

New Orleans States-Item
POLICE BURGLARY RING SMASHED

By JACK DEMPSEY

Twelve policemen or former policemen were charged with burglary today and eight others suspended as department officials announced the cracking of a police burglary ring.

Two civilians—a man and a woman—also were arrested in the roundup, which was revealed by Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso at a news conference this morning.

Of the 14 involved, six are still at large.

The scandal had been simmering for some time but news media had refrained from publishing anything about it at Giarrusso's request to hold off until the investigation was complete. He commended newsmen today for their cooperation.

All those arrested were booked with various counts of burglary, the highest number being 23. Some of the alleged offenses dated back to 1966.

GIARRUSSO SAID LOOT WORTH MORE than \$19,000 was taken in the burglaries, and only \$3,700 in stolen property was recovered.

Those charged are:

FORMER PATROLMAN GUY WILLIS HIPPLER, 26, 4729 Majestic Oaks, arrested at 9 last night at 1370 Aviators and booked on 23 counts.

SGT. ANTHONY LOICANO, 27, 6001 Downman Road, Apt. 113, who had seven years' service. He is charged on four counts, and still is at large.

PATROLMAN FRANK WILSON, 28, 5900 Painters, eight years' service, arrested at 2000 Behrman Highway at 8:45 last night and booked on three counts.

RETIRED CAPT. LESLIE COCHRANE, 41, still at large, charged on two counts.

FORMER PATROLMAN ANTOINE PEMBO, 30, 4410 DeMontluzin, arrested at 10:30 p. m. at 1454 Crescent on one count. He was dismissed from the department in 1968 after being convicted of receiving stolen property, and received a six-month jail term earlier this year on a federal

charge of making false statements to the Small Business Administration on a Hurricane Betsy loan.

PATROLMAN THOMAS RUSH, 31, four years' service, 658 N. Pierce. He still is at large and sought on one count.

FORMER PATROLMAN JOSEPH DUTSCH, 26, 207 Vine, Metairie. He still is at large and sought on eight counts.

PATROLMAN ROLAND MOLINARIO, 34, 4913 Kawanee, Metairie, 11 years' service, arrested at his home at midnight and booked on two counts.

PATROLMAN PETER BACHEMIN, 24, of Chalmette, five years' service, at large and sought on three counts.

PATROLMAN WILLIAM SEWELL, 38, 2109 Carnot, 15 years' service, not arrested because he is hospitalized, but charged on one count.

PATROLMAN RONALD MADERE, 27, 6002 Chef Menteur Highway, four years' service, arrested at 11:10 p. m. at 715 S. Broad and booked on one count.

FORMER PATROLMAN HAROLD LEJEUNE JR., 30, 880 City Park Ave., Apt. 7, at large and sought on one count.

ASHTON GEILING, 34, 335 Jane Place, a civilian, arrested there at 12:30 a. m. and booked on one count.

CAROLYN MARY SCARUFFI, 24, 1370 Aviators, a civilian, arrested there and booked with possession of stolen property and illegal possession of barbiturates.

The eight men suspended from the police department for violations of departmental regulations, Giarrusso said, are:

gar

2 October 1969

PATROLMAN JOHN HOSTY, 29, five years' service, 3001 Blanchard Drive, Chalmette.

PATROLMAN CARL SAIZAN, 36, 11 years' service, 2616 Dauterive Drive, Chalmette.

PATROLMAN WALTER WEYSHAM, 34, 13 years' service, 7724 Marquis.

Turn to Page 6, Column 1

Continued from Page 1

PATROLMAN ANTHONY ALFONSO, 26, six years' service, 1704 Elysian Fields Ave.

PATROLMAN ANTHONY MICHEU, 22, four years' service, 1820 Karl, Arabi.

PATROLMAN MANFRED BYE, 25, four years' service, 5318 St. Anthony.

PATROLMAN JOHN BERNARD, 26, four years' service, 1616 Princeton.

DESK SGT. JOSEPH DIECK JR., 30, nine years' service, 2514 Wytchwood, Metairie.

Mayor Victor H. Schiro said this is the second instance recently in which the city administration has initiated or taken appropriate disciplinary action where dereliction of duty has been found.

"It is always distressing when you learn that city employees are not performing their duties as they should," Schiro said.

"Whenever any city employe fails to perform his duty with honor and integrity, he or she must suffer the consequences."

Giarrusso said some of the offenses were committed while the men were in uniform and on duty, others while off duty. He said goods stolen included jewelry, television sets and other appliances, firearms and even foodstuffs. In some cases, they purchased property that had been stolen, he said.

THE SUPERINTENDENT SAID THE SCANDAL is a "distasteful thing. I think the public appreciates the fact that there has been no whitewash, no covering up of any dishonesty."

"It is quite unfortunate this had to happen but it has happened and we have taken action."

Giarrusso issued the following release:

"As the result of an investigation by the department of police and the subsequent investigative reports, which were turned over to the district attorney's office, 14 individuals, including police officers, former police officers and two civilians, were today charged with committing burglaries in the city of New Orleans. Some of the offenses date back to 1966. During the course of the investigation, which lasted over three months, eight additional men were suspended for violating departmental regulations.

"It is most disheartening for the department of police to make a news release involving its own personnel. One of the unfortunate aspects of this kind of investigation is the fact that it reflects upon every member of this department and every police officer wherever he may be because of the fact that a few violated a sacred trust that was placed in them by the people in this community.

"WHILE AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS KIND is never pleasant, the department, at no time, has deviated from its policy of handling its own problems and investigations without outside prodding. One of our prime considerations is to preserve the integrity of the department.

"The vast majority of our police officers are proud and satisfied that we have done the job ourselves and still carry on our responsibilities as the law enforcement arm in this community.



"Despite this unpleasantness, we are hopeful that our candor will continue to merit public support and confidence.

"Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison was apprised of this investigation from its inception and assigned First Asst. DA James Alcock and Asst. DA Mike Karmazan to assist the department.

"They have been most cooperative in this endeavor.

"The investigation began on July 3, 1969, when former Patrolmen Guy Hippler, 26, residing 4729 Majestic Oaks

Drive, and John Perez, 23, residing 235 Central Ave., Apt. 9, Jefferson Parish, were dismissed from the department as a result of the theft of \$440 while they were investigating a vandalism complaint at the Little General Store, 4137 South Carrollton Ave. The two men are presently under criminal charges and Hippler is at this time appealing his dismissal to the Civil Service Commission

"A SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION INTO the possible misconduct of other officers led to the uncovering of information which indicated criminal activities on the part of additional police officers.

"The in-depth investigation consumed hundreds of man hours of extensive interviews, polygraph examinations and field surveillances.

"As the investigation progressed some of our police officers were most cooperative and helpful, including men who came into the Detective Bureau on their own when they heard about the investigation and offered their services.

"Sources unknown to the department disclosed to some elements of the news media that an investigation of police officers was being pursued.

"A premature disclosure at this point would have been most detrimental. Several of the local news agencies made inquiries regarding this investigation. They were given a brief synopsis of the essential facts and were requested to bear with us until we could complete the investigation. Time and security were most essential at this juncture. Very fortunately the news media cooperated as a public service. For this we are most gratified.

"WITH A GREAT DEGREE OF HUMILITY, we are hopeful that the citizens of this community understand how painful a public disclosure of this type is, and how seriously it affects the good men of this department, and their families.

"We are aware that this type of disrespect for the laws of our community, committed by the very people who are charged with the responsibility of enforcing those laws, must necessarily cause the public, which we serve, some great concern. I think it is important to remember that these crimes, committed by police officers, were also discovered by police officers, reported by police officers, investigated by police officers and the perpetrators arrested and charged by police officers.

"We state publicly that we are continuing to pursue all investigative leads. We shall not be satisfied until we have ferreted out every criminal and individual who is not entitled to wear the uniform of a police officer."