

# Annual Holiday Basket Drives Start

December is the month of Christmas and, in the spirit of the season, Torrance fraternal organizations and groups of helpful citizens this week will launch their campaigns to collect materials to provide Christmas baskets for the needy.

Always in the forefront in this particular charity, the Torrance Elks, under the chairmanship of Lee Lease, will donate funds collected from dance ticket sales and will collect canned goods and toys for distribution.

Organization of the Elks annual Christmas Bas-

ket Committee is now complete and members will investigate needy families and will fill and deliver the baskets.

Not to be outdone by their elders, members of the Inter Fraternity and Sorority Council of the South Bay, made up of young student-members of six El Camino organizations will also conduct their first canned food drive, December 10 through 16, throughout the Harbor area.

Some 225 members of the fraternities and sororities will ring doorbells to collect tinned foods for

Christmas baskets. All food collected during the drive will be turned over to the Community Chest for distribution.

## FIRST DRIVE

Don Cowles, chairman of the drive, said that this will be the first such collection by his group. The Council was organized two weeks ago, off-campus, to provide a greater scope for activities of the on-campus fraternities and sororities.

At North High School, the girls' athletic association will sponsor its sixth annual "Toy and Can"

drive, to be held December 4 through 15, according to Mary H. Montgomery, G.A.A. sponsor.

The club of over 550 girls will collect, wrap and send the toys and food to the Salvation Army in Inglewood.

"Some needy family or orphan will have a more joyous Christmas because of Saxon generosity. I know the students will back the drive by bringing to school usable toys, canned goods, cereals and other non-perishable foods," Diane Reis, president of the girls club stated.

## LATEST TORRANCE POPULATION

October 1, 1961, Estimate

# 108,506



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# TORRANCE PRESS

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## Inside the Press

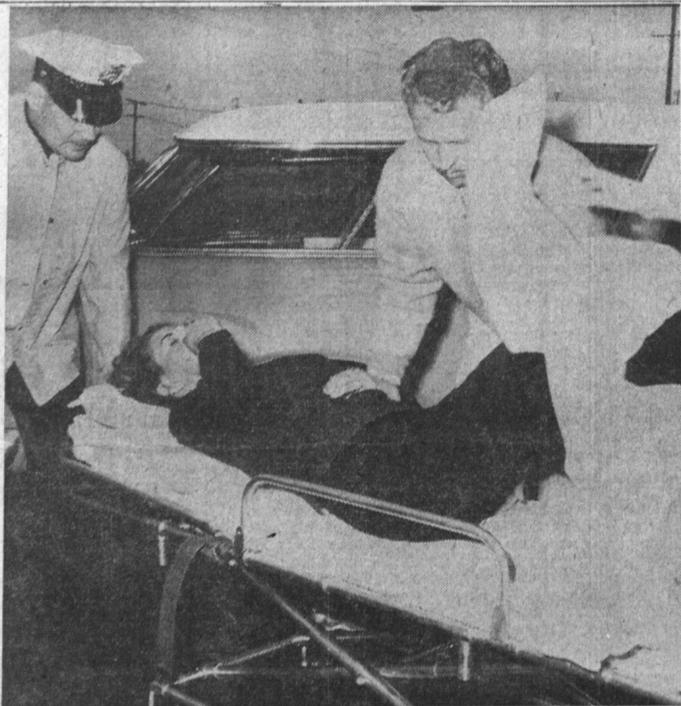
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Darlene Cope ..... 4A  
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Women ..... 1-2B

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# GIRL HURT IN HIT-RUN



**RAIN BRINGS ACCIDENTS**—Switchboards at the Torrance police station were jammed during mid-week and week-end rainy period as motorists underestimated slick pavements. Literally dozens of minor fender bangers, as well as some major injury accidents, were the result. Above, left, firemen wash down spilled gasoline in the



street following spectacular two-car crash at Prospect Ave. and Torrance Blvd. that sent two people to the hospital. Injured were George G. Martin, 27, 20907 Amie, and Bart W. Vartanian, 47, of Redondo Beach. Above, right, ambulance attendants tenderly lift Mrs. Helen Hilton, 32, of 2505 W. 179th St., into the stretcher after

she was hurt in a two-car collision at Carson and Madrona. Mrs. Hilton received severe facial lacerations. Driver of the vehicle, Mrs. Mary Kreda, 34, of 2002 W. 180th St., received a possible broken ankle and internal injuries.

Press Photos

## Accident Rate Rises as Rain Slicks Streets

Rain squalls and fog during the week brought the usual rush of accidents as motorists underestimated the visibility and the slickness of wet streets.

Injured in a hit and run accident Friday night at 19th and Entradero was Kathleen Diana Lee, 9, of 5405 Arvada St., Torrance. Driver of the runaway vehicle, Moses Torrence, 33, of Los Angeles, was picked up by Redondo police on Inglewood Ave. after monitoring a local broadcast. Suspect was brought back to Torrance for booking.

Victim was treated by a private physician for bruises and lacerations. Killed in a mid-week crash when her car went over a 200 foot cliff in Palos Verdes Estates was Mrs. Bell Fishel, 50, of Portuguese Bend. A school teacher, Mrs. Fishel died when her car plunged over the embankment on Via Zurita. Two women were hurt Wednesday night in a collision with another vehicle at the corner of Carson and Madrona. Mrs. Mary Kreda, 34, 2002 W. 180th St. suffered a possible broken ankle and internal injuries, while her sister, Mrs. Helen Hilton, 32, received facial lacerations.

## Residents Ask Police Protection

Complaints of Torrance residents that they feel they are being "suckered" by a crew of local pitchmen selling books for outrageous prices, have been lodged with Torrance police. Mrs. Betty Gardena, 4834 Theo St., called editors of the Torrance Press Friday night to complain that salesmen had been calling her throughout the day, representing themselves as legitimate firms advertising in a local newspaper, offering hundreds of dollars worth of free merchandise with the purchase of a book of coupons at \$6.95. She said that although she firmly rejected the offer over the telephone, in a short time a door-to-door salesman appeared, book in hand, demanding the money and alleging that her daughter had ordered it. Her daughter, sick in bed, denied any knowledge of the order.

Advised to contact the police bunco squad she said that she would tell neighbors, bothered by the pitchmen, to do the same. The Torrance Press has a strict policy of not participating in any questionable promotional scheme and urges our readers not to confuse us with another local newspaper.

## \$70 DROP . . .

### Area School Figures Lower Than Average, Says Report

A report from the division of budgets of the Los Angeles County Superintendent's office this week indicated that, during the 1960-61 school year, Torrance operated its schools at considerable less than the average cost of other unified districts in the County.

Average cost to educate each child in the County was \$460.93; however, in Torrance the figure was \$390.17 per student.

Members of the Torrance board of education reported that they will extend every effort to bring the cost down even further and to bring a better educational program at a lower cost to Torrance taxpayers. Continuous studies by the board have resulted in savings which will

be firmly reflected on the next tax bills.

"We are determined," stated Board President Bill Hanson, "to make additional savings where possible."

In a second statement Hanson reported that Torrance physician, Dr. Kurt T. Shery will be sworn as board member at tomorrow night's meeting.

Shery was appointed to fill the unexpired term of former board member Clinton Cooke who resigned when transferred to his company's Texas plant.

## Freeway Projects

Installation of a median barrier from one half mile north of Del Amo Blvd to one block north of 190th St. on the Harbor Freeway and a tree-planting project from Sepulveda to 208th St. also on the Freeway, was instituted this week by the State Highway Commission. Projects are part of the \$127,000 allocated for freeway and highway work in the county.

Projects were agreed upon during the October 26 Commission meeting in Santa Monica, attended by city traffic heads.

Also included in the loca-

## List Shows City Meetings During December

A roster of scheduled meetings during the month of December was released yesterday by the office of Torrance City Manager Wade Peebles.

All meetings listed are open to the public, Peebles said.

Scheduled are: City Council, Dec. 5, council chambers, 5:30 p.m.; Civil Service Board, Dec. 6, employees lounge, 7:30 p.m.; Planning Commission, Dec. 6, council chambers, 7 p.m.; Water Commission, Dec. 6, Room 209, City Hall, 7 p.m.; Civil Defense Commission, Dec. 11, employees lounge, 5:30 p.m.;

City Council, Dec. 12, council chambers, 8 p.m.; Recreation Commission, Dec. 13, council chambers, 8 p.m.; Airport Commission, Dec. 14, council chambers, 8 p.m.; Traffic Safety Council, Dec. 18, Room 209, City Hall, 7 p.m.;

City Council, Dec. 19, council chambers, 5:30 p.m.; Planning Commission, Dec. 20, council chambers, 7 p.m.; City Council, Dec. 26, council chambers, 8 p.m.; Recreation Commission, Dec. 27, council chambers, 8 p.m.; and Airport Commission, Dec. 28, council chambers, 8 p.m.

tion are installation of median barriers from Carson to 190th on the San Diego Freeway and construction of truck scales on the freeway between Avalon and Main St.

## Regular Meeting Of School Board Tomorrow Night

Next regular meeting of the board of education, Torrance Unified School District, will be held tomorrow evening, 7:30 p.m. in the district administration office.

Highlight of tomorrow's agenda will be the swearing into office of Dr. Kurt T. Shery who will replace former board member Clinton Cooke who resigned the post.

Administrative offices of the district are located at 2335 Plaza del Amo.

# National Honor for 'Mr. Y'

## Dr. Rollin Smith Named to National Council of YMCA

A Torrance veterinarian, Dr. Rollin R. Smith, Thursday was selected to serve on the National Council of the YMCA.

Dr. Smith, who is known in Torrance as "Mr. YMCA," is a charter member of the local "Y" and has dedicated more than 15 years to the local organization.

He will serve on a board of 54 members from all 50 states which comprise the National Council for a three-year term. First meeting he will attend will be held in New York City in May of 1962.

### SPECIAL ELECTION

Smith was elected at a special meeting of the boards of the 26 YMCA groups in Los Angeles County, held at the Van Nuys "Y" office. He was one of more than 50 candidates from this county eligible for the post.

Currently serving as vice chairman of the board for the Torrance group, he recently headed as chairman the Good Neighbor Breakfast.

Fellow members of the local board hailed the appointment of Smith as being especially appropriate. "He is so interested in the community's youth that it is a wonder that he has time for his own business," one fellow member stated. "Whenever we need a volunteer or whenever a disagreeable task needs to be performed, Dr. Smith is always the first in line."

Smith makes his office at the Harbor Animal Hospital, 1855 Torrance Blvd.



CONGRATULATE "Y" LEADER—Torrance City Councilmen J. A. Beasley and Nickolas Drele today extended their congratulations to Dr. Rollin Smith, vice-chairman of the board of directors of the Torrance YMCA, upon his election to the Y's National Council.

Smith, a Torrance veterinarian, is a charter member of the local organization and has devoted more than 15 years to the service of Torrance youth. He will be one of 54 members of the National Council, drawn from all 50 states.



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