

2 gunmen sought in kidnapping

Two gunmen who kidnapped a 75-year-old Midway Drive restaurant owner and escaped after shooting at California Highway Patrol officers Friday night were still being sought by police yesterday.

Helge Hansen, owner of Nordic Inn at 3577 Midway Drive, was not injured during the ordeal, during which at times he was shut into his car trunk while the suspects drove around.

Hansen had just locked up the restaurant at 9:20 p.m. when the two, one carrying a 12-gauge shotgun, approached him and forced him into his 1988 BMW, police spokesman Bill Robinson.

The pair, a white man in his late 30s and a black man in his late 20s, drove to La Jolla, and ordered Hansen into the car trunk. The gunmen drove on to North County, where Hansen was allowed to return to the passenger area, Robinson said.

As they traveled on Interstate 8 near Sports Arena Boulevard, two highway patrol officers attempted to pull over the driver for suspected drunken driving.

The BMW stopped and the passenger got out and fired the shotgun three times at officers Phil Konstantin and Robert Smith, Robinson said. The officers were not hit, but one blast punctured their car radiator, disabling the vehicle.

The suspects drove to the 3000 block of Rue D'Orleans in Pacific Beach, where they shut Hansen into the trunk again and abandoned the car.

Hansen shouted for help and made other noises for nearly half an hour before a passer-by freed him.



The San Diego Union/Dave Siccardi

Seniors are served a nourishing meal at the Senior Community Center.

bottle of muscatel —
new realities.

account for 5 to 8 per-
cent of the homeless popula-
tion. Most of the homeless are
men. Women fleeing abusu-
s comprise the bal-
ance, authorities have

young children —
young segment — make
up 10 percent of the county's
homeless population. Still, it is espe-
cially people who, when
property taxes, ris-
ing or a surge in rental
prices are simply unable to
pay rent.

any day you can find
long lines, at Jack In
at McDonald's," said
the director of the Regional
Office of the Homeless. "It's
hard to eat there, but
at least, a cheeseburger is

percent, according to the California
Association of Realtors. Supplemental
Security Income (SSI) and Social
Security benefits increased only 43
percent during the same period.

"We've got people here who are
simply poor and on the streets be-
cause there is no affordable hous-
ing," said Anne Gillespie Brown, ex-
ecutive director of the Senior Com-
munity Center.

Until recently, housing choices
available to the poor in San Diego
had been steadily shrinking due to
redevelopment of low-income neigh-
borhoods.

By the late 1970s, more than 1,000
older residential-hotel units were
lost in San Diego due to develop-
ment. Thirty percent of this housing
provided shelter to seniors — and
their forced displacement created a
new homeless class.

In recent years, however, the city
has been receiving favorable reviews

for creating new housing for the
homeless, without the use of tax dol-
lars, according to Judith Lenthall, a
city senior-housing planner.

Through relaxed zoning codes that
allow more units per building, pri-
vate developers are building addi-
tional "single-room occupancy hot-
els," or SRO units, to replace those
lost.

While the 100- to 200-square-foot
units — some are as large as 500
square feet — are being touted as the
cheapest form of housing available,
critics have said the rents are often
beyond the financial means of the
elderly poor. SRO rooms that were
once viewed with disdain are now
considered acceptable housing by
tourists and minimum-wage service
workers.

A Senior Community Centers sur-
vey indicated that seniors spend
from \$270 to \$400 a month on SROs.