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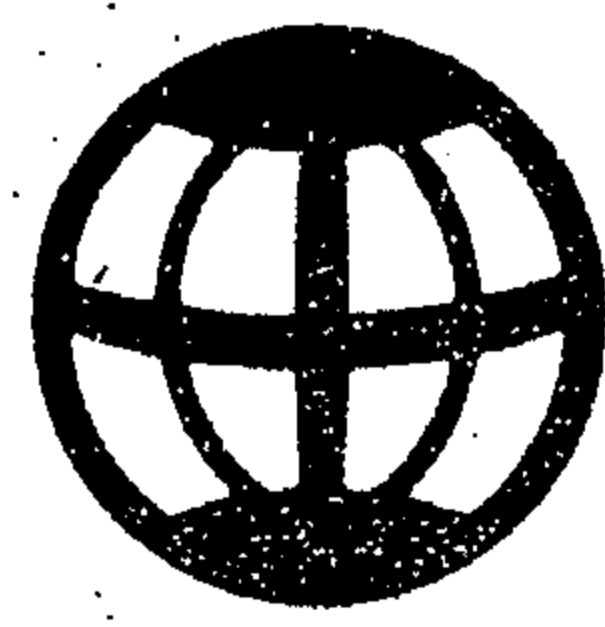
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**More auto thefts, robberies**

# Village crime rate increases

By MARV BALOUSEK

Crime increased 16.9 per cent last year in Forest Park, according to a report compiled recently by the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement.

Based on the number of police calls for service received this year in Forest Park, there are indications that the village's crime rate is continuing to rise, especially in reported auto thefts.

Total volume of police calls for service in 1977 has increased by about 11 per cent over last year. Through the police department's eighth reporting period, which ended Aug. 3, a total of 8,261 calls were received. Last year, 7,502 calls were received through the corresponding period.

Police Lt. Fred Zimmerman, who compiles Forest Park crime statistics for the police department, is concerned that the higher volume of calls may be hurting police effectiveness in crime prevention.

"Our time is more crowded with answering these calls and gives less free patrol time," he said.

Through early July, there were 20 major crimes reported this year in

Forest Park. These include two rapes, eight robberies and 10 cases of aggravated assault. No homicides have been reported so far in 1977.

In solving major offenses, Forest Park police have a record of better than 50 per cent, according to Zimmerman's statistics. Eleven serious cases have been cleared by arrest, including a rape, five robberies and six cases of aggravated assault.

Auto theft may show the largest increase of any crime category by the end of the year. A total of 73 auto thefts have been reported so far this year compared with only 75 cases during all of 1976. In 1975, there were 81 reported auto thefts, according to Department of Law Enforcement figures.

There were 39 reported apartment burglaries and five home burglaries through early July. Last year, there were 137 burglaries in all categories, which includes stores and factories.

The record of Forest Park police in clearing burglaries and auto thefts is not as effective as with major crimes. Three apartment burglaries, two home burglaries and two auto thefts have been cleared by arrest this year, Zimmerman said.

## CITIZENS SHARE BLAME, see editorial, page 6.

Next month, a coordinated crime reporting system will be implemented in Forest Park and other western suburbs, according to Zimmerman. Organized through the Cook County Sheriff's Police, Zimmerman hopes the new system will have a positive impact on auto theft and burglary arrests.

"Maybe we can pin down some of the same guys doing the same offenses (in several towns)," he said.

A 20 per cent increase in police calls for service occurred during the seventh police reporting period, which ended in early July. Last year, 1,062 calls were received during the corresponding 28-day period. This year, 1,201 calls were received, an increase of 139.

No major crimes were reported during the period. However, the number of auto thefts more than doubled over last year. Six thefts were reported during the same period in 1976 compared with 15 offenses this year.

Police units have logged more miles this year than last, Zimmerman said.

A total of 21,660 miles have been driven by Forest Park policemen in 1977 which, Zimmerman said, is higher than average for a town the size of Forest Park.

The 16.9 per cent Forest Park crime rate increase for 1976 reported by the Department of Law Enforcement is due largely to substantial increases in robberies and thefts last year.

Robberies increased from 22 offenses in 1975 to 32 last year, which represents a 45.5 per cent increase. Thefts rose from 473 in 1975 to 587 last year, an increase of 24.1 per cent.

Police Chief Richard Drane said policemen do not have direct control over thefts that occur in stores.

"Most of that theft includes shoplifting," he said. "While we're responsible for following those cases through the criminal justice system, they occur in a private business."

He added that the best defense a store can mount against shoplifting is to hire a guard in uniform.

Forest Park's overall crime increase reported last year is in contrast to lower statistics for surrounding suburbs, which show only a slight

crime increase or an actual decrease. Forest Park experienced a crime rate increase of 6.3 per cent in 1975, according to state figures.

Despite three successive years of crime rate increases in Forest Park, the village's complement of full-time policemen has remained the same. There are 32 full-time Forest Park policemen, the same number as in 1975. Two part-time police cadets recently were assigned dispatch duties

to free full-time men for the street, Zimmerman said.

Most other towns of comparable population to Forest Park (15,500) maintain police forces with smaller complements of officers, according to state statistics.

In LaGrange Park, which has the same population as Forest Park, there are 22 full-time policemen. Glendale Heights (pop. 15,528) employs 25 officers.

## Latest figures reveal still more auto thefts

Crime continued to rise in Forest Park during the police department's eighth reporting period, which ended Aug. 3, according to a report submitted yesterday by Lt. Fred Zimmerman to Police Chief Richard Drane.

Although the number of thefts was lower than the corresponding period last year, there were seven reported auto thefts compared with four last year.

There were 29 cases of criminal

damage to property reported during the eighth period compared with 14 cases reported last year.

A total of 42 cases of theft were reported this year compared with 51 during the same period last year. Forest Park policemen drove 4,000 more miles this year than during the corresponding period in 1976.

Calls for service increased by 17 per cent during the eighth period, Zimmerman said.

## All around town Polkas, bagpipes at church picnic

Polkas played on bagpipes will be part of the fun at the St. Bernardine Church picnic Sunday, Sept. 4 at the picnic grounds of Altenheim.

The day will begin with a special outdoor guitar mass at 11 a.m. on the picnic grounds.

Festivities for the day

will include egg-throwing, pony rides and a special feature — The Moran Family Irish Band.

According to The Rev. John Fearon, pastor at St. Bernardine, "There will be other music besides Irish. Some of us are anxious to hear polkas played with bagpipes."

## Child care parent meeting scheduled

Parents of children enrolled in Proviso School Dist. 209 child care careers program are requested to come to an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7 in Room D124 of Proviso West High School, Wolf and Harrison, Hillside.

Rules and regulations will be discussed and there will be an opportunity to tour facilities and meet teachers.

Jeanne Bernhardt, chairman of the home economics department, requests that a parent of each student at-

tend the meeting.

First attendance day for children in the program is Monday, Sept. 19. The class will meet Mondays through Thursdays of each week from 9 to 11 a.m. During the second semester of the 1977-78 school term, there will be two classes.

Semester charge for supplies and refreshments is \$75, payable in three installments. Fees include insurance.

For further information call Bernhardt at Proviso West High School, 449-6400.

## Seek carpenters at PARC shop

Volunteer carpenters are needed by the Proviso Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC) to build shelves in the association's resale shop, PARC Place, 461 N. Wolf Road, Hillside.

The occupational therapy department also needs equipment built to aid in the rehabilitation of clients. Among the items needed are a standing table, mat table, scooter boards, a foot placement ladder and a multi-directional balance beam.

Volunteers are also

needed to assist with the Have-A-Heart Charities Tag Day event, Friday, Sept. 9.

According to Ted Reiss, public relations director, about 40 persons have volunteered, but 180 are needed to make Tag Day a success.

Persons volunteering will be asked to man certain stations in the area and collect money for three-hour periods.

For additional information, or to volunteer, contact, Ted Reiss, 547-3550.

## Smiles, joy accompany opening of FP schools

By KEN MANSON

Smiles adorned the faces of many Forest Park children yesterday as they began the first day of classes for the new school year.

Whether they were tired of the summer break or joyfully anticipating the beginning of the school year, some children expressed a desire to be attending school again.

"I like school. I want to learn something," said George Arthur, a fifth-grader at Field-Stevenson. "When you're hanging around playing, you don't learn much."

George, along with classmate John Thompson, was playing on the equipment at the Park District's tot lot.

Classmates, who often are summer companions, aren't the only persons some students look forward to seeing when they return.

"I want to see my teacher again. I have a nice teacher," said Mark Nugent, who is starting fifth grade at Betsy Ross School.

A familiar complaint that Mark had about school and his teacher was the amount of work he has to do. His sentiments were echoed by his friend, Rich Miller, a Betsy Ross fourth-grader, interviewed while bicycling in

the park.

"Any work that isn't finished during the school day has to be taken home and finished," Rich complained.

Julie Valenza, who attends third grade at Field-Stevenson, also is looking forward to this school year because she is learning to tell time and will be able to put this new skill to use.

"School's fun, you do a lot of things," said Julie.

Not all the children at the Park District were happy about returning to school.

"I wish the summer vacation was expanded," said John Thompson. "I'm not too happy about returning but it'll be good to get away from the house. You get tired sometimes." John is a fifth-grader at Field-Stevenson.

It helps some students through the school year to remember they will receive some days off for holidays and weekends to break up the long period of school attendance.

"I look forward to holidays," said Mark. "When I get tired of school, a holiday comes up and I'm happy again."

## Probe of Todd theft reaches an impasse

Investigation of the June 26 theft of actor Michael Todd's body from a grave in Waldheim Cemetery apparently has reached an impasse.

Sgt. Richard Archambault, who is heading up the investigation for the Forest Park police department, said Monday he has probed as much as he can into the case without subpoenaing private detective Anthony Pellicano to testify before a grand jury.

Pellicano tipped off police to the location of the Todd remains two days after the theft on the basis of information supplied by an informant. He refused to reveal the identity of the informant to police.

"All I'm asking is that the states attorney call Pellicano before the grand jury and have him reveal his informant," Archambault said.

Once the identity of the informant is known, Archambault believes investigators can work through the informant to solve the case.

But spokesmen for the states attor-

ney's office believe investigation of the case is Archambault's responsibility.

James Lindmark, supervisor of the Maybrook office of Cook County States Attorney Bernard Carey, said if a subpoena is issued to Pellicano it would be done through the special prosecutions office of the states attorney.

## Cop contract expires today

Negotiations are continuing this week between Forest Park officials and village policemen to work out a new labor agreement. The current contract expires today.

Despite the contract expiration, Village Clerk William McKenzie said bargaining will continue with wage increases retroactive to Sept. 1.

## Back to school

There was glee on the faces of many Forest Park youngsters who returned to school yesterday. The girls above clearly are pleased to be back but the young ladies below appear to be mourning the end of summer.

