

Four arrested for holding prisoners, stealing checks

United Press International BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Three men and a woman were arrested Monday on charges they held eight men prisoner at a fenced-in house, some for as long as five years, and forced them to sign over social secur-

ity and disability checks. Kern County sheriff's deputies made the arrests after one of the victims scaled the fence and went to authorities. The men, who ranged in age from 46 to 72, told deputies they were

lured to a three-bedroom house, thinking it was a convalescent home. Once there, they said, they were not allowed to leave.

One told deputies he was beaten. "We found several rooms with locked windows" where the men were apparently kept at night, said Capt. Gary Baker.

During the day, he said, they were apparently allowed outside in a yard surrounded by a high fence. One of the men escaped Monday when he was boosted to the top of the fence by some of the others, deputies said.

Arrested were Houston Walker, 37, Mildred Walker, 57, Willard Morgan, 31, all of Bakersfield, and Eddie Robertson, 56, of Arvin, Calif.

They were charged with conspiracy, assault, extortion and false imprisonment and held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

nation

Gritting and grinding teeth becoming national epidemic

United Press International PORTLAND, Ore. — The nation may be in the throes of an epidemic of bruxism — the grinding, gritting or clenching of teeth.

Once it was thought to plague mainly schoolteachers. Now, it is showing up everywhere.

Bruxism is caused, said University of Oregon Health Science dentists and medics, by stress — the same thing that can frazzle your nerves, erode your fingernails and cramp up

your intestines.

"I've treated people who were suicidal" because of severe pathological effects, said Dr. William Howard, chairman of the School of Dentistry's department of fixed prosthodontics.

"In dental school in the 1940s," Howard said. "We were taught that bruxism was common to schoolteachers. But goodness, nowadays in our society the stresses of our jobs and personal relationships and so forth all contribute to it."

Almost everybody is a victim of bruxism, he said, and it is an unconscious habit.

"I tell patients frequently that our muscles tighten as we become tense," he said, "and this includes our chewing muscles which bring our teeth together. Then we start to brace on our teeth or rub them or clench them. This can be the beginning of some very serious problems."

By literally grinding away parts of teeth, Howard said, bruxism can

cause malocclusion — imperfect alignment of teeth when the jaw is closed — which in turn can contribute to worse problems, such as:

Morning fatigue in the jaw; sensitivity to cold in the teeth; pain in the teeth; breaking and loosening of teeth; pain in the jawbone; clicking of the chewing joint; sensitivity in the gum area to toothbrushing; muscle spasms by the ear and along the side of the head; headaches, and sore muscles in the neck and upper back.

Many dentists believe that bruxism contributes to problems in the gums and bones supporting the teeth.

Howard says the syndrome is closely tied to stress, some patients may need to seek help from a psychiatrist's couch as well.

Dr. Mario DeStefanis, a dentist, said there are three major techniques for treating bruxism.

One is selective grinding of "high spots" on teeth. A second is use of a plastic bite plane, which patient wears to bed since about 90 percent of tooth grinding occurs while a person is sleeping. A third method for treating more serious cases is to reshape or reconstruct biting surfaces with crowns or

USED GOLD WANTED!

Cash paid or will swap for Aggie Ring Diamonds.

diamond brokers international, inc.

693-1647

Sun Theatres

333 University

846-9808

The only movie in town

Double-Feature Every Week

10 a.m.-2 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fri.-Sat.

No one under 18

Ladies Discount With This Coupon

BOOK STORE & 25¢ PEEP SHOWS



In 1956, another tradition at Texas A&M University was introduced. November 6 of that year, the College of Agriculture held its first Agricultural Convocation sponsored by the Ag Council and Alpha Zeta. The event was held in Guion Hall, long since a part of history at Texas A&M.

The following school year, the event was held in the spring where it has been held every year since.

This year's 24th annual Agricultural Convocation is valued for the same reasons it was in 1956.

The outstanding freshman, sophomore and junior in the College are selected and recognized. The top one percent of the seniors are given Senior Merit Awards for their outstanding contributions in terms of grades, leadership and activities. The Honor Professor in the College is recognized for his outstanding qualities in student relations and teaching. And the Gavel Award is presented to the technical club in the College with the best percentage of attendance at Convocation. Each year a speaker is featured as a part of the program.

This year Convocation will be held April 7 in Rudder Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. The speaker is E. de la Garza, a representative to the United States Congress from the 15th Congressional District of Texas.

Everyone is invited to attend. Bring your friends and enjoy an evening honoring Agriculture's finest.

United Press International PALMER, Alaska — Only 15,000 of Alaska's 374.6 million acres are under cultivation — about 0.00004 percent.

Yet, like much rural land in North America, these precious plots of productivity are being urbanized at a rapid pace.

In Alaska, this is occurring primarily in the Matanuska, a lush valley between the Talkeetna and Chugach ranges, less than a one-hour drive northeast from Anchorage.

The Matanuska was turned into a Shangri-la a little less than a half century ago by 202 Dust Bowl refugees sponsored by Uncle Sam. Even the transplanted midwesterners, used to corn as high as an elephant's eye, were amazed at what they could produce in this 10-by-60-mile valley during a 108-day growing season. Not the least of these achievements were cabbages weighing up to 72 pounds.

Ten years ago, 13,500 acres were being farmed in the Matanuska and the bottomland along the lower reaches of the Susitna River just 30 miles or so over the hills west of Palmer. At that time, the "Mat-Su," as the borough embracing these two belts of fertility is called, provided 90 percent of Alaska's locally produced milk, 78 percent of its livestock and 70 percent of its crops.

Six years later farmland in this area had dwindled to 11,500 acres. And the drop continues as Anchorage grows and its residents seek less

crowded conditions or home ownership. Officials of the Mat-Su borough say that at the current rate of urbanization, most of the commercial farmland in the area may be gone within 10 years.

During each of the last four years, approximately 4,000 acres in Mat-Su have been subdivided and offered for sale, mostly in one- and half-acre lots. Although the money has caused a slowdown in estate and house building, officials say this area is in immediate danger of becoming a "bedroom community" without a tax base to support it.

There are about 40,000 parcels of land in the borough. More than 50 percent are owned by people who do not reside on these parcels.

One reason farmers have been selling their land, other than the fact that they can get a good price for it, is that the cost of farming is so high they can't compete in the market with imported products.

Imports are coming into the area in higher volume. In many cases, imported food is cheaper on grocery shelves than local products in season.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service has identified approximately 1 million acres in Alaska as having great cultural potential. But its development for large scale agriculture appears unlikely without a substantial increase in population. Perhaps, guaranteed markets in the Orient.

KATHLEEN MILLER

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FAHRENHEIT 451



THURSDAY APRIL 3 7:30 and 9:45

601 RUDDER 75 cents

(MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE)