

FOUR DEAD, THREE HURT IN HOLIDAY ACCIDENTS IN HOME, ON HIGHWAYS

15 Jailed In Drunk Clean-Up

A newly married couple who was planning to move into a brand new home here was killed instantly in a head-on crash in Arizona, Thursday, and several persons were injured in local traffic accidents over the Christmas holidays.

And fifteen persons saw what the inside of a jail cell looks like, but all in all, police said Torrance drivers and pedestrians apparently heeded the warnings that those who drink shouldn't drive.

Dead are Francis R. Freeman, 28, and his wife, Pauline, 24, who were planning to move into a new house at 25714 High Cliff Dr. early next month. Also killed in the Arizona crash were Marvin Thurmond, 30, of Georgia, his wife, and 3-year-old daughter.

Fog Perils Drivers

Locally, things started out at a fast clip, Thursday, as heavy fog closed in on the area. Traffic men were called to handle accidents at a one-per-five minute rate during the morning hours.

Although many accidents were reported on local streets, only one involved serious injuries—a mishap Christmas night at Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St.

Injured were Reese J. Roberts, 70, and his wife, Minnie, 65, of 17399 Andreo Ave. Roberts suffered facial lacerations and possible internal injuries. Both were taken to Harbor General Hospital.

Police said they were passengers in a car driven by Kenneth L. Roberts, 46, of 1635 Crenshaw Blvd. It collided with a vehicle driven by Bruce V. Kramer, 21, of Los Angeles.

Head-On Crash

Escaping serious hurts in a spectacular head-on crash on Pacific Coast Hwy. and Roberts Rd. Christmas eve was Dr. Richard S. Murphy, 33, of 22402 Linda Dr. Police said his auto collided with a car driven by Elsie Z. Soothern, 68, of Long Beach.

Murphy received cuts on his face when his head rammed through the windshield, but he received hospitalization injuries.

Torrance policemen were out in force to nab traffic violators, and their efforts are credited with averting many injury highway accidents.

Other highway business—accidents and drunk arrests—kept officers busy over the holidays. Starting late Wednesday, here's the lowdown on investigations made on Torrance highways. Unmarked incidents are traffic accidents, with no injuries reported.

Wednesday
8:45 p.m.—Crenshaw Blvd. and 190th St.

Thursday
8:00 a.m.—Arrest drunk in auto.
7:35 a.m.—Hawthorne Ave. and Spruce St.
7:40 a.m.—Hawthorne Ave. and Garnet St.
7:45 a.m.—Hawthorne Ave. and 190th St.

8:15 p.m.—Arrest drunk in auto.
8:25 p.m.—Arrest drunk driver.

Friday
1:15 a.m.—Arrest drunk driver.
7:20 a.m.—Crenshaw and Sepulveda Blvds.
7:23 a.m.—Crenshaw Blvd. and 230th St.

8:10 a.m.—Redondo Beach Blvd. and Prairie Ave., with injuries.
8:10 a.m.—174th St. and Amie Ave.

8:15 a.m.—Pacific Coast Hwy. and Hawthorne Ave.
8:37 a.m.—Sepulveda Blvd. and Walnut St., with injuries.
9:24 a.m.—2654 Brian St., with (Continued on Page 2)

NAVY DEPOT ADDS SPACE

A ship of the seissors made an extra 17,000 feet of cold storage space available in the Torrance Naval Supply Depot at 2201 Washington Ave. last week.

The ribbon cutting ceremonies added space to store 200,000 additional pounds of meat and produce, expanding the total capacity to 3,175,000 pounds.

Work on the refrigerator was begun last October, and has a cement foundation insulated with redwood bark.

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Man, Wife Die in Home Fire

Death brought to close a quiet Christmas day celebration at a Torrance home, as a couple was found suffocated to death beside their beds, only two hours after retiring for the evening, Saturday night.

A cigarette believed left burning on an overstuffed chair started a fire which evidently led to the death of the pair.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital was Grady D. Dewbre, 54, and his wife, Dolores, 44, of 705 Acacia Ave.

Firemen said they were summoned to the house by a neighbor, Mrs. Clarence Green, and when they arrived, the Dewbres were lying on the sidewalk by a side door. A resuscitator squad attempted to revive the couple, while other firemen extinguished the blaze.

Retire Early

A brother of Mrs. Dewbre, Glenn Patterson, said the pair retired at about 6 p.m. He made up his bed in the living room, then went next door to the Green's who occupy the adjoining part of the duplex.

Shortly after 8 p.m., Green went outside and noticed smoke curling from around a rear window. He attempted to enter the front door, but was driven back by heat and smoke. The neighbor told firemen he ran to the backyard and saw Patterson leaning out a bedroom window, nearly overcome by smoke.

Green entered a back door and dragged all three outside where firemen found them. Patterson suffered a lacerated hand when he smashed out a window attempting to rescue his relatives.

The blaze was confined to a portion of the living room, decorated with traditional yule trimmings. Smoke damage throughout the house indicated the fire had been smoldering, and probably did not burst into flame until the door was opened.

Firemen said the blaze apparently consumed all of the oxygen in the house and the victims suffocated from lack of air. Dewbre was employed at the Torrance plant, Douglas Aircraft Co.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Stone and Myers Mortuary.

DMV Office To Suspend License Work

Drivers license renewals service of the Torrance office of motor vehicles will be suspended during the annual registration renewal period of Dec. 30 through Feb. 7, it was announced here this morning.

Leavitt Tudor, manager of the local office, said the anticipated heavy demand for registration during this period will force closing of this service. He said, however, that applications on file in the office will be processed during that period.

Anyone who will need to renew a drivers license during that time should complete the process before Dec. 30, Tudor advised.

Mayor Dreale Names Four

Reappointed to their posts on the city's Recreation Commission by Mayor Nicholas O. Dreale were Mrs. W. C. Boswell, Robert Wagner, Robert Almond, and Mrs. Herma Tillim.

Almond, Wagner, and Mrs. Boswell were appointed for three-year terms, and Mrs. Tillim was named for a two-year term. Mrs. Tillim was recently named to the commission to complete the term of Darwin Parrish, who resigned.

150 Holiday Baskets Distributed to Needy

More than 150 names for Christmas baskets were given out before Christmas, Chamber of Commerce Secretary Dale Isenberg said yesterday.

Baskets were distributed to various needy families in the area by local civic and social groups and by businesses, he said.

PV PENINSULA

Supervisors Study Zoning As City Eyes Annexation

The County Board of Supervisors last week heard arguments over the merits of proposed zoning plans for the Palos Verdes peninsula, but if Torrance annexes part of the area, their efforts may go for naught.

Discussion before the Supervisors centered around a 15.3 square mile area including all county territory on the peninsula, with a population of about 2800. The Torrance City Council is currently pondering proposals that it annex some 10 square miles of this territory which is now unincorporated.

Want Bigger Lots
Members of the Rancho Palos Verdes Protective Assn. through Robert S. Craig, coordinator, protested portions of a proposed W. Chace plan calling for minimum lot sizes down to 9000 square feet. They argued that no lot should be smaller than 20,000 square feet.

The peninsula is an area of rural living," Craig told the Board of Supervisors.

LeRoy Garrett, counsel for the Great Lakes Carbon Corp., and Capital Co. owners of the land which Torrance is considering for annexation, said he will present his views in more detail at the next hearing, Feb. 18.

The debate grew out of a request by the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. to operate a diatomaceous earth pit on Radar Hill. The zone investigation was started on motion of County Supervisor Burton W. Chace.



FATAL FIRE... Firemen inspect for glowing embers soon after extinguishing a fire which claimed the lives of two people Christmas night. Dead from suffocation were Grady D. Dewbre, 54, and his wife Dolores, 44. They were asleep in an adjoining bedroom. Firemen are, from left, Captain Gordon Northington, Fire Marshal Bob Lucas, standing, and Fireman Gene Langford.

Accident Keeps Salvation Army Lady from Work

Persons stopping by the Torrance Post Office may have missed a familiar face this year—that of Rose Kirchner, who for many years rang the bell for the Salvation Army there.

Miss Kirchner, who lives at 1048 Byram in Los Angeles was injured earlier this year in an auto accident, and is recovering at her home. She is a veteran of more than 60 years work for the Salvation Army.

Ringling the bell this year is a long-time friend of Miss Kirchner's—Irene Fisher, of 1740 Gramercy Ave. The two ladies worked together for the Salvation Army in South Dakota 30 years ago.

Home Found for Perez Family, Victims of Fire

A washing machine and a stove are all that the Perez family needs to get back into the swing of things.

Fire destroyed the home of Daniel Perez, of 2360 W. 235th St., just before Christmas, leaving a family of ten homeless and with none of their belongings.

But Assistant Civil Defense Director George Powell said Monday that he had found a home for the family, and they were planning to move in Tuesday or Wednesday.

Only items badly needed by the big family are a stove and a washing machine. Powell said he had a line on a gas range, but that the washing machine was a problem.

Mrs. Perez and her eight children lived with a neighbor, Mrs. Helen Grjalva, after the tragic blaze. Red Cross, PTA and other civic groups brought food, clothes and helped to find a home.

The father of the family, Daniel, was hospitalized at Harbor General Hospital during the fire, but Mrs. Perez said Monday she was planning to have her husband brought to their new home as soon as they get settled.

Powell said Mrs. Perez reported the family had "a splendid Christmas."

Gifts purchased for the small children at the Perez home also were destroyed in the blaze which swept through their house.

Powell also said that the new home is located on 235th St. near the Howard Wood School, where four of the children regularly attend class.

NTCIA Will Consider ZONE Plan on Jan. 5

The North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. will hold its regular meeting on Jan. 5 at 9 p.m. in McMaster Hall, immediately following the Planning Commission hearing on zoning in the area. President Muri Reeves announced today.

Commercial zoning in North Torrance will be considered by the Planning Commission in the City Hall at 7 p.m. Officials of the NTCIA will attend that meeting first.

Watch that Red Flag on Parking Meters Today

The holiday is over for Torrance motorists.

Effective late today, traffic officers will start writing tickets for over-time parking in the meter zones.

Police Chief Willard Hanson said this morning that only courtesy warnings have been issued to those who forgot to feed the meters during the holiday shopping season, but that effective late today, the real thing will greet neglectful motorists.

Meter tickets will cost the violator \$1, payable at South Bay Municipal Court in Redondo Beach. The \$1 fine may be mailed in, however.

Driver at Church Jailed in Hit, Run Crash; Girl Hurt

A youthful driver was arrested as he left church services here, Sunday afternoon, on suspicion of felony hit and run driving.

Booked into San Pedro jail was Gary Bullinger, 21, of 20225 New Hampshire Ave.

His auto was identified through a license number supplied by a witness, officers said.



LIKE THE OLD DAYS... Fire Chief J. J. Benner and Captain Gordon Northington, at wheel, donned their old fire hats and climbed aboard Torrance's 1926 fire truck to show photographers how they looked back in the olden days. The truck was sold to a salvage firm, where it will be painted and polished to go on display at a park or museum. Departure of the truck recalled many incidents in Torrance history.

Old Engine Goes Into Retirement

By DICK FRIEND

They fired up the "old frog" last week, just as they have done every day for the past 28 years.

And just like always, she coughed and sputtered a bit, then whined to a start and ran like a top—a lopsided top—but a top.

Things were different this day, however. It wasn't a blue-clad fireman who cranked her big starter, then smoothly ground it into gear and took her for a warm-up ride. It was a stranger, wearing brown coveralls, lettered AAA Salvage.

And when the "old frog," Torrance's 1926 American LaFrance fire engine, pulled out of the fire station, she pulled out for good, heading for a new home, a junk yard at 190th St. and Normandie Ave.

Despite the apparent gladness on the part of most Torrance firemen to see the old relic leave, you could detect a lump in the throat of some of them—the old timers, who had nursed the ancient ladder truck to many a roaring fire.

City Clerk Watches
City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who was around in June, 1926, when the city purchased the truck for \$13,500, came out of his city hall office and watched as she pulled down Craven St. for the last time.

He, too, was glad to see her go, but undoubtedly, many thoughts skipped through his mind.

Like when he ran out of the city hall to hop on the truck—all city employees were frenzied then—slipped and fell, and a wheel passed over his foot.

Or in April, 1930, when Chief Ben Hamerbrink led the boys in fighting a big blaze out on Vermont Ave. which destroyed two

St. and Normandie Ave., and then sped away from the scene. Receiving minor injuries was Dolores Castillo, 13, of 20220 Normandie Ave.