



**CRUISING** around at night, Bob gets police calls on his radio, chases police to scene of crime, accident, etc.

# Flash! Scoop!

Photos by Harold Garb



**H**USKY 18-YEAR-OLD Bob Nakamura's photographic enterprise has led him through a gamut of slain kidnapers, bloody auto accidents, sensational Hollywood studio fires. Although he's scarcely out of high school (John Marshall, Los Angeles), his several scoops have been on the front page of the Los Angeles Examiner and carried nationally by the International News Service.

Bob is a free lance news photographer. His car is equipped to receive police calls. Nightly, he and young reporter friends cruise the city, chasing the police when a likely report comes through.

The other month, the words crackled out: "Code 5, Code 5" (that meant the police had staked out a danger area, blocking in the criminal). Bob and his companion sped to Los Angeles' Wilshire District. Minutes later, he had his picture: the sprawled figure of a dope-addled kidnapper, dying on the street, a police-bullet in his head, a spent gun at the heels. The photo hit the L. A. Examiner's front page.

In the daytime, Bob's a copy boy at the Los Angeles Examiner. He distributes the mail, picks up copy from the various desks, sees that everyone has enough carbon and paper (every news story has to have 6 carbon copies), checks with the Western Union when the editor queries for more information on a teletyped story, keeps pencils sharpened for all—in short, a fast mov-

ing handy man.

It's all part of developing a journalistic career that began in Maaznar when his grade-school essay "Camp Christmas" was printed in Collier's magazine. He's all set for college; he has a \$12,500 scholarship to take him through 4 years of Pepperdine College, a few miles from Los Angeles.

The scholarship is a first prize award of the Los Angeles Examiner, given to the high-school senior with the highest all-around score on 1) grades, 2) a story on "Why I like the Los Angeles Angels" (a local ball team), 3) an on-the-spot coverage of an actual ball game, 4) service in the Scholastic Sports Association (a group of school editors and reporters covering scholastic sports for the Examiner).

Bob's first BIG one was a million dollar fire, the burning of the Columbia Motion Picture Studio near Hollywood's Sunset Blvd. and Vine Street. It was late at night; he and friends happened to be passing when they saw the first shooting flames; he had his camera. No reporter or photographer had yet arrived. But Bob was just scared and timid enough (he was 15) that he had to be pushed from behind by his friends into the Studio lot. Once inside, he was all right, and he started to take the best pictures of the fire.

His mother, Sumiko Nakamura (she's from Contra Costa) worries of course

**COPY BOY** Bob Nakamura at Los Angeles Examiner gets call from editor Conrad Baker. At night Bob becomes free lance news photographer.

## 少年報導記者

わずか十八歳のハイスクール生徒の身で、一万二千ドルの全国最大のスカラシップをせしめ九月からベバダイン大学に入学する日系青年がある—コンツラ・コスタ郡出身のバブ・中村君。

同君は、ハイスクール在学中に報導写真に興味をもち、その敏捷な感覚と行動で代表的な二作品をつくつたが、これがロスアンゼルス・エキザミナー紙に注目される因となつた。同紙は同君がスポーツ・アソシエーションのメンバーであつたところから、学歴・ストーリーの課題のほかに、大リーグ野球戦に派遣して報導写真を撮らせた結果このスカラシップ授與を決した。

同スカラシップは、大学新聞科四年間の授業料、宿料、食料の全部を保証するものであるが、新聞経営発行の全メカニズムに通曉せしめることを条件としている。同君母堂メリー・すみ子さんは、この幸運をよろこびながらも「椿事現場にでかけられると心配でなりません」と、さすがに親心の深さを語られているそうである。

(前頁) ボリス・ステーションからのニュースを受信する特別のカーで、椿事現場にかけつけるバブ君。

(上) エキザミナー紙夕刊主筆、コンラッド・ペーカー氏に「ボーイ」の役をつとめるバブ君 (次頁上) エキザミナー紙に日当り一トンを配達されるメールの整理にもあたるバブ君、(次頁下) 出世作となつた二つの報導写真、上—一九五四年の話題となつたTVスター・トニー・カーティス君の遭難(同君重傷、夫人即死)の現場、下—ミリオン・ダラ火災といわれたコロムビア映画撮影所の現場。

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about Bob's late hours. He didn't get home until 4 A.M. on the morning of that fire. He tried reassuring her with a big note posted to his door: "I got *front page Examiner*—Columbia Fire." As for his driving, Bob says, "Mother, seeing what we see with smashed cars, we're always careful."

A level-headed young man, he's quickly acquiring that shade of brashness which marks a news photographer. He will continue as copy boy at the Examiner while he attends college. At the end of 4 years, his college degree will be rounded out by his knowledge of every hook, slot, and pencil sharpener in the editorial offices of the Los Angeles Examiner.



**BOB'S DAYTIME** duties include sorting mail. At night he photos movie studio fire (bottom) and disemboweled Jaguar of Hollywood couple.

*Photo, L.A. Examiner*



*Photo, L.A. Examiner*

