

Coroner's Jury Blames Sailor in Car Crash Death New Adult Center Officers To Discuss Plans for Year

A coroner's jury Monday found sailor Donald Farris, 20, "probably criminally responsible" in the auto crash death of Mrs. Verona Volner, 29, mother of three children.

The crash occurred Feb. 2 at the intersection of 208th St. and Normandie Ave., 208th St. being synonymous with East Rd. at that point.

Mrs. Volner, who lived at 908 Del Amo Blvd., is survived by her husband and three sons. Her body was identified for the inquest by her brother, Stanley Ripley of Bellflower.

Farris has been held to answer on felony manslaughter charges and is due to appear for arraignment Feb. 17 in Long Beach Superior Court.

It was brought out by witnesses at the inquest, held at Stone and Myers Chapel, that Farris was probably criminally responsible in the crash because 1) he failed an intoximeter test given by investigating Los Angeles police officers; 2) He apparently drove through the stop sign when he saw the boulevard stop sign, but too late to stop.

He also said that he was about five or ten feet from the Volner car when he first saw it, and did not have time to stop.

Death was found to be caused by complications arising from a concussion of the brain. Mrs. Volner died at Harbor General Hospital on the day after the crash.

There were no skid marks on the pavement at the scene, Crawford testified.

Farris admitted drinking four or five bottles of beer prior to the accident, Crawford said, but denied drinking any of the whiskey in the bottle on the back seat.

Witnesses established that Mrs. Volner had stopped at the boulevard stop on 208th St., but that Farris failed to stop at the boulevard stop on Normandie.

The sailor told officers that he was traveling south on Normandie at about 35-40 miles per hour when he saw the boulevard stop sign, but too late to stop.

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First meeting of the newly-elected board of directors for the Torrance Adult Club will be held this evening beginning at 7 in the Recreation Department offices, 1347 El Prado, it was announced yesterday.

Presiding over the meeting will be Claude Martin, new president of the group. Other new officers expected to attend include James L. Daniels, first vice-president; Guy Hight, second vice-president; and a board members Clara Wiltmar, Robert Little, Albert Cox, Bob Teichman, Elsie Pyne, and H. M. Haynes.

The combined board of directors for the club numbers 11 and includes representatives to be appointed by the Recreation Commission and the Director of Recreation.

Among the matters to be discussed by the new board is the completion of the constitution and by-laws, appointment of secretary-treasurer, and completing incorporation of the club.

Nearly 50 adults from Torrance and surrounding communities have joined the new organization and more are joining every day, according to President Martin. A number of special events, trips, and tournaments are being planned by the group to take care of recreational needs for the adults in the club this spring and summer.

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