

Landlords Criminally Liable If Faulty Heater Kills Tenant

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., L. A. County Health Officer. Each year in the basement of our County Health Department Building at 214 S. Figueroa St., we hold an informal sort of exhibit. The public is not invited to this affair, and most of the employees of the building walk by the exhibit without knowing that it is there.

There are no placards to attract attention to the display and no copy to explain its message. There are several good titles which could be used such as "Murderers' Row," or for those who prefer brevity, simply the word "Death."

This exhibit consists of a pile of junk in the form of unvented space heaters picked up in various parts of the county. Although not displayed in a very attractive manner, the exhibit is nevertheless effective in that no heater is displayed here unless it has been responsible for the death of one or more persons.

Many Killed Accidently. Every year a number of people in Los Angeles County are killed accidentally by breathing carbon monoxide produced by incomplete burning of carbon containing materials such as gas, coal, gasoline or wood. A gas heater, if it is vented to the outside of the house, could produce just as much of this poison as an unvented heater, without causing illness or death because such poisonous gas would be carried to the open air through a pipe or vent. If a heater does not have a vent, it should be replaced with one that does. If such a replacement is not made, the least that can be done is to make sure that a window is open whenever an unvented heater is operating.

Death Toll Continues. Every year, immediately preceding the season when people are likely to start turning on

the heat, the above information is disseminated to the public, and yet each winter season the coroner compiles death statistics which include a brief note as follows: "Death caused by operating gas heater in closed room."

This year, in addition to giving out information concerning the danger of unvented heaters, this department would like to emphasize that the operation of such heaters is contrary to law, and further that the county counsel last month reaffirmed the opinion that a landlord can be made criminally responsible if one of his tenants meets death through the operation of an unvented heater.

Whose Fault Is It? Although the owners of single dwellings are not mentioned in this particular opinion, it might be well to point out that it would afford small comfort to the head of a household to determine his own criminal responsibility in circumstances which point to the possibility of a carbon monoxide hazard, fresh air should be made available immediately. Unvented heaters should be checked periodically by a competent heating service agency or by a local gas contractor usually headache, dizziness, pany.

Public Notices. TORRANCE HERALD NOTICE TO BIDDERS. Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education, Torrance Unified School District, hereinafter called the District, will receive sealed proposals until 3:00 p.m. Monday, November 29, 1954, for the grading and ground improvements for the Pacific School Site, corner of Newton Street and Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, California.

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Table with 2 columns: Job Title and Hourly Wage Rate. Includes positions like Carpenter, Cement Masons, Iron Workers, etc.

WALTER C. BRADFORD, Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for horizontal and vertical words. Includes clues like 'Italian river', 'Small African fox', 'Fruit of the tree', etc.



FEW SPECIES OF WILDLIFE BENEFIT FROM ARTIFICIAL FEEDING. THERE IS NO SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR NATURAL HABITAT.

At a 40-mile an hour cruising speed the average fuel economy of 29 different makes of automobiles has been increased by about 30 per cent in the interval from 1930 to 1950.

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LOST AND FOUND. FOUND - Boy's leather jacket in Walther Park after Jack football game. Owner call. FAirfax 8-6880. FOUND 2 girls' bicycles around 18th Street. DAVIS 9-2419.

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