

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WEATHER

Although the weatherman wouldn't venture to predict the outcome of the Rose Bowl game, he did forecast that game and parade goers might get a trifle chilly, although probably not wet.

"A coat, but not a raincoat is what they'll need," he said.

Gazing into his crystal ball, he predicted that week-end temperatures would be near-normal—in the sixties. The high temperature today is expected to be about 62.

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GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW FIRE STATION

Driver 'Probably Responsible' in Worker's Death

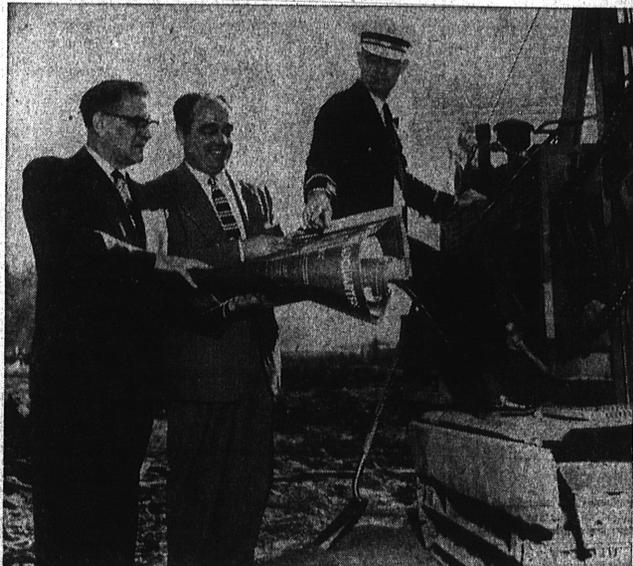
A coroner's jury Wednesday ruled that Mrs. Paul Cline "probably was criminally responsible" for the accidental death of a Torrance man who died 20 hours after he was struck by the woman's auto, aist Dec. 17.

William Gratton, 42, of 18919 Yukon Ave., a gas company employee, was working in the street at Western Ave. and 186th St., behind a metal barricade, when he was hit by the Cline auto, police say.

Mrs. Cline, of 15322 Chanera Ave., was northbound on Western Ave., when she crashed into the metal sign, then struck Gratton, reports indicate.

A manslaughter complaint will be sought by the district attorney's office by Los Angeles police, who handled the incident, it was stated.

Gratton, the father of two children, worked for the Southern California Gas Co.



MECHANIZED . . . Civic officials turned to mechanized equipment to turn the first shovel of dirt at Torrance's new \$195,000 fire headquarters building, yesterday afternoon. Fire Chief J. J. Benner mans the controls, while Councilman Mervin M. Schwab, left, and Mayor Nicholas O. Drale check the plans. Located at Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St., the new building will replace the present fire station on Cravens Ave., by the City Hall.

Station Will Be Built By Summer

Civic officials turned the first shovel of ground at the site of Torrance's new fire department headquarters Wednesday afternoon, giving the go ahead for construction on the \$195,000 edifice.

Scheduled for completion in six months, the station is being built at Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St. It will replace the old fire house on Cravens Ave.

Fire Chief J. J. Benner and Mayor Nicholas O. Drale traditionally turned the first spoonful of ground. Councilman Mervin Schwab, City Manager George Stevens and architects and contractors were on hand to assist with the ceremony.

Nearly 16,000 square feet of area are included in the building which will accommodate several fire pumps, aerial ladder trucks and other fire cars.

Administrative offices and a central dispatching station also are included in the new building. Construction will be of reinforced brick, for the two story plant. Fire repair shops will be built adjacent to the main station.

Final Step In Dresser Case Filed

The city's answer to charges filed by former Building Superintendent James S. Dresser who is seeking reinstatement to the post he once occupied, was filed in Superior Court yesterday by Atty. S. V. O. Pritchard, who is representing the city in the case.

Dresser, who was dropped from the city payroll last spring following an investigation of alleged building irregularities in various Torrance home tracts, has filed a petition with Superior Court Judge Arnold Praeger demanding that he be returned to his position with the city. His petition, prepared by Atty. John McCall, alleges that his firing by the City Council was illegal.

Attorney Pritchard told the HERALD yesterday that he was filing a list of points and authority to support the city's action in the matter. He indicated that this would be the final legal step in the case which has been submitted to Judge Praeger.

A decision on the matter will be made some time after the first of the year.

AUTO DOOR OPENS; MAN FALLS OUT

A local man was reported in "fair" condition in Torrance Memorial Hospital yesterday, after receiving a broken leg and other injuries when he fell out of his car Monday.

William C. Gann, 40, of 4628 Milne Dr., told Manhattan Beach police that he had been driving along Sepulveda Blvd. in that city when he swerved to miss a car stopped in front of him.

As he swerved, the car door came open, and he fell out, Gann said.

He was taken to South Bay Emergency Hospital, and later transferred to Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Services Set For Victims Of Home Fire

Funeral services for Mr. and Mrs. Grady Dewbre, who died in a fire Christmas night, will be conducted in Oklahoma City, it was learned yesterday.

The Dewbres, who lived at 705 Acacia Ave., with Glenn Patterson, Mrs. Dewbre's brother, were found suffocated beside their bed while a fire burned in the living room. Firemen were unable to revive the pair.

Mr. Dewbre, 54, was employed at the Torrance plant of the Douglas Aircraft Co. Mrs. Dewbre, 44, was a housewife.

Hoods Smash Auto Windows

Vandals virtually wrecked two parked automobiles by smashing out all of the windows and scratching the paint on the hood and sides of one of the autos, police reports show.

One car, registered to Mrs. Margaret Edwards, of 16018 Western Ave., was parked on Torrance Blvd., east of Llewellyn Ave., and had the windshield and side windows shattered.

The other machine, belonging to Walter F. Musolf, of 1318 W. 219th St., was at Engleclark and Border Aves. All windows were smashed, and the paint was scratched. Police said the vandals apparently had walked along over the hood of the car, and kicked out the windshield.

Temps Reach New Low

Early risers who complained that the weather was "cold as ice" this week were right.

Temperatures Tuesday morning dipped to a thermometer-reading 30, and yesterday morning reached the ice mark, with a chilly 32.

Local Assemblymen Begin Work Monday

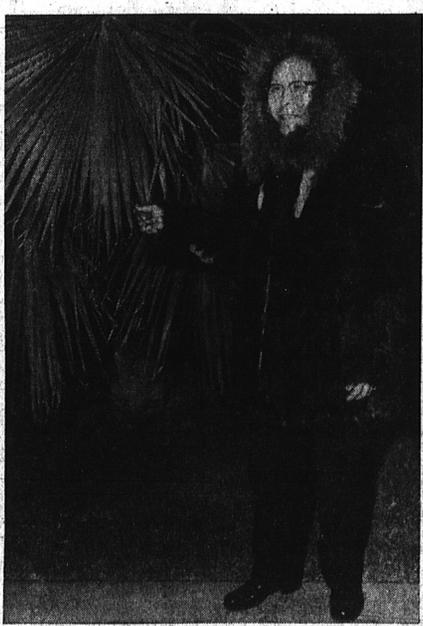
The two assemblymen representing the Torrance area—Democrat Vincent Thomas and Republican Charles Edward Chapell—will take their oaths of office next Monday at the opening of the 1955 legislative session.

The minority floor leader in the last session, Thomas has served 14 years in the Assembly. During the past term, he was vice-chairman of the Fish and Game committee, and a member of the committees on economy and revenue, and on revenue and taxation.

Chapel, reelected to his third term, is a member of the education; manufacturing, oil and mining; public utilities and corporations; revenue and taxation, and transportation and commerce committees.

Observers predict a stormy session, with supporters of cutting government costs arguing with proponents of new taxes on cigarettes, liquor, and horse race betting.

Unemployment insurance, labor legislation, highway construction, and additional hospital and prison facilities are among topics expected to receive attention.



"WHAT'S THIS?" . . . A California palm tree (Herald Photo) by Burt Eakan, clad in his fur-lined parka which he brought out to show. Despite popular conceptions, the full-blooded Eskimo wore a suit when he arrived in Torrance, and declared he had never seen an igloo, and doubted if few other Eskimos had either.

Visiting Eskimo Never Saw Igloo

When most people think of Eskimos, they think of igloos.

But a full-blooded Eskimo arrived in Torrance Monday, and declared he had never seen an igloo. What's more, he doubts that few other Eskimos have either.

Attired in a suit which looked like anything but what most people think the well-dressed Eskimo should wear, Burt Eakan came to Torrance with Lyman Madden, brother of Mrs. Kenneth Beer, of 1807 Gramercy Ave.

Eakan and Madden were shipmates on boats traveling in Alaskan waters. The 59-year-old Eskimo is trying to locate his son whom he has not heard from in about six months. When he last received a letter, the son was stationed at El Toro Marine Base. So far, his efforts have been in vain.

Born in Fair North Eakan was born in Unalakleet, Alaska, a small interior village considerably inside the Arctic Circle. Buildings there are generally of logs or lumber, and not igloos as many people seem to think.

Igloos were used mostly by Eskimos on hunting and fishing trips, he explained.

The closeness of his home village to Santa's lair doesn't prevent the raising of many vegetables during the brief summer months, he said. In fact, the village is known as the "garden spot of the North."

Sun Shines Constantly During the summer, the sun shines nearly all the time, but during the winter the land is as dark as the inside of an igloo.

Eakan took his turn as Santa's helper about 30 years ago when he traveled in the East with a hard of reindeer imported by the Columbus Evening Dispatch for promotional purposes.

He and another man tended the animals to lend authenticity to the display, he said, while

Purchase of a new school site for the West-Torrance School was ratified by the board of education last week. The site is located in the new Milton Kauffman tract, near Del Amo and Anza St.

A price of \$66,957.15 was approved for purchase of the land. This cost, it was explained, covers expenditure for relaying many pipe lines in the area, clearing and grading, street work, sewers, and land cost.

A previous proposal of \$72,453.02 to the board for sale of the property was rejected. Seller is the Kauffman Co.

Building in City Passes \$45 Million

Building totals for the city this year have passed \$45,000,000, Senior Clerk Walter Bradford, of the City Engineer's office, reported yesterday.

With two days to go in 1954, the figures were more than 50 per cent higher than last year's record \$29,315,865 total. Torrance trails only Los Angeles and San Diego in Southland building.

Biggest addition to the total were permits for \$1,116,330 to the Kauffman Construction Co., \$309,300 to the Kettler Construction Co., \$307,886 to the G and G Construction Co., \$284,800 to the Barclay Construction Co., and \$240,500 to the Beverly Construction Co.

Victor Zone Ideas Heard

Members of the Regional Planning Commission Tuesday previewed the proposed zoning plan for the Victor area, located west of Torrance and east of Redondo Beach, and ordered a public hearing on the plan set for sometime in February.

The parcel of land, surrounded on three sides by the City of Torrance, is bounded on the north by Del Amo Blvd., on the east by Hawthorne Ave., on the south by Torrance Blvd., and on the west by the city limits of Redondo Beach.

Although the plan shows many oil wells in the area, the basic zoning proposed for the entire district is A-1 (light agricultural), which, according to the staff of the advance planning division, would permit residential development.

There are several C-4 (restricted commercial) zones, located at the major crossroads:

1. At the intersection of Anza Blvd. and Del Amo Blvd.
2. Along both sides of Hawthorne Blvd., from Del Amo to Torrance Blvds., and around the intersections.
3. At the intersection of Anza and Torrance Blvds.

Presently the area is M-3 (unimproved) and "about all that's there are sand dunes and oil wells," a member of the staff

Bandit with Sick Wife Robs Highway Liquor Store Man

A man who said he needed money for his sick wife held up a liquor store at 24241 Ward St., late Tuesday night, and made off with \$34 in assorted bills, according to police.

Victim of the robbery was Grant S. Stickey, 26, who was made to lie down behind the counter while the bandit made his escape. The suspect returned twice to make sure Stickey was carrying out his wishes, and hadn't gotten up to call police.

Described as a young man with dirty blond hair, the holdup man entered the store, Stickey said, and asked to purchase a fifth of whiskey. As the attendant was placing the bottle in a sack, the customer raised his hand, wrapped in a paper bag, and ordered him to put the money from the register in with the whiskey.

"I wouldn't do this," Stickey said the holdup man told him, "except that my wife is sick."

Auto Licensing Starts Monday

The Torrance office of the Department of Motor Vehicles will start Monday issuing the 1955 license tabs for approximately 100,000 vehicles in this area, Manager Leavitt Tudor announced.

Additional employees will be added at the office at 1317 Crenshaw Ave., next to the phone company, to handle the expected rush, he said. Offices will be open 8 to 5, Monday through Friday, and from 8 to 12 Saturdays.

Potential registration cards for the autos in the area were mailed Monday, while truck, trailer, bus, and taxicab registrations were mailed earlier.

Must Be Brought In The registration cards may be brought to the office, handled through automobile clubs and associations, or mailed to the office, he said. Mailed forms carrying personal checks will wait 21 days for the checks to clear,

Talk Series Set Jan. 4

Local citizens can hear about "Psychology for Today" from an expert starting Jan. 4.

Dr. Arthur L. Bletz, a professor and clinical psychologist at White Memorial Hospital and School of Medicine, will deliver a series of four lectures, sponsored by Torrance Evening High School and the Torrance Council PTA.

The series will be open to the public at 7:45 p.m. in Torrance Elementary School auditorium. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Dr. Bletz is a member of the American Psychological Assn., the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science, and a former board of directors member of the Los Angeles Psychiatric Service.

He is the author of six books: "Conquering Personal Problems," "In Quest of Happiness," "Guide Posts to Happiness," "The Know-how of Living," "Be a Real Truths," and "Pulling Life Together." He also has delivered many lectures on psychology, and related subjects.

Watch Night Rites Slated

Watch Night services on New Year's Eve are planned by the Park View Lutheran Church and South Bay Baptist Church.

An open house at the home of the Rev. Karl S. Eschberger, 3148 W. 152nd Pl., will precede church services at 11 p.m. at Park View.

A film, "Faces of India," as well as special speakers and music are included in the Baptist services at 7:30 p.m.

Stores to Close At 6 p.m. Friday

Most Torrance merchants will close at 6 tomorrow night instead of the usual Friday 9 p.m. hour, James Squire, president of the Retail Merchants division of the Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday.

The early closing is for New Year's Eve. The regular 9 p.m. closing will resume on Friday, Jan. 7, he said.

Car Driver Fined \$350

The driver of a car which was involved in a fatal motor accident at Figueroa and East Rd., last April 30, was given a one-year suspended jail term and a \$350 fine in Superior Court this week.

Receiving the sentence was Donald Lee Lambert, 27, of 2660 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., father of a small child.

Lambert also was placed on three years probation.

Witnesses told the court that Lambert was under the influence of alcohol when his auto crashed into a motor car.

Killed was Wilfred J. Royko, 27, of 2660 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., the father of a small child.

Lambert also was placed on three years probation.

he said. Cash, cashier's checks or money orders are preferable, Tudor pointed out.

A single tab, pearl gray with black lettering, will be issued. The front license plate must be retained, however.

Suggestions Made Tudor made the following suggestions to make registration easier:

1. Come early. Fees must be paid between Jan. 3 and Feb. 4. Latecomers must pay additional fees equal to 100 per cent of registration and 50 per cent of license costs.

2. Do not detach the stub of the registration card before submitting it for validation. Fill in the stub, either by writing or typing, to correspond with the name on the left hand portion.

3. Do not staple, pin, bend, tear, or otherwise mutilate the card, since it is processed by machine.

The cards were initiated this year to make processing easier.