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she has spoken to a new doctor, one who works exclusively with old people. The new doctor says that Erma's "symptoms" can be treated with a new drug therapy. A combination of analgesic drugs has been found that can alter the chemistry of the brain to bridge "psychotic breaks" like the one Erma is experiencing. Of course, Erma will have to be moved to a hospital during this treatment, where she will receive "continual observation" until her "condition" can be "stabilized."  
Erma Henke listens to this with an

redhead who turned 40 on her last birthday. She had been a dancer, an off-Broadway actress, a New York bartender and a Florida shopkeeper before she "burned out on the pursuit of fame and fortune."  
She describes herself as having been "recycled" into a career working with old people.  
"I reached a point where I knew I wasn't going to be young anymore, and what I wanted was something that made

underside of her chin with the fingers of both hands.  
"A one, a two, a three ..."  
Judith points in the other direction, toward a very old woman sitting alone in a straight-backed chair, leaning forward on a cane, beside the front door. The woman's hair is so thin it looks like a vapor ~~and her~~ narrow face is somber in a way that is beyond anything  
Randy Sullivan/A-16, Col. 1

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# One-man video warehouse held in theft

## Beverly Hills police put \$500,000 worth of gear on display

By Paul Wilner  
Herald staff writer

A man who helped run a Beverly Hills television news service has been charged with grand theft for allegedly stealing more than \$500,000 in expensive video and photographic equipment, authorities said yesterday.

Sophisticated motion picture cameras, video equipment, electric typewriters and computers confiscated from the home of Ronald George Levin, 41, were on display at a news conference conducted by Beverly Hills police yesterday in the garage of that city's library.

Lt. William Hunt, a spokesman for the department, estimated the total value of the confiscated merchandise at "between \$500,000 and \$1 million."

Levin was arrested Friday on four counts of grand theft after an investigation of allegations that he had been "borrowing or buying video and photographic equipment and not returning or paying for it," Hunt said.

Levin had been "acquiring expensive video and photographic equipment to use in the production of a TV pilot film called 'The Reporter,'" Hunt said, adding that Levin had allegedly neither paid for nor returned the equipment.

Levin told authorities he was self-employed at Network News Inc., on Camden Drive in Beverly Hills, an independent company that supplies free-lance news segments to TV stations.

His lawyers denied the grand theft allegations.

"Basically, this is a case where merchants have attempted to use the police



Beverly Hills detectives inspect some of the allegedly stolen electronic equipment.

department as a collection agency," Regis Possino, one of Levin's attorneys, said yesterday outside a bail reduction hearing before Beverly Hills Municipal Judge Andrew Weisz. "They have taken a private civil matter and created an aura of criminal wrongdoing, which does not exist."

After criticizing what he called Levin's "chutzpah," Weisz reduced the defendant's bail from \$250,000 to \$75,000. Levin is scheduled to be arraigned today.

Don Steier, another member of Levin's legal team, said Beverly Hills police allegedly confiscated "a lot of equipment" that was not covered by the search warrant from the defendant's home.

But police said the equipment had been confiscated in order to determine its

rightful owner.

"During the search of Mr. Levin's home, approximately half of the equipment was recovered," Hunt said. "Various pieces of expensive computer equipment were found during the search and were confiscated until ownership is determined."

"The investigation ... revealed information that Mr. Levin was intending to sell some or all of the equipment," he added. "This intent makes the actions of Mr. Levin a criminal offense."

Police said they embarked on the investigation after complaints from merchants, including the Panasonic Corp., the C.S.F. Manufacturing Co., RCA, and the Garden Photo Co. of Los Angeles, that Levin had allegedly taken their goods without payment.

HERALD EXAMINER 12-28-83

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