

## 28 'Hips' Nabbed In Death Valley, Goler Wash Raids

A mountain settlement of hippy - type individuals was broken up, at least temporarily, in a series of raids in the remote areas of Death Valley National Monument last weekend.

A combined force of lawmen, including California Highway Patrolmen, California Dept. of Fish and Game officers, Inyo County sheriff's deputies and park rangers arrested 28 persons, including eight men and 20 women, on October 10 and 12.

In addition, two babies, aged one year and one month, respectively, were taken to Southern Inyo Hospital for care and treatment.

Most of the arrests were in the vicinity of the Myers and Barker ranches (now abandoned), located 21 miles west of Badwater in Goler Wash. According to Robert Murphy, supt. of Death Valley National Monument, there was evidence that the suspects were planning to establish "a haven where they could move large groups of people."

"We anticipate others may arrive there," said Murphy, but added that his staff intends to keep the area under close surveillance.

The raids followed hard on the heels of a disclosure, before the Inyo County board of supervisors last week, that a car - theft ring was hiding out in the mountains of the national monument and had already evaded one raid.

At the same time, residents of Death Valley asked the county supervisors to station a deputy sheriff in their area to provide full - time protection. They said the remoteness of their area made it an ideal hide - out for criminal elements which, it was reported, were already populating the region.

The combined force of lawmen moved onto the area at

daybreak last Friday, and began making arrests almost immediately. Among the first to be arrested was Charles Manson, wanted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office for investigation of a murder charge.

Manson was reported to have vowed not to be taken alive, but officers said he surrendered meekly. He was hiding under a sink when the lawmen pushed open the door of what had been an abandoned cabin, Murphy reported.

The car - theft ring was reported to be equipped with electronic communicating devices which had enabled them to avoid capture last month. Friday, lawmen found three observation posts dug into the hillsides, one of which was equipped with a walkie-talkie telephone.

The long - haired colonists were found to be living in abandoned cabins, gullies and canyons. The two infants were found with a group of women in one of the canyons.

Two juvenile women, who surrendered to lawmen as they were leaving the area, were held under provisions of section 601 of the Welfare and Indigent Code.

At the same time, officers recovered three Volkswagen dune buggies and one Toyota, all of which are believed to have been stolen.

Two days later, on Sunday, the officers returned to the area and arrested 11 suspects, including five men and six women, also described as "hippy-type individuals."

Supt. Murphy described Manson, the suspect wanted in Los Angeles, as the leader of the hippy colony, but he doubted they could last the winter in the mountains because of the cool weather.

Elevation of the Baker and Myers ranches is 3,200 feet

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