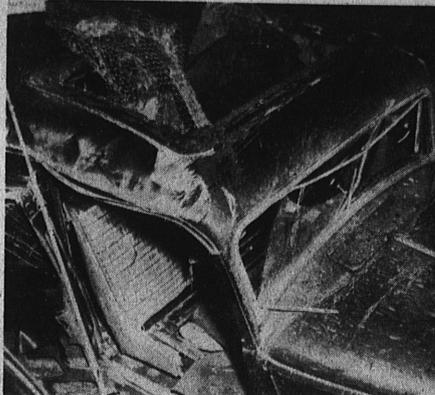
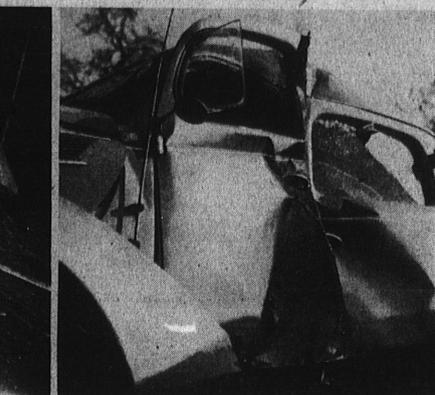


Traffic Accidents on Yule Holidays Make Grim Plea for Safe New Year



MERRY CHRISTMAS? . . . Gasoline, rain, and alcohol were the ingredients of a holiday cocktail served to nine persons who were injured in a series of 12 Yuletide crashes in the city during last weekend. Pictured above are four of the pain-



packages minus red ribbons and cellophane that brought no joy to their drivers and passengers. At left a gaping hole in the roof of a light car and shattered windows indicated the violence of the crash in which two were injured. In second photo from,



left a car was rammed amidships and two occupants had to be treated for injuries and flying glass. Photo third from left shows damage to car in which two were hurt after another auto crashed head-on into a holiday couple. Wet streets were



blamed by the driver of the car (extreme right) who turned over several times on Torrance boulevard Sunday night—Herald photos.

Twelve Accidents Mar Yule Holiday in Torrance Area

Twelve accidents bringing injuries to nine persons marked the toll of Christmas holiday traffic crashes, according to Torrance Police Chief John Stroh. Cause of the accidents was blamed on driving while drinking, speeding and wet, slippery highways. Police arrested three drivers and charged them with drunk driving while another four persons were arrested for being drunk in an auto.

Those injured included:
Shirley Joyce Coleman, 26 years, P.O. Box 177, Torrance.
Charlie Artis Young, 25 years, of Brea.
John Franklin Morris, 18 years, 1402 West 218th street.
Dale Pagel, 19 years, 716 Portola avenue.
Hugh Manfred Thurer, 24 years, of Inglewood.
William Franklin Smith, 41 years, of Inglewood.
Floyd Robert Sons of Compton.

William Evans Thomas, 24 years, 2115 Gramercy avenue.
"I wish it were possible for all motorists, and especially

Drunk Driving Record in L. A.

Drunk driving in Los Angeles reached a new high over the Christmas weekend, when Deputy City Attorney Perry Thomas issued 133 complaints during the period.

Another 27 complaints were issued in branch city halls at San Pedro, West Los Angeles and Van Nuys.

those who will be drinking and driving during the New Year weekend, to ride in our proud cars and see the results of carelessness, speed and drunk driv-

(Continued on Page 7)

First New Baby in City Will Win Orchid for Mama

The Torrance Flower Shop will present an orchid to the mother of the first baby born in Torrance in 1949.

James Yeltema, proprietor, in making the announcement of the New Year's gift, hastened to add:

"And of course a suitable bouquet for the new baby."

South Border Avenue Will Be Resurfaced

Re-surfacing of Border avenue between Torrance boulevard and Plaza Del Amo is scheduled to begin the first week in January, following the opening of bids last night by the City Council.

Border avenue serves a number of industrial firms, and the street has been in serious need of improvement for some time.

The Council at its last meeting awarded the contract for re-surfacing Border avenue between Torrance boulevard and Arlington avenue to the Griffith Company.

TORRANCE HERALD

34th YEAR—No. 53

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1948

PER COPY 10c

Note Divulges Man's Reason for His Suicide

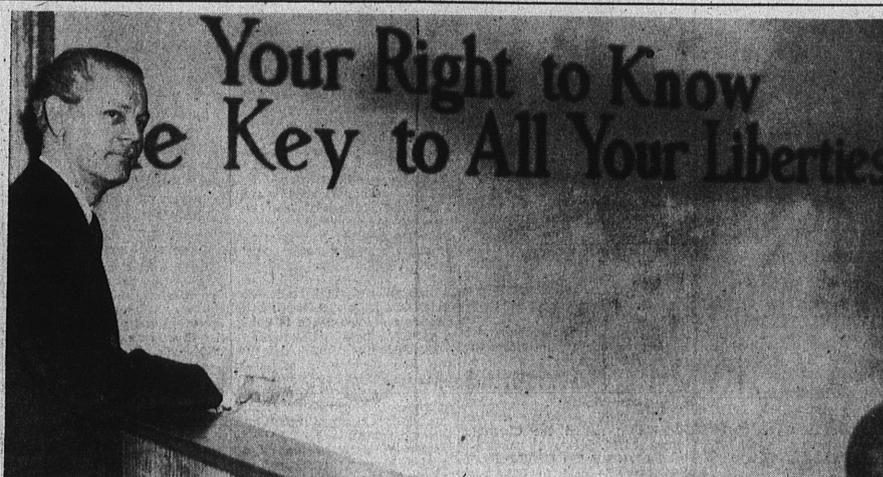
While families throughout the city were joyously decorating trees on Christmas eve, William W. Rea, father of three children, hung himself in a workshop at Ocean and Normandie avenues, according to sheriff's deputies.

Near the body, scribbled on a sheet of gray wrapping paper, deputies found a note:

"Last Will and testament. Dec. 24-25, 1948. Please divide any remains of my estate after the creditors are paid between my children—share and share alike. Am living at 2412 Silverstrand, Hermosa Beach. Wife of age or out of school. My wife, Ruth B., to receive nothing (NOTHING) from any of my estate except payment on a monthly basis of three (3) quarts of wine per week.

Thank you, Pat, Judy, and especially "Candy" for the few years of happiness I have ever had. Bad "Gess" to Frank Luby, 1st Trust and Savings Bank of Zanesville, Ohio and to my wife, Ruth B.—The two

(Continued on Page 7)



IMPRESSED—Rep. Cecil R. King, this district's representative in Congress, paid a call at the Herald's new home during his visit with his constituents Monday. He is photographed here beside the slogan of the California Newspaper Publishers Association: "Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties." Today Rep. and Mrs. King are enroute to Washington for the opening of the 1949 Congress the first week of January.—Herald photo.

City Problems Discussed at King Luncheon

Residents of Torrance and vicinity were given an opportunity to air some of the community's problems before Rep. Cecil R. King at a luncheon arranged in his honor Monday.

Those attending the luncheon included K. Sande Senness, subdivider; Kelvin Vanderlip, president of the Palos Verdes Corporation; Mrs. Gladys Weston and Forrest G. Murdock, president of El Camino College. Others introduced at the luncheon in Hermosa Beach included A. H. Herbold, president of Dapplegray Lane Home Owners Association; Carl Allen, director of the association; President Charles T. Rippey of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and Blaine Walker, secretary; Beverly Smith and John Spaulding of the National Sup-

Big Year Ahead

Head of U. S. Steel Foresees Record Production for 1949

During 1948, the steel industry will produce and ship to consumers 65,000,000 tons of finished products, more than in any previous year peacetime or wartime in our nation's history, according to Benjamin F. Fairless, president of United States Steel Corporation.

"My guess is that in 1949, the industry can produce 68,000,000 tons of finished steel products," Fairless said. "Please understand that I am not speaking of theoretical capacity. What I am saying is that the steel industry, if not

Succumbs to Car Injuries

Mrs. Margaret Phillips, 68, 26211 South Western avenue, Lomita, died in Harbor General Hospital Wednesday as the result of injuries received when struck by an automobile Dec. 14, as she was crossing the street at Western avenue and 266th street.

A-P Head Sees Food Prices in 1949 Lowering

America's farms and factories will produce as much food in 1949 as they did during the record production year of 1948, and consumers will probably pay less for it, John A. Hartford, president of the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, predicted today.

Investigation in Bus Crash Favors Driver

Investigation into the crash involving a Torrance bus and a truck last Thursday at Hoover street and Florence avenue has led to the belief that the driver of the bus was not at fault, according to M. A. Chamberlain, superintendent of the city lines.

PUBLISHER AND STAFF EXTEND 1949 GREETINGS

Regular publication of the Torrance Herald will be resumed on Thursday, Jan. 6 and newsboys and news-girls are reminded to report to their distributors at the usual hour next week.

Classified advertising for next week's issue will close at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Advertisers may observe their regular copy deadlines.

Grover C. Whyte, publisher, and the entire staff of the Herald, wish to extend to the readers of this newspaper and to everyone everywhere a joyous and safe New Year.

Chamberlain said that skid marks of only 25 feet and not 80 feet as previously stated and establishment of the point of impact indicated that Robert C. Good, driver of the bus, was not driving at an excessive speed.

Five persons were injured in the crash with only one requiring hospitalization. Guadalupe Cabrera, 75, of Torrance, was reported to have suffered a fractured shoulder and wrist.



SUCCESSOR—Fred W. Mill, veteran employe of the National Supply Company, who will become division controller on Jan. 1. (Story on Page 3).

NEW CENSUS WILL BEGIN TOMORROW

Torrance residents are going to have their noses counted beginning tomorrow!

Starting Wednesday afternoon Edward C. Dornacher, a member of the census bureau of the Department of Commerce of the Federal government, will send approximately 15 census takers into the area to determine the city's growth since February, 1947.

Residents will be asked to supply answers to a few simple questions for the special census which will include each resident's name, sex, age, race, address and relation to the head of the family. Dornacher said that all information will be confidential. He asked that residents who will not be at home during the next 10 days leave the information with a neighbor or contact the census taker at the city hall.

Dornacher also stated that a few positions are open for qualified persons to canvass the city for the special count. Applicants must be 21 years of age and will be paid at the rate of five cents for each solicitation.

Last official census showed the city to have a population of 13,160 persons as of Feb. 7, 1947. It is estimated by the Regional Planning Commission that Torrance has increased in population by nearly one third since 1947. They estimate that the special census will indicate that approximately 18,378 persons will be listed as residents of the city.

Figures are expected to be completed on the \$2250 undertaking within 18 to 21 days.

Population of Nearby Areas Told by Count

What will the new federal census of the City of Torrance show?

Some idea of the growth shown by other cities in the southwestern section of the country is revealed by special census figures published in the Tax Digest for December.

The city of Torrance has just ordered a special census—the second since the regular 1940 count, and which will begin early in January. New water meter, electric and gas meter installations in Torrance indicate a population of approximately 19,000, as compared with 13,161 shown by the 1947 special census.

Here are figures for various cities, mostly in the southwestern section of the county, as published in the Tax Digest:

City	1947	1947	Gain
Avalon	2,897	1947	24
Beverly Hills	28,212	1947	5.2
Compton	12,223	1947	29.1
Culver City	17,142	1947	21
El Segundo	12,223	1947	58.8
Gardena	12,916	1947	119.0
Harbor	14,111	1947	21
Hermosa Beach	2,165	1947	53.2
Inglewood	42,964	1947	42
Long Beach	119,109	1947	4.1
Los Alamitos	9,222	1947	88
Marina del Rey	21,288	1947	24
Redondo Beach	21,288	1947	24
Santa Monica	27,172	1947	24
Torrance	13,161	1947	228



GRIM DISCOVERY—The body of William Rea, found Christmas morning in his small shop on Ocean avenue, was discovered by a neighbor who entered the building to extend Yuletide greetings. Sheriff's deputies said Rea had taken his own life Christmas eve.—Herald photo.