

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Torrance Herald

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A Penny for your Thoughts

"What type of Christmas gifts do you prefer—practical presents or the less practical ones?"

That was the question the HERALD's inquisitive photographer asked several housewives shopping in downtown Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below:

Mrs. Edward Patten, 912 W. Del Amo:

"Less practical. I think Christmas should be a time to give something a person wouldn't ordinarily buy. I never know until Christmas morning what my husband will get me, but it's always the sort of thing I wouldn't buy for myself."



Mrs. Luanna Hibbard, 1066 Raylend Drive:

"I like to receive something I don't need but would like to own. My husband goes along with this, so I usually get something very special to wear as my gift from him."



Mrs. Mildred King, 21131 S. Dalton Street:

"Practical. The gift I most prefer is clothing. I feel you get more good out of practical gifts. And since they usually last longer, you remember the person that gave them to you a lot longer, too."



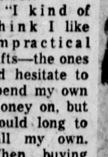
Mrs. Shirley Finnell, 29832 Halldale St.:

"I believe in practical gifts. I really do. When the holiday is all over, there is something you can do with a practical gift. But the whimsical items usually wind up in the attic or garage."



Tillie Sais, 20844 Halldale Street:

"I kind of think I like impractical gifts—the ones I'd hesitate to spend my own money on, but would long to call my own. When buying for others, I get both kinds of presents, depending on what the person I'm buying it for likes."



Mrs. Robert Stratford, 408 Arcacia St., Compton, housewife:

"I like to receive both types of presents for Christmas. I like things for the home. A present for my kitchen or my sewing program is always appreciated. For myself, I like something feminine."



101 Claims Its Second Victim



MERRY CHRISTMAS . . . The caption for this photograph was intended to be "Two little girls waited too long for Santa and fell asleep." Leslie, 4, did real well in playing her role although she smiled in her "sleep". Diane, 2, is also a good little actress, but might have tried too hard for the photographer. Both girls are cute and sweet and are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Baldwin, 1613 Elm St. (Herald Photo)

Transient Hit By Auto, Dies

A 48-year-old transient died shortly after being struck on Pacific Coast Hwy. near South High School to become the second auto-pedestrian fatality on the busy thoroughfare in two days.

Neal N. Haro, believed to be a resident of South San Gabriel, died enroute to Harbor General Hospital after he was struck by a vehicle driven by Meyer M. Waterman, 62, of 103 Vista del Mar.

His death was the seventh in the city this year in traffic.

ANOTHER pedestrian, Lloyd Baldwin, 26, of Hawthorne, received serious injuries at Ward St. and Pacific Coast Hwy. Friday afternoon when he was struck by a car driven by Alberta Evelyn Griffin, 35, of Rolling Hills. The driver was not held.

Investigators said Baldwin and another man started across the highway when Baldwin was hit.

Killed Tuesday afternoon about a mile east of Thursday's accident was 9-year-old Robert Plunkett, a fourth grader at Waveria Elementary School.

INVESTIGATING officers said Thursday's victim, Haro, apparently attempted to dash across Pacific Coast Hwy. in front of South High School.

Waterman, who was not cited in the accident, told police the victim ran in front of his car so suddenly he had no time to stop. Witnesses supported the driver's statement, officers reported.

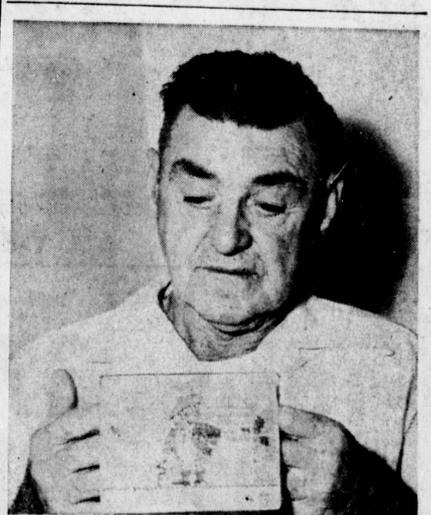
A broken bottle of wine was found on the victim after the

crash, and Redondo Beach police reported that they had taken the man to the Redondo-Torrance boundary after they were told he had been begging in the southern part of the city. He told police he was on his way to San Pedro.

HEAVY FOG which blanketed the area during the past few mornings was blamed for a series of collisions early Thursday. In one two-hour period Thursday morning, Torrance police logged nine crashes—none of them resulting in serious injuries.

Six persons were injured later Thursday, however, when four cars were involved in a collision at Torrance Blvd. and Elm St. Ralph W. Immel, 43, and Marjorie Steele, 34, of Manhattan Beach, and Lois Smith, 27, of Redondo Beach were taken to Harbor General Hospital. Two others sought medical treatment from private physicians, police said.

Raymond Draie Jr., 32, of Redondo Beach, driver of one of the vehicles also was hospitalized with injuries described as serious.



TRAVELING CARD . . . Bob Wilson, 17020 Crenshaw Blvd. reads messages on the back of a Scotch Christmas card that has been sent back and forth between he and his friend, Vic Clark, of Philadelphia, for 35 years. (Herald Photo)



GIFTS FOR NEEDY . . . Displaying Christmas gifts for underprivileged children made and outfitted by Long Beach State College's industrial arts and home economics clubs, are Lana Schlect of Downey and Don Diroll of 26314 Delos St., students at Long Beach State College.

New Holiday Tradition Is Slated Here

An old Spanish Christmas custom, the lighting of outdoor candles set in sacks of sand, known as farolitos or luminarias, is being introduced in Torrance this week by a group of neighbors residing in Loftview, a four-block stretch in Victoria Knolls running from Portobello to Delos St.

Setting off a soft red-orange glow against the black night sky, the festival lights are used to outline lawns and parking strips and define driveways of the homes that line the street.

THE SPONTANEOUS movement to decorate Loftview in this novel manner began informally when Mrs. Louis Wright of 2434 Loftview Drive saw a picture of farolitos in a New Mexican magazine and showed it to her immediate neighbors.

Word of mouth spread the word, and within a few evenings candlelit bags began appearing on more and more lawns. It is expected that by Christmas Eve the movement will have snowballed to the point where every house in the four block stretch overlooking the Crenshaw Blvd. - Pacific Coast Highway area will be involved.

IT IS anticipated that ultimately what began as a new approach to outdoor holiday decorating will become an annual community tradition among the entire 600 residents of Victoria Knolls.

Henderson Guilty In Local Attacks

Sixteen-year-old Wilburn Anthony Henderson, was convicted Friday on four felony counts arising out of an attack here of a Torrance girl last Aug. 28.

A jury in the court of Superior Judge Joseph M. Malby of Long Beach deliberated several hours before bringing in the guilty verdict. Henderson will be returned for sentencing Jan. 16.

He was convicted on charges of armed robbery, forcible rape, assault with a deadly weapon, and assault by force.

Henderson, who came to Torrance from Colorado Springs, was arrested several hours after he had raped and shot the girl in her Seaside Heights home, police charged. He then robbed and beat a friend of

the victim when he came to her rescue.

The Colorado youth was tried as an adult after Juvenile Court declared him unfit for its consideration.

Dad to Help Mother Who Drugged Tots

A Palos Verdes Riviera mother who assertedly tried to murder her two children was released to the custody of her father, a physician, this week.

Mrs. Virginia Gordon, 35, of 4818 Paseo de Paxon, was released by the district attorney's office after Dr. Salvatore Sunseri of Pittsburgh, Pa., said he would take her to his home for psychiatric treatment.

The two children have been turned over to their father, Millard Gordon, who was estranged from his wife. He indicated that he will seek permanent custody of the pair.

Mrs. Gordon was taken into custody earlier this week by Torrance police who said she had fed a near-fatal dose of barbiturates to her children.



ON DISPLAY . . . Tenth of the famed art reproductions of Madonna Row at El Camino College is the above mosaic, prepared under the direction of Instructor Mildred K. Walker. Admiring the newest addition to the Row are

Mrs. John Hughes of Redondo Beach; her houseguest, Miss Aline Van der Vlerk of Haarlem, Holland, and Miss Emma Mills of Torrance. Miss Van der Vlerk will enroll at El Camino as a freshman this spring.

El Camino Adds Tenth Exhibit To Its Popular 'Madonna Row'

A Christmas gift from a college to its community, now on display on the Crenshaw Blvd. entrance to El Camino College, will be available for public viewing through New Year's Day.

Madonna Row, a collection of 10 great art reproductions, was initiated in 1949 through the efforts of a campus art instructor, Miss Mildred K. Walker,

and has grown each year since by one. Prepared by art students, under the direction and with the assistance of Miss Walker, the Row is rapidly becoming a Southland tradition, interested spectators returning each year to view the display.

ALTHOUGH MADONNA Row is primarily the result of art department labor, it is in a

larger sense a product of the entire college. Each year's addition to the collection is carefully framed and mounted by the college maintenance department.

Lighting, which enables passer-by to view the display at any hour of the day or night, is accomplished by college electricians, while members of the music department offer brief

Christmas concerts or prepare selections to be played during evening hours from the chimes atop the Campus Theatre.

Nearly all of the 10,000 students and 400 campus employees view the display when it is erected during the week prior to Christmas holidays.

"In 1949, when we made the

Burns Fatal To Ryan Man

A Ryan Aeronautical worker, injured last week by a 13,000-volt charge of electricity, died Thursday at Riviera Hospital.

Larry Hebert, 27, of 2157 W. 245th St., Lomita, died after suffering severe burns Dec. 9

at the company's Lomita Blvd. plant. He and two other men were moving a metal scaffolding in the plant yard when it came in contact with the power line.

The other two are reported recovering.

(Continued on Page 2)