

Juvenile Delinquency

# Lawmen To Crack Down On Young Transients

By MEL BAUGHMAN  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Law enforcement agencies this weekend will begin a countywide crack-down on transient juveniles in a new and concentrated drive to halt the soaring spiral of crime.

Sheriff Doug James told reporters, "We want to let it be known that law enforcement is going to tough in Santa Cruz County."

In a press conference today, James said the new campaign is the result of meetings with representatives of other law enforcement agencies, including the county's four police departments (Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Capitola and Watsonville), the California Highway Patrol, the probation department and the district attorney's office.

The most recent meeting was Wednesday when the group, James said, met to discuss "the various problems felt to be directly attributable to some of the transient population."

The new program will be aimed especially at those juveniles who, James said, are "living off the land."

Said he, "Recent Santa Cruz County crime trends indicate that many of their persons responsible for these crimes are not local residents, not tourists in the traditional sense, but travelers or transients."

"These visitors to Santa Cruz County are lodging in unauthorized places and committing crimes of opportunity such as petty thefts, auto burglaries and, as a matter of fact, living off the land."

"Many of these visitors are

juveniles. They are traveling runaways or adventurers of one sort or another, and then again, some are adults."

The sheriff called for cooperation of parents, and declared that parents who permit their children under 18 to violate federal, state or local laws will be subject to prosecution under laws covering contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

"We ask for the cooperation of the parents in this area," Sheriff James said. "Please do not allow your son or daughter to wander aimlessly about the county. Assume your responsibilities as parents and know where your children are. If they want to go to the beach or mountains, take them and then pick them up when it is time to return home."

Although the crack-down will

be countywide, James said special attention will be focused on major trouble spots where transient juveniles gather, including the San Lorenzo Valley, Highways 1 and 9, Trout Gulch Road in the Aptos area, Old San Jose Road north of Soquel, Eureka Canyon Road above Corralitos, and the esplanade at Rio del Mar.

James said the project will require use of additional personnel, including reserve officers, and will mean increased costs, but he said that authorities hope the effort will result in reduced car and petty thefts.

He noted that car clouts doubled from a year ago, with 140 reported last month, compared to 70 in July, 1969. Petty thefts also are double last year's rate.

Crimes against the person have increased, the sheriff con-

tinued, with the incidence of rape also double that of a year ago. Three rapes were reported in July, 1969, he said; six reports were received last month.

James said one of the hoped-for by-products of the campaign will be a demonstration that law enforcement agencies are moving to protect persons and their property.

He said he is "deeply concerned about the attitude of some people who are really uptight" and who are threatening to take the law into their own hands through "vigilante" action.

Noting also the increase in the number of bicycles that are being reported stolen, James called for new licensing procedures, perhaps through fire districts.

James announced his officers

are being instructed to enforce curfews after midnight, instead of 11 p.m., to conform with proposed changes being considered by the board of supervisors.

James said that field units will contact, interview and identify the juvenile and adult transients whenever possible, and those juveniles that are found to be away from home without authority will be held.

Parents will be notified and asked to pick up their youngsters. If parents fail to cooperate, James said, they will be subject to legal action under Section 272 of the Penal Code, which provides that persons who contribute to delinquency of a minor are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject, on conviction, to a \$1000 fine, or one

(Continued on Page 2)



Sheriff Doug James

Today's  
Closing  
N.Y. Stocks

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

115th Year—No. 186

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 7, 1970

26 Pages

10c

## Israel, Egypt Agree To

usually declines more sharply in July and the Bureau of Labor

25.

All the rise was among white white collar professional and pay gains.

down 15,000 for the month and edge

# Lawmen To Crack Down On Young Transients To Halt Crime

(Continued from Page 1)

year in the county jail, or both. Juveniles will be retained under Section 601 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. That law states:

"Any person under the age of 21 years who persistently or habitually refuses to obey the reasonable and proper orders or directions of his parents, guardian, custodian or school authorities, or who is beyond the control of such person, or any person who is a habitual truant from school within the meaning of any law of this state or who from any cause is in danger of leading an idle, dissolute, lewd or immoral life, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court which may adjudicate such person to be a ward of the court."

James expressed confidence that the courts also would cooperate in the new anti-crime program.

Police Chiefs

Hi  
Do  
Lo  
(C  
just t  
with  
pick  
tion.