is thefts from vehicles, mostly equipment and accessories rather than personal belongings.

Trusel said hubcaps from certain cars are popular because of their high retail price. A fence might pay "a couple of hundred dollars" for a set of hubcaps from one of the prestige cars.

Radios and stereo equipment also are high on the list. The Volkswagen Rabbit has a stereo radio and tape deck which retails for about \$400, Trusel said. Because it can be removed simply and quickly, thieves, believed operating in rings, have been concentrating on them. They took 22 one night and 10 another.

Despite precautions taken by the airlines, Trusel said baggage thefts still are common, ranking third on the crime list.

But considering the airport's population, the crime picture does not appear too dismal. There are 40,000 workers and more than 150,000 visitors each day, not including passengers. The passenger total is expected to top 37 million by year's end, or more than 100,000 daily.

Trusel said there were 728 crimes by the end of October, 48.3% more than the 491 for the first three quarters last year. Considering the airport's size and population, serious crimes are low. There were about 15 murders, rapes and aggravated assaults reported this year.

The police operation at the airport—which is a substation of the Venice Division—also have a lot of help.

The Los Angeles Department of Airports, which runs LAX, has a 90-member security force which works with the police.

The airport's officers, headed by Al Reed, acting chief of security, work all areas, patrolling parking structures, public parking lots and the airfield itself as well as controlling traffic.

"When we run into special problems, we can call in the police or the FBI," Reed said. "We usually are the first involved but then we call in the specialists."

One recent joint effort involved the arrest of three older women from a

Please Turn to Page 6

Los Angeles Times

Centinela South Bay

B PART IX

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1979

Councilman Calls Protest Against Prostitution

BY BOB WILLIAMS
Times Staff Writer

INGLEWOOD—In what has been called a "community uprising against rampant prostitution," scores of sign-carrying pickets say they will line up with prostitutes on Imperial Highway here Saturday.

"We are not going to sit idly by any more and let these girls parade through our streets," said Councilman Edward Vincent, an organizer of a new protest group called the Inglewood Task Force Against Prostitution.

He said "mothers, kids, ministers and many others concerned with the prostitution problem" will be out in force on Imperial between Doty and Yukon avenues starting at 2 p.m.

Many of the pickets, he said, will be concentrated around a hotel at 3709 Imperial, which Vincent said has be-

"These kids... walk through a line of hookers to get to school."

come "infested" by prostitutes and their customers. He said police warnings to the motel's operators have not curbed the alleged activities.

Besides making it "as uncomfortable as possible" for the prostitutes, the pickets will be "sending a message to Sacramento," Vincent said.

"Our legislators have got to realize that we need stricter laws against prostitution," he said, "and that's what we will be trying to tell them."

Under current laws, the courts "just give the girls a slap on the wrist and then send them back into the streets," he said.

Vincent urged the Legislature to make prostitution a felony, instead of a misdemeanor, and require prison terms for offenders.

"If they (the prostitutes) are in jail, they can't be out on our streets bringing crime, drugs and blight to our neighborhoods," he said.

He said he has been "deluged" by complaints from parents in southwest Inglewood.

"Their kids have to walk through lines of hookers to get to school," he said. "They are being harassed and propositioned and made the object of

Please Turn to Page 6

Canvass Verifies Gerard Victory in Council Race

INGLEWOOD—A county canvass of the Nov. 6 election results has virtually confirmed George F. Gerard as the winner of the race for the District 2 City Council seat.

The council is expected to approve the results at a special meeting at 2 p.m. Friday, and Gerard will officially assume the post at midnight Sunday.

A formal swearing-in ceremony is planned for the regular council meeting Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Official confirmation of Gerard's victory has been delayed pending a count of write-in votes in connection with the county canvass. Gerard received 54.2% of the 2,104 votes cast for six candidates on the District 2 ballot.

He would have been forced into a runoff with the next highest vote-getter if William Gill, a write-in candidate, had received 175 or more votes.

However, Gill received only 34 write-ins, according to an unofficial report Wednesday on the county's canvass.

Gerard will assume the post left vacate when Lee Weinstein was elected mayor last June. When Gerard, an investor and longtime City Hall watchdog, takes his seat, the council will have its full five-member strength for the first time since November of last year.

CITY FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

'Best Ever' Banning Meets Bell Tonight

BY ALAN DROOZ
Times Staff Writer

Though its recent history is glorious and its string of stars stretches back the entire decade, Banning High School's football team opens defense of its city title tonight with what Coach Chris Ferragamo calls its best team ever, win or lose.

The Pilots enter the opening round of 4-A playoffs with three consecu-

tive city championships and Ferragamo says this year's squad has reached "the peak we've worked for the last three or four years."

Without hesitation or qualification, he said, "This is the best team we've ever had. We're loaded with the proper people at the right positions. There's not great depth. But there's a great player at each position. We've had great teams before, but we

haven't had total greatness in the past. This team can do everything."

Banning (8-1) faces Bell (4-5) at Veterans Stadium in Long Beach tonight, with four other Centinela-South Bay teams opening city playoff action Friday. Carson (5-2) faces Cleveland (6-2) at Gardena High and Washington (7-2) is at South Gate (9-0) in 4-A, while University (6-3-1) is at Westchester (5-4) and Narbonne (8-1) plays Van Nuys (6-3) at North Torrance High in 3-A.

The Pilots figure to make quick work of upset-minded Bell before facing sterner tests in semifinal and championship rounds—probably from unbeaten El Camino Real and neighboring rival Carson.

After an early-season 17-7 loss to CIF power St. Paul, Banning's only real scare came from Carson, which took a quick 16-0 lead before succumbing, 28-27. The Pilots have scored four touchdowns or better in each of the last seven games behind the offensive leadership of quarterback Jeff Yanez and fullback Michael Ais.

The defense has been keyed by linebacker John Truitt, lineman Randy Williams and defensive backs Danny Andrews and Randy Williams. And that's not all. "Our special teams are second to none... the best I've ever seen," Ferragamo said.

Coincidentally, the best all-around player on Banning's senior-dominated squad are juniors Andrews and

Please Turn to Page 9

Please Turn to Page 9

Opponents Tardy, Shell Oil Wins Round in Pipeline Bid

BY JEAN MERL
Times Staff Writer

Shell Oil Co. won an easy round in its bid to renew the franchise on a controversial, 40-year-old pipeline this week when a telegram asking a delay arrived too late.

The renewal proposal got a swift, 2-0 approval from the City Council's Industry and Economic Development Committee, after Pacific Palisades opponents of the pipeline failed to show up at the meeting.

Since Shell began more than a year ago to seek renewal of its now-expired franchise, members of No Oil Inc., have been leading a fight for higher fees and better safety procedures.

The 56-mile-long pipeline, one of

many beneath the City of Los Angeles, carries crude-oil products from the oil fields of Ventura County to the refineries in Wilmington and the Harbor area. It runs under the Santa Monica Mountains and beneath the grounds of Paul Revere Junior High School, where it ruptured during testing in 1970, spewing oil over the campus.

No Oil—which also led fights to keep Occidental Petroleum Co. and, more recently, Chevron USA, Inc., from drilling in nearby areas—has been critical of both Shell and the city in the pipeline matter.

And the citizens group has fought

Please Turn to Page 9

Please Turn to Page 9



KEEPING WATCH—On guard at L.A. Airport are Sgt. Victor Guzman, LAPD, left, and Sgt. Frank Costigan, airport officer. Times photo

CRIME AT AIRPORT

Continued from First Page
South American country who apparently were part of a pickpocket ring.
Reed said one of his officers working in plain clothes joined a police detective to watch the women "work a crowd at a bus stop."
He said they were taking from men's pockets and women's purses when they were arrested. Those arrests, Reed said, cleared about 50 pickpocket cases.
Close cooperation of airport law enforcement agencies also paid off when a thief who struck at a cargo terminal was traced through his vehicle's license number. That led to the arrest of four men who, wearing ski masks and carrying shotguns, had robbed the employees at another cargo terminal.

minal.
"More than \$1 million worth of stolen goods was recovered through that cooperative effort," Reed said.
There are 12 categories included in Part 1 (major) crimes listed by the FBI and most law enforcement agencies.

AIRPORT CRIME

Crime	1978	1979	Percent Change
Business Burglary	21	19	-9.5
Street Robbery	22	13	-40.9
Business Robbery	5	3	-36.0
Theft From Persons	5	3	-36.0
Personal Snatch	1	1	0.0
Grand Theft Auto	20	4	-75.0
Burglary Theft From	386	349	-9.8
Vehicles	386	349	-9.8
Grand Theft (Includes Loggage)	157	250	+59.2
Other Thefts	3	3	0.0
Includes Petty	171	146	-14.6
Murder	1	0	-100.0
Rape	1	2	+100.0
Aggravated Assault	7	22	+214.3
Totals	999	1,376	+36.9



TEMPTATIONS—Cars along side streets near LAX pose a problem in law enforcement.

PROSTITUTES

Continued from First Page
obscene jokes—even the kids in junior high school.
Vincent said his group would continue picketing and organizing other protests "until this community and the whole state faces up to the problem and the Legislature takes action."
He said Inglewood is planning new economic development programs "that will carry forward the progress that has been made in upgrading the community in recent years."
Century Boulevard, Imperial Highway and other thoroughfares in south Inglewood have long been favorite grounds for prostitutes because of the heavy traffic generated by nearby Los Angeles International Airport, and the Hollywood Race Track.
Periodic crackdowns by the police net large numbers of prostitutes and their customers, but officials say the prostitutes return to the streets after the pressure eases.

Calendar of Events

Continued from 5th Page
the talk. Reservations can be made with Jay P. Johnson of Rolling Hills Estates.

Energy Plans to Be Debated

MARINA DEL REY—A debate on two methods of generating solar energy, thermal conversion and photovoltaics, will be sponsored by the Airport-Marina group of the Sierra Club and the California Solar Energy Assn. from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, in the Burton Chance Park auditorium on Mirandano Way west of Lincoln Boulevard. Representatives from Hughes Aircraft, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Applied Solar Energy Corp. will serve on the panel. The program is free.

United Methodist Bazaar Set

EL SEGUNDO—Tea towels, aprons and kitchen items will be on sale during the United Methodist Women's bazaar from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in Johnson Hall of the El Segundo United Methodist Church, 540 Main St. Also on sale will be fruit cakes, candies, jellies

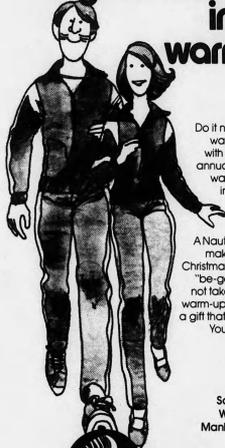
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BEADED BALL OR BELL With bead, mirror and wire work.
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To 2 1/2" x 2"
1.55 pkg. of 12

PLASTIC "STAINED GLASS" ORNAMENT From Hong Kong
BELL, CANDLE OR HOLLY
To 5 1/4" long
.44 each

COST PLUS OWN DESIGN FIREPLACE MATCHES From Japan
11" tall
1.49 pkg. of 70 wood matches

BAMBOO COOKIE BASKET From Taiwan
8 1/2" dia.
2 1/2" deep
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COLORED IXLTE TWINE From Mexico
50 ft. each of Green, Orange, Yellow, Blue & Magenta
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1/4" Heart or 1" Oval lockets
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Smooth bitty beads form a most elegant necklace.
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FROM OUR CLOTHING SECTION
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