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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title **Valley Residents Arrested in Telephone Tolls Fraud**

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Abstract Describes arrest of Larry L. Simms, electronics engineer at JPL, Dr. Milton Birnbaum, Gerald Kilgore, Harold "Buz" Mahan, and others as part of the May 1966 raids.

Keywords FBI; Larry Simms; Milton Birnbaum; Gerald Kilgore; Harold Mahan

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Valley Residents Arrested in Telephone Tolls Fraud

Seven Los Angeles area residents, including an engineer at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, were arrested yesterday by FBI agents on charges of using or aiding and abetting the use of devices to avoid paying toll charges on long distance telephone calls. Three are residents of the Valley.

A Los Angeles physician was expected to surrender to federal officials later in the climax of a nationwide investigation which resulted in complaints being filed Tuesday against a total of 16 individuals. In nine different states.

Arrested on a charge of aiding and abetting fraud by wire was Larry L. Sims 31, of Altadena, an electronics engineer at JPL.

Device Beats Bills
Dr. Milton M. Birnbaum, of 9462 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, with offices at 1237 N. La Brea, Los Angeles, was expected to surrender on a complaint charging him with violations of the fraud by wire statute.

The complaints against all the suspects allege violations of federal laws by use of an electronic device used to circumvent billing procedures on long-distance telephone calls.

Federal investigators said the device was used by gamblers as well as other individuals.

Also arrested in the Los Angeles area was Gerald Hay Kilgore 30, of 7517 Zelzah Ave., Reseda, employed as the publisher of the J. K. Sports Journal at 10687 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles.

FBI agents said the Journal provides information concerning nationwide sporting events. He was charged with violating the interstate transmission of wagering information and fraud by wire statutes.

More Are Arrested
Federal investigators said the following individuals were arrested on charges of violating the fraud by wire statute:

Harold "Buz" Mahan 47, of 9405 Sierra Mar Place, Beverly Hills, president of Ero Methods Engineering Corp., 8912 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles.

Gray Hoffman 40, of 212 S. Mariposa Ave., Burbank, manager of the Kahr Bearing Corp., 3010 N. San Fernando Road, Burbank.

Joseph Soldis 38, of 4612 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, salesman at Escoa Corp., 15519 S. Crenshaw Blvd., Gardena.

Carl Lovelace Clement, of 9336 Lemon Ave., Sepulveda; manager of engineers at Escoa.

Robert Pelletier, also known as Arthur Blake 41, of 804-A Esplanade, Redondo Beach, freelance engineer.


All those taken into custody were to be arraigned before the U.S. Commissioner "as soon as possible," federal agents said.

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Bandits Rob Valley Market of \$100 Cash

A gunman and his companion today had robbed a Sun Valley market of some \$100 while pretending to buy groceries, Foothill Division officers reported.

The holdup occurred Tuesday at 10 p.m. at Bob's Market, 9009 Laurel Canyon Blvd.

Officers said Bernice Shojil of Van Nuys was checking out some grocery items for a man when he said: "This is a holdup. Okay, open the drawer and let's have the money."

Confronts Bandits
The man then pointed a pistol at the store cashier and with the other hand reached across the counter and scooped up the cash from the cash drawer.

Police said an unknown customer walked up to the bandit and his companion, who was standing at the end of the counter, and told the bandits, "Go ahead and shoot me."

However, officers reported, the bandits didn't pay any attention to the customer and, after grabbing the money, fled from the store.

Another witness told investigators he saw the robbers enter a 1964 model white automobile and drive southbound on Laurel Canyon Blvd.

Describe Robber
Police described the gunman as between 25 and 30 years old, 5 feet, 8 inches tall and slender in build. He had black hair and was wearing a tan jacket and pants. He had tape on his left cheek.

His companion was described as about 19 or 20 years old, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, and weighing 150 pounds. He had brown hair and was wearing a gray jacket and dark green pants.

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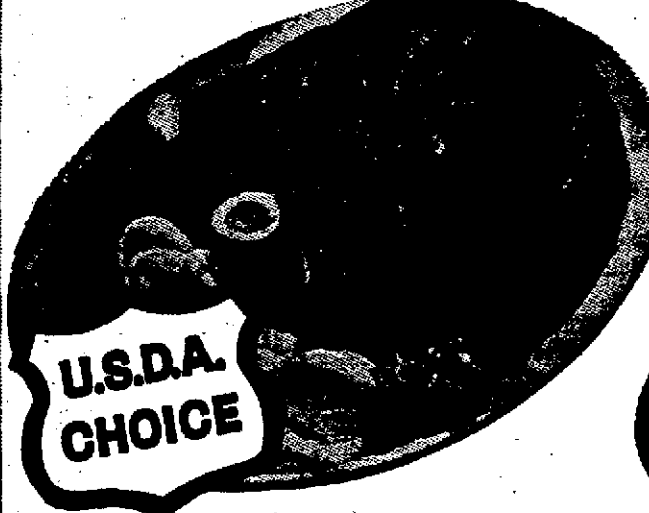
Ideas Told In Mental Health Plan

Mental health programs explaining the newest ideas in the philosophy and practice in this field are now available to women's groups free of charge through Speakers Bureau sponsored by the Los Angeles County Dept. of Mental Health and staffed by professionally trained laymen.

The programs are designed to acquaint the public with the broad spectrum of services offered to the community for every conceivable type of emotional problem, to update its knowledge of new approaches in psychiatric or psychological practice such as "crisis clinics," and to give deeper insights into the causes of childhood or family emotional problems.

The speakers can be booked through AIM for Better Community Mental Health, the organization which obtained the services of practicing psychiatrists and psychologists from hospitals and clinics, university professors and government agencies to conduct the five-month intensive training program in which scientific knowledge and jargon was transformed into warm and human terms. For bookings telephone 272-0674.

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