

# DRUNK DRIVERS MUST PAY

From the Bottle  
To the Jug

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles on the Torrance Police department and its functions.)

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

Drunk drivers continue to menace the lives of others on our highways. Staggering statistics, catchy phrases, pleading appeals have not solved the problem. But what might stop it perhaps is the realization that drunk drivers must pay, and pay heavily in humiliation, inconvenience, and hard cash.

Drunk driving is the story of the road to remorse. Traveling that road in Torrance last year were 310 individuals.

At the bottom of it all is the bottle. The reason—frustra-

tion or feasting.

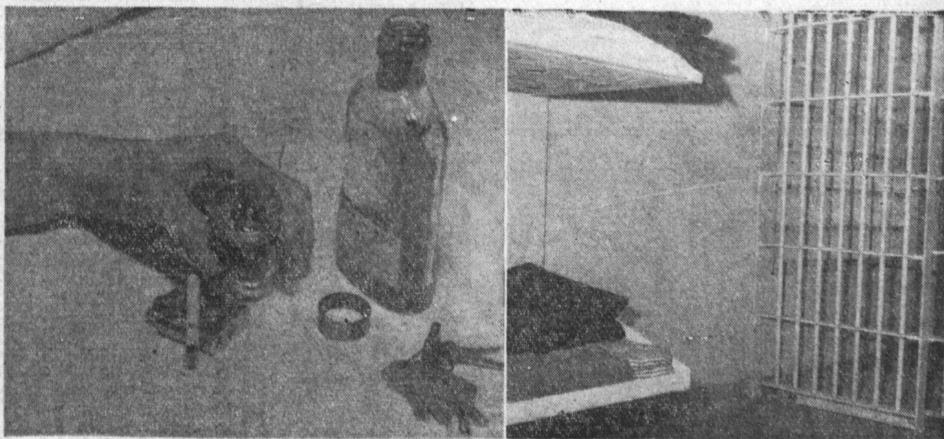
The danger starts when you turn on the ignition of your car after the last drink.

Chances are you will manage to get home with just a scare or two. But chance isn't always on your side. One of these times you'll get caught.

The law in a Democracy is swift. But to the individual caught in its web, it seems endless.

The wheels of the law start grinding uncomfortably from the time of the arrest.

First, there are what appears like endless questions asked by the arresting officers who fill out the report—name, address, age, sex, descent, weight, occupation. Where were you going? Where did you start from? When did you



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### NEWS FILM

The League of Women Voters, Palos Verdes estates, will present for community viewing a movie prepared by Edward R. Murrow and his CBS staff entitled "Year of Crisis: 1956" in the Malaga Cove auditorium, February 13 at 8 p.m.

leave? Where are you now? Where . . . ? When . . . ? Why . . . ? How . . . ?

All your wishing won't alter things now until the law has run its course.

Next comes the examination — breath, color of face, clothes, attitude, unusual actions, eyes, balance, walk, finger-to-nose, picking up coins, speech.

You concentrate the way you have never concentrated before—but even that gives you away.

There is no use arguing. If you have enough sense left, you go along peacefully.

**Costly Drink**

Liquor costs money. It will cost more tonight than it has ever cost before.

Some of these expenses are the incidentals—like your car which is impounded for \$7.50 plus \$1 per day storage.

Other costs are less tangible—like the minimum six hours you must stay in jail before you can be released on bond. Somehow a hang-over is worse in the atmosphere of a jail cell.

You feel low, angry, remorseful. You're not through by a long shot—but at least you can get out now . . . if you can raise the bail.

You must have \$263 in cash. If you don't have it, you can borrow it from a bondsman—for a slight additional fee . . . if he thinks you're a sound risk.

If you can't raise the money, you end up spending the week-end in jail because court does not convene until Monday. You may have hoped for a few hours of rest for a long time—but this is a hard way to relax. Even harder is the explanation you give your family. The budget, too, is bound to suffer.

### Court Room

At this point, the day of the court hearing seems years away but when it arrives, it is too close for comfort.

Since the time of the arrest and now you have suddenly become thoroughly familiar with all the aspects of drunk driving—particularly the penalties.

You have heard that the average fine on a first offense is \$150 in the South Bay Municipal court.

You curse yourself. You think of what you could do with \$150. You always think twice about spending even \$10 over and above your budget. And now—\$150, in one

exorbitant, lump sum and nothing to show for it—except the worst hangover you've ever had.

You are not even sure whether you'll get away with simply a \$150 fine. The judge has a right to sentence you to jail from 30 days to six months or to levy a fine from \$50 to \$500, or both.

Again your heart beats quickly and your blood throbs. You think of your job, your family, your shoestring budget—and you're gripped with fear.

To calm yourself, you find grim satisfaction in the fact that you're a first offender rather than a second or third offender.

It can cost a second offender up to a year in jail and a \$1000 fine, or both. You're sunk if you're a three-time loser, because then they take your license away.

**The Sentence**

It is quiet in the court room as you and others sit tensely awaiting the arrival of the judge.

Sometimes the case is heard by Judge John Shidler. Sometimes by Judge Otto Willett.

You wonder what the others are here for. There is little talk. What conversation there is, is superficial.

Presently the judge enters and the clerk announces that court is in session.

The judge makes a few comments on the benefits of justice in a Democracy. He speaks quietly, intimately. You feel that the law is human.

Then, the violators are called up one by one. Most of them plead guilty. The judge shows consideration for grave, legitimate personal problems. Then he pronounces sentence. The law is not heartless. But it must be done.

The next name is called. It is yours.

(Next week: HOW TO CATCH A CRIMINAL)

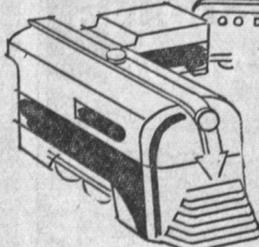
### Employment Office Fund Requested

Funds for the construction of a new State office building in Torrance for the California Department of Employment have been included in the state budget for the 1957-58 fiscal year.

So stated H. W. Stewart, director of the California Department of Employment, in a letter to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

Stewart hoped that funds for the project will be approved by the legislature, stating that \$206,200 has been asked for the construction of the building to be located at Cravens and Engracia aves.

Right now there's brisk demand for used heaters, winter sports equipment, furs, lots of other things. Torrance Press Classified Ads bring buyers so easily many people use them again and again. Dial FA 8-2345, the extra-money number.



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### Ball Games This Week

**ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

Tuesday, February 12, Torrance High school — Knolls Drug store vs Burchfield Rug Works, 6:50 p.m.; Inglewood T box vs Wright Ambulance, 7:55 p.m.; Kenny's Shoe Repair vs Carbide Chemicals, 9 p.m.

**SOUTH-CENTRAL MIDGET LEAGUE**

Saturday, February 9, Torrance High school gym, Beavers vs. Knights, 9 a.m.; Sun Devils vs. Termites, 10 a.m.; Sea Gulls vs. Wolfpack, 11 a.m.; Indians, 1 p.m.; Trojans vs. Hill Toppers, 2 p.m.

**NORTH PEE WEE LEAGUE**

Saturday, February 9, North High school—Carr vs. Steel, 9 a.m.; Cardinals vs. Dons, 10 a.m.; Monarchs vs. McMaster, 1 p.m.; Wolverines vs. Crenshaw, 2 p.m.

**NORTH MIDGET LEAGUE**

Saturday, February 9, North High school—Steelers vs. Lions, 9 a.m.; Warriors vs. Bearcats, 10 a.m.; Monarchs vs. McMaster, 1 p.m.; Redskins vs. Crenshaw, 2 p.m.

**CENTRAL PEE WEE LEAGUE**

Saturday, February 9, Greenwood school playground—Crew Cuts vs. All Stars, 9 a.m.; Spartans vs. Rinkeydinks, 10 a.m.; Fighting Irish vs. Bears, 11 a.m.

**NORTH HIGH BOYS' LEAGUE**

Tuesday, February 12, North High gym — Cavaliers vs. Hoboes, 6:45 p.m.; Los Hombres vs. Deserters, 8:15 p.m.; Spitfires vs. Chibos, 9 p.m.

**TORRANCE HIGH BOYS' LEAGUE**

Wednesday, February 13, Torrance High gym—Aces vs. Dublins, 7:30 p.m.; Grasshoppers vs. Fearless Five, 8:15 p.m.; Mud hens vs. Falcons, 9 p.m.



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