

Trucker helping patrol desert highways

By ELAINE MARABE
—Sun-Telegram Staff Writer

BARSTOW — An emergency message interrupted the friendly chatter on the citizens' band radio hooked to the car's dashboard.

The driver, a Baker resident California Highway Patrolman, stopped the car and within minutes was breathing life into a young child who had nearly drowned in the family swimming pool.

Information on a kidnapping in Las Vegas, Nev., was relayed to officers from a highway patrolman carrying his own citizens' band radio. Within 10 minutes a driver spotted the suspect car and reported its location.

Patrolmen set up a roadblock and rescued the victim unharmed.

The value of the CB radio is being appreciated more and more by those who live, work and travel in rural areas. In the past several months messages transmitted by the radio have included a kidnapping, a child's life, but have sent information about accidents, road and weather conditions.

Capt. James G. Perkins, commander of the highway patrol in the Barstow area sent an open letter recently to all truckers commending them for their cooperation in the use of CB radios. It was in a four-month period, 14

drunk drivers were taken from the road, 13 traffic accidents were reported with reduced time-response by officers to the scene, three felony arrests were consummated as a direct result of a radio locating the wanted vehicle. "Of these three, one was a kidnapping, one a kidnaper, and one, an auto thief," Perkins said.

In addition 13 hazardous driving violations were reported and investigated and 100 citations were made informing officers of motorists who needed assistance.

Perkins said that in some areas use of CB radio is still in its infancy. He said that in some areas use of CB radio is still in its infancy.

stretchers require exception to the usual practices.

Sixty per cent of the trucks traveling through the desert have CB radios, Perkins said. Their radio range is about 10 to 15 miles so they use a relay system to report inclement road and weather conditions.

Sometimes they reach a "base station" citizens' band radio operators monitor reports and contact a stationery unit. The base operator will call the nearest highway patrol officer with information for authorities.

Of the 76 uniformed officers working out of the Barstow station, 20 have CB radios. The officers

purchased the equipment themselves and use them strictly on a volunteer basis, Perkins said.

A radio costs anywhere from \$100 to \$150. A 94 license is required from the Federal Communications Commission and no special training is needed except that the licensee must agree to abide by FCC regulations and not use the equipment for personal gain.

Perkins estimated that about 40 per cent of the messages relayed to highway patrol officers were of possible drunk drivers. "There is also a significant number of wrong-way driver reports," he said.

Sometimes the incidents are amusing. Perkins told

of a report from flying patrolman Robert Olds, who had spotted a small car stopped along Interstate 40.

He circled and used a loudspeaker to ask if the people needed assistance. They signaled they did, but Olds could get any response on what kind of low service they needed.

He called a trucker by the CB radio. The trucker stopped and found out the family in the car needed a tow, but had no money.

Another trucker pulling an empty wax barrel the conversation, called about and said he'd help. He stopped, loaded the car and family into the van and drove them all home to New Rivers.

A truck driver heading

west on Interstate 40 near Needles noticed a baby lying on the back seat of a car aimed a pile of beer cans. His message, sent on his citizens' band radio was picked up by a highway patrolman who later stopped the car and learned that the driver had had a family squabble, took his child and a car load of beer and fled his home.

The unusual incident, though it turned out to be a minor one, Perkins said, typified the cooperation between truck drivers and highway patrolmen along the two lonely interstate highways that cross the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County.

Ridgecrest to hold Cinco de Mayo fete

RIDGECREST — Originally celebrated by Mexicans to commemorate an expedition of the French from Mexico in 1867, celebration of the holiday Cinco de Mayo will be held Sunday, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Cerro Cono College student center and surrounding grounds.

The event is sponsored again this year by the college with participation by James Monroe School, Murray School, Trona High School and Burroughs High School.

Mexico's heritage will be displayed with posters and national flags creating a Mexican festive atmosphere for the occasion.

In addition to traditional foods and Pan Dulce chocolates, poetry demonstrations and sales, piñato games for children, and a lotto game, highlighting the late afternoon festivities will be music by the Burroughs High School band. Under the direction of Michael Garrett. This musical group has taken top honors in every organization jazz competition it has entered. The stage band will perform from 3 to 5 p.m.

In addition to the traditional booths, local talent will provide guitar music, and perhaps a flamenco dancer or two to set the mood.

General admission is \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for student body card holders and high school students. Children accompanied by a parent will be admitted free.

A portion of admission fee collected for Cinco de Mayo will be donated to the Burroughs High School Stage Band to assist in future competitive endeavors.

Holdup nets \$81 in cash for gunman

HESPERIA — A lone gunman robbed the Circle K Market on Main Street here and two of its employees. The \$81 netted by Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies said.

The robber entered the store at 8th and Main shortly before 10 p.m. Monday and forced customer Mark Ellis and employee Robert Langston's and Crawford's wallets also. The total amount taken was estimated at \$81.

The suspect was described as between 20 and 25 years old, 5-foot 10 inches, weighing between 160 and 180. He wore a T-shirt and jeans and a blue ski cap and a handkerchief over his face, deputies said. He is armed with a .22 caliber rifle.

Turtle Days scheduled May 3 and 4

JOSHUA TREE — Joshua Tree will celebrate Turtle Days May 3-4.

Scheduled events include an 8 p.m. dance Friday night at Sportsman's Hall on Sunburst Avenue, a parade starting at 10 a.m. Saturday morning in downtown Joshua Tree, an arts and crafts display Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Elementary School multipurpose room on Sunburst Avenue, and a gymnastics Sunday at p.m. in Sportsman's Hall.

There will be game booths, food booths and "talk-backs" with rocks and sweats, crafts and souvenirs at Sportsman's Hall and Park on both days.

Messie Hayden of the Grand marshals will be the grand marshals of the parade.

Love turtles have become a feature of Turtle Days in earlier years. But they are no longer allowed because the desert tortoise is an endangered species. Mechanical turtle races are now held at the park.

Man and machine

Ditch digger gives a little assistance to backhoe operator as foundation is prepared for the Barstow Community College administration building. College officials broke ground last week and contractor lost no time preparing the site for the \$300,000 structure.

Mrs. O'Keefe is 'Rotary-Ann of year'

By PRISCILLA NORDYKE
—Sun-Telegram Staff Writer

APPLE VALLEY — Sara O'Keefe attended the annual District 500 Rotary Convention to honor, among others, the "Rotarian of the Year."

Imagine her surprise when she found she was the person the Rotarians were applauding.

Mrs. O'Keefe is the first woman to receive the award, presented annually to a Rotary Club member. The rules were

changed this year to allow clubs to nominate women who had contributed to the betterment of their community, church and families.

The title was changed by Mrs. O'Keefe's 1972 Rotary-Ann of the Year.

Initially, the second major award given at the district convention in San Diego went to the Victorville Rotary Club for a project initiated during the term of Mrs. O'Keefe's husband.

L. W. E. O'Keefe, a California

Highway Patrolman in the Victorville area, was the first club to start work on a nature trail for the handicapped at the Mojave-Natural-Border Park.

Dr. Gilbert McAdams, the current president, said the awards are significant. "We captured the two biggies."

Mrs. O'Keefe, director of the Victor Valley Volunteer Center, also serves as a volunteer on a variety of advisory boards and councils.

A past president of the St. Mary Desert Valley Hospital, she is now chairman of the budget and finance committee. Mrs. O'Keefe is on the executive board of the Job Opportunities and Benefits Workshop, a facility for the mentally and physically handicapped, is a member of the Comprehensive Health Task Force of the Victor Valley, and the Inland Desert Council of Hospital Associations.

Mary E. Potts is named Senior Citizens of the Year

APPLE VALLEY — Mary E. Potts, a retired registered nurse, has been named Senior Citizen of the Year by the Apple Valley Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons.

A past president of the group, she also served as secretary for two years. Before coming to the Victor Valley, Mrs. Potts lived in Riverside and worked in the maternity department at the Mar Air Force Base Hospital.

Mrs. Potts is an instructor in the defensive driving course offered annually by the club. She is also a member of the Apple Valley Group and the World War I Veterans Auxiliary.

"She has given usefulness of her time, energy and money to make the organization vital for its membership," a spokesman said.

Mrs. Potts will be among senior citizens honored at a theater party in May. The time and date will be announced.

Mary E. Potts
—retired nurse honored

Diana Santos wins \$2,560 scholarship

BARSTOW — Diana Santos, a John F. Kennedy High School student has received a \$2,560 scholarship from the Stadron College of Business. She was in competition with 14 other high school students from San Bernardino County.

Each year Stadron College offers a scholarship, which includes complete tuition and books for one year - long day school courses offered at the college. A panel of five makes the selection of one student from each county high school competing for the "most enjoyable student" award.

Miss Santos will begin the professional accounting course at Stadron College in July after graduation she plans to become a certified public accountant.

3-day bridge game expected to draw several hundred

VICTORVILLE — Several hundred players are expected to participate in the three-day B-I Desert Section Bridge Game to open May 16 at the Victrolite Hilton Inn.

John Peterson, of Barstow, tournament manager, has more than 2,000 players were recorded at the event last year. The Sunday Championship concluded with more than 100 tables in play.

Committee members are Genevieve Boush, Fred Sherris, Helen McNamara and Charlotte Pike, all of Apple Valley; Agnes Copp, Joe Foley and Euse Sorum of Barstow.

All activities will be directed by Sailey Wagner, Apple Valley, president of the American Contract Bridge Club; and Victorville, secretary; and Vera Barlow, Barstow, treasurer. James Betty of Barstow is president of District 22.

A program of bridge opens and closes will be played Sunday, May 18. Opens and novice games will be played.

Verie Anthony and Dick Sherrod will defend their own pairs championship in a game Friday afternoon.

Car moving in reverse hits pedestrian

TWENTYNINE PALMS — PEDESTRIAN Henry Simons, 18, of Morongo Valley, received a skull fracture when he was struck by a car going in reverse on Highway 82 in front of the Valley Ho restaurant in Morongo Valley Friday night.

Simons was taken to H-I Desert Memorial Hospital, Yuca Valley, said Highway Patrol Officer J. C. Lee.

Driver of the car that struck Simons, was John C. Tammolou, 31, of Banning.

Fiddle, banjo competition planned at Calico

BARSTOW — The Silver Bowl just off Calico Ghost Town Main Street will provide the setting for four Old Time Fiddle and Banjo competitions over Mother's Day weekend, May 10 and 11.

Registration for the contest will start at 8 a.m. on both days. Fiddle and banjo contests will start at 10 Saturday morning with beginning guitar and groups at 3 p.m.

Advanced fiddle and banjo competitions will take place at 10 Sunday morning followed by advanced guitar and groups at 3 in the afternoon.

A special raffle will take place both days for the three performers in each category. Saturday's raffle is at 5:30. The Sunday raffle is at 4:30.

The contest is free and contestants can register for as many categories as they wish. Trophies, ribbons and

Prizes will be given away as prizes

Only acoustic instruments will be allowed in the contest.

Zen Crook, Jim Hawkins and Gary Murray will judge the contestants on their pitch, prowess and continuity of performance.

The musician inclined who don't want to compete in a contest can play a tune for a pie. Other attractions include an egg tossing, grassed pole climbing, pie eating and silver guessing.

A blue grass concert will be held at 7 in The Silver Bowl. Jerry Fyfe will be the master of ceremonies.

The Crooks from Yucaipa, Howarth from Riverside and the Bodie Mountain Express from Perris will entertain.

Calico is the restored mining town of the silver booming days in the 1880's. It is located off Interstate 15, 10 minutes north of Barstow.

