

'KEY' AIDS RAID IN CHINATOWN

*Battering Ram of Highbinder
Days Back in Use*

*Detectives Arrest Six Men
and One Woman*

*Opium and Smoking Outfits
Found With Suspects*

Rusty, but still as deadly a little persuader as ever, the "key to Chinatown," after lying unused at Central Police Station for six years, was used again yesterday by a squad of detectives of the police narcotic squad to smash their way into an asserted opium-smoking den at 335½ Apablaza street.

The battering ram, facetiously called the "key to Chinatown," was used often in the days when Chinatown was infested by fighting tongs, opium parlors and lotteries. Then the two chief fighting tongs, the Bing Kong and Hop Sing tongs, had their eye teeth pulled by the police, systematized lotteries, operated under the supervision of highbinders, vanished with other picturesque habits of the old oriental quarter, and the heavy iron "key" was laid on the shelf.

The raid yesterday morning netted six men and one woman, all Chinese, confiscation of several opium-smoking outfits, and half a dozen toys of the narcotic syrup.

Working on previously obtained information, Detective Lieutenants Boshardt and Brown of the police narcotic squad and State Inspector Upright slipped into Chinatown just at dawn. Parking their automobile and carrying the "key" between them, they rushed into the old two-story brick building housing, according to their reports, the Woo family.

The peaceful night hush still lay over the ancient quarter. One lone figure of a Chinaman moved indistinctly in the half light of dawn.

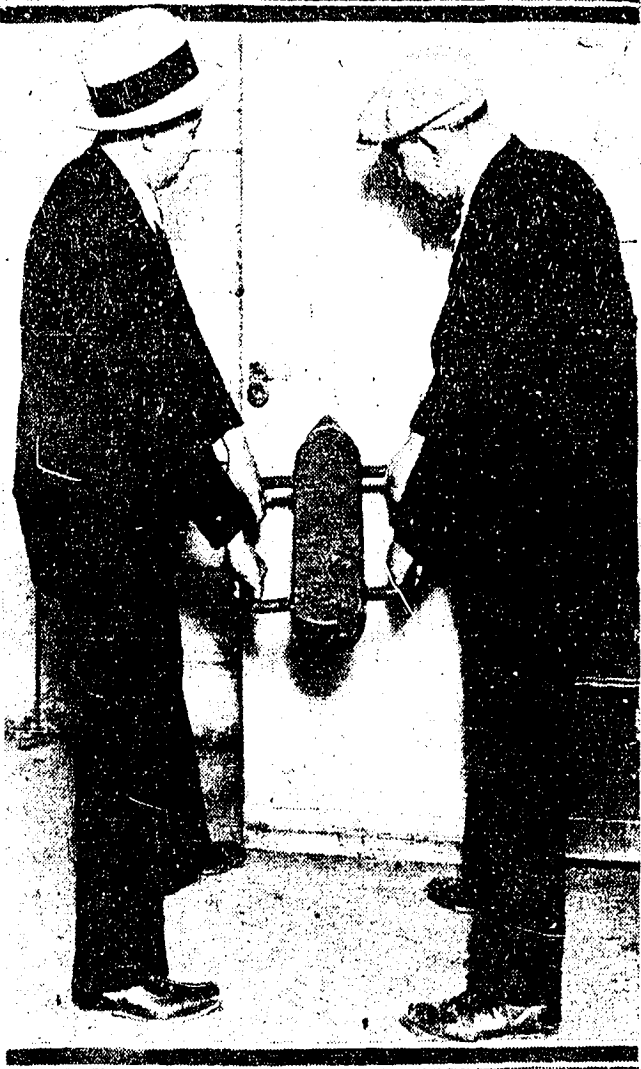
Suddenly the silence was shattered with the resounding crash of the battering ram against heavy pine doors. A second and a third time the smashing sound echoed through the dim alleyways. Then not even a lone figure could be seen in the deserted streets.

The detectives stumbled through the smashed doors and into a room filled with a heavy fog of smoke.

The atmosphere was heavy with the sweet, pungent odor of burning opium. One of the officers found an electric light switch and in an instant the room was flooded with light.

But the detectives were not quick enough. They reported that at least \$2000 worth of opium had been thrown into the sewer before they

Oriental Secrets Yield to Police Key



They Make Their Own Keyhole
Detective Lieutenants George A. Brown and Harry Boshardt with "Key to Chinatown."

could round up the occupants of the room.

Those arrested gave the following names: Mrs. Wong Shee, 45 years of age, of 333½ Apablaza street; Moo Mee, 35, of the same address; Woo Sing, 36, and Woo Doo of 801 Juan street; Long Sing, 33, of San Fernando; Hon Thake, 38, and Woo Wing, 35. All were booked on suspicion of violating the State Poison Act.