

## Teen-age Runaways Increasing Delinquency Problem, Says D. A.

Fred N. Howser, district attorney, warned today that the juvenile delinquency problem in Los Angeles county is being seriously augmented by the steady flow of girls and boys pouring into the city as runaways from the Midwest and East.

"Each day the problem grows more serious—the Travelers Aid reports handling 50 per cent more runaway girls and 100 per cent more runaway boys now than in 1942 and this figure grows larger each month," Howser discloses.

Los Angeles county has become the reception center for "floating youth" from all over the country, according to the district attorney. "Our juvenile detention hall is filled each night with young teenagers arrested as vagrants on our city streets simply because they have nowhere else to go," Howser explains.

### Arrive By Hundreds

"They arrive by the hundreds each month with empty pockets and no place to stay. They are attracted by the promise of high wages in the aircraft industry, not realizing that they lack sufficient technical training to qualify. The young girls follow movements of troops here, only to arrive and find that their soldier boy friends have been sent overseas and then are

stranded penniless," Howser says.

The district attorney reveals that a survey taken in Jefferson high school discloses that approximately one-third of their new students are arriving in Los Angeles alone without parents or guardian.

Howser feels that the alarming feature of this situation is that this one-way surge of juvenile migration is happening to a locality which can barely house its own people. "There is absolutely no place for these young people to stay, even though they may perhaps be able to find jobs. We have no adequate supervised boarding facilities to house them."

### Homeless Girls

These "floating youth" are our future potential delinquents, Howser declares. "Homeless girls who must spend their nights in Main st. all night shows soon fall into bad company. Boys who must pass their time in the streets quickly learn the ways of the streets and become members of roving, marauding gangs."

### Cites Example

Handicapped by wartime shortages of staff, authorities lack sufficient personnel to locate all these homeless boys and girls, the district attorney warns. "The great majority of them are loose in the city without any sort of guidance," Howser says. He cites as an example of the alarming increase in the army of floating teenagers, the fact that during the last school year one attendance car for the city schools was able to pick up 7,000 children of school age in the downtown metropolitan area alone, as compared to 2000 for previous years.

Albiss after an accident never erase the sorrow which the accident brings. Stop accidents before they stop you, advises the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

## Movie Contract



Twenty-year-old Chris Drake has orders for a new theater of operations. A Marine Corps veteran of Guadalcanal, Midway and Makin, and holder of the Purple Heart and Presidential Citation for Bravery, he received approval of seven-year contract with RKO Studios after honorable discharge from Marine Corps.

## Howser Explains Giving Prisoners Induction Chance

Fred N. Howser, district attorney, reported today that 49.22 per cent of all cases handled by the Army induction division of his office have been accepted for military service.

Under a plan inaugurated by Howser, men who are jailed for minor offenses who are not habitual criminals are given an opportunity to enter the armed services.

The district attorney maintains liaison with the Army, Navy, Marine and Merchant Marine induction and recruiting services. If the men are acceptable after their records have been investigated and they qualify physically, they are paroled from the county jail and released to the military authorities, Howser explained.

During December, 1943, a total of 94 cases were handled by this wartime division. This total included 128 men of the armed services released to their respective authorities; 190 men serving county jail sentences released for induction; five men serving county jail sentences paroled to the Merchant Marine. A total of 116 of the men who applied were rejected for military service and 464 cases handled whose status at present makes them unable to be processed for military service, Howser reveals.

Howser disclosed that the plan, the first of its kind, has met with the full approval of military authorities who have cooperated closely to make possible the placing of men who are first offenders and free from a history of criminal tendencies into the armed services.

Approximately 3,000,000 pounds of clothing and textiles have been sent to Russia this year through Russian War Relief, one of 17 war relief and welfare causes united in the California War Chest.

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## Pacific Coast Aircraft Goal Set for 1944

The Pacific coast aircraft industry has set its sights at building 225,000 tons of airplanes in 1944, in response to President Roosevelt's call for a "invasion year" production equivalent to a 56 per cent increase by weight. The year 1943 ended with 191,480 warplanes and spares—26,636 planes, according to Claude Ryan, president of the Aircraft War Production Council.

"If labor turnover can be kept—and it will be, as certainly as will Hitler and Tojo—there should be no difficulty in beating our 1944 production quotas," Ryan said.

## L. A. County Grand Jury Completes Work

The Los Angeles county grand jury finished its term of office on Jan. 1 according to Supervisor Oscar Haug, after devoting a great deal of their time to the alarming problem of juvenile delinquency in the county. The jury recommended that the district attorney set up a special bureau for the purpose of investigating all juvenile delinquency cases, and prosecuting any adult or parent who is responsible for contributing to the delinquency of any such children who are brought before the juvenile court.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, and in conformity with the urgent request of the district attorney, the Board of Supervisors ordered the county counsel to prepare an ordinance authorizing the employment of a special counsel to head such a bureau, so that the program may be initiated as soon as possible.

Dist. Atty. Howser stated that the new office would be someone other than a deputy in his office, but made no announcement of his choice.

## Christmas Seal Sales Reach Highest Mark

The most successful Christmas Seal sale in its history is being completed this month according to Bernard C. Brennan, president of the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Assn. and chairman of the combined Christmas Seal fund, which raises funds for both city and county tuberculosis work. He said \$241,143.76 has been received to date as compared to \$175,158.27 for the same period last year. This is an increase of \$65,985.49. Subscribers who have not yet taken time to send in the money for their Christmas seals are urged to do so at once so that final returns may be tabulated and the budget planned for the coming year's work.

## Selectees Report to Board for Induction

Approximately 27 selectees, plus two for limited service, presented themselves at the Torrance Civic Auditorium this morning at 8:45 o'clock for induction into the armed forces of the United States through Selective Service Board 250.

This was the 44th call and the Board quota had been set at 44, Doris Watson, clerk of the Board, advised.

## He Is 81



Connie Mack, the grand old man of baseball, was 81 on Dec. 23. Mr. Mack has been autographing baseballs to send to wounded service men the past week.

## L. A. County's Population Now 3,200,000

Civilian population of Los Angeles county for January, 1944, is 3,200,000, California Taxpayers' Assn. estimated today. This is an increase of about 414,000 or approximately 15 per cent over the 2,785,643 people in the county when the 1940 census was taken, the association stated. Population of the county for January, 1943, was 3,100,000.

Population of the state is estimated at 8,014,000 for January 1944. This is an increase of 1,007,000, or about 16 per cent over the 6,907,387 people shown by the April, 1940, census. Population of the state a year ago was estimated at 7,795,000.

"Communities with large war industries have drained manpower and population from many California counties," the association found. "While two counties, Contra Costa and Solano, have more than doubled in population since the census, 21 counties are estimated to have a smaller population for January, 1944, than they had when the census was taken."

Fifteen counties, Alameda, Contra Costa, Inyo, Lassen, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Shasta, and Solano, show increases in population of 15 per cent or more since the census, the association estimates.

Big ten counties in the state today, so far as population is concerned, are Los Angeles, 3,200,000; Alameda, 625,000; San Diego, 407,000; Contra Costa, 220,000; Santa Clara, 195,000; Sacramento, 191,000; Fresno, 190,000; San Bernardino, 182,000; and Orange, 152,000.

"Post-war planning should recognize the return to their old homes of many of the people who have gone to war industry areas to work," the association pointed out. "In ordinary times the growth of population in California has been widespread, with nearly all areas showing increases. After victory, population of many inflated war centers can be expected to drop back toward normal. Local government planning for the future should provide for such a trend in population."

## STORKatorials

Births reported during the past week of interest in this area include:  
At Community hospital, Long Beach:  
To Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Douglas, 26430 Ozone ave., Lomita, boy, Jan. 5.

## LICENSED TO WED

Included in the list of marriage licenses issued during the past week were the following:  
Rene E. Leimbach, 37, Wilmington, and Marion S. Carroll, 28, Torrance.  
Harold Larson, 43, Lomita, and Marie T. Johnson, 36, Torrance.  
Alfred J. Grabowski, 30, Long Beach, and Anna Belle Rhodes, 35, Torrance.

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## Fighting Men Paid Tribute By Phone Chief

N. R. Powley, president of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. and the Southern California Telephone Co., in commenting on the company's affairs in connection with the release of dividend checks for the fourth quarter, pays tribute to the millions of American youth on the war front, to the telephone men and women who fight shoulder to shoulder with them, and to the general public.

Mr. Powley's statement follows in part:

"The past year, with its many perplexing problems, has been one of the most active and strenuous periods ever experienced by our company. Accustomed as it is to rising to all emergencies, our organization met the challenge creditably and effectively. No task was too difficult. Notwithstanding the fact that as the year progressed our men and women had more to do with less to do it with, they, nevertheless, gave full expression to their high resolve to overcome all difficulties by their splendid performance in 'taking the message through.' We take justifiable pride in the accomplishments of our personnel who have outstandingly exemplified their devotion to duty and high morale throughout a most trying and critical year.

"With toll and long distance traffic at unprecedented peak volumes, the public, encountering service difficulties due to wartime restrictions and overcrowded circuits, has been most sympathetic and understanding in its cooperation. Service criticisms were the lowest of record. The company gratefully acknowledges and deeply appreciates the aid and assistance rendered by our customers during the past year which has been an important contribution to the company's all-out war effort.

"The preliminary earnings report (December estimated) for the fourth quarter sent to shareholders indicates that earnings per common share will approximate \$1.66 per share, or 12 cents less per share than the \$1.78 per share earned in the third quarter.

"The indicated net earnings per common share for the year will approximate \$6.70 as compared with \$6.19 per share for last year. Earnings for the fourth quarter and for the year do not, of course, reflect the increased tax expense which the forthcoming increased federal taxes may impose—it is estimated that the House bill tax proposals would increase the company's annual Federal taxes by approximately \$1,500,000—nor do the year's earnings reflect the annual going rate of the wage increases, approximating \$7,000,000, approval for which is required from the governmental authorities.

"It is of vital importance to the public, the employees and the investors that the credit position of the company be kept sound and secure. Confronted as it is with its present unprecedented tasks and faced as it is with tremendous postwar expenditures—now estimated to aggregate in the neighborhood of \$150,000,000 in addition to the regular construction programs—to restore plant margins, to meet the service requirements and to provide for the unfilled telephone demand, which is now pronouncedly increasing, as well as the demand for new installations, our company must have sufficiently adequate net income or both dividend and surplus requirements if the necessary funds may continue to be reasonably obtained not only to meet present pressing needs, but also to meet our deferred costs due to the war and to finance the now estimated huge postwar construction programs."

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**OBITUARY**  
WILLIAM JACKSON BRYE-ANS - Age 67 of 716 Amapola ave., passed away at the Torrance Memorial hospital Jan. 9. He had been a resident of the Torrance area about three years and was a carpenter by trade. He is survived by his wife, Florence Sophronia Bryeans; three daughters, Mrs. Pearl Greer, 716 Amapola ave., Torrance; Mrs. Leoma Dickson, and Opal Pinkerman of Santa Barbara; two brothers and two sisters residing in the middle west. Funeral rites were held yesterday, Jan. 12, in the Stone & Myers chapel, Rev. Harry Branton, pastor of the Torrance Methodist church, officiating. Interment followed in Inglewood Park cemetery.

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