

Statistics Grim Reminder of Holiday Auto Tragedies

Letter To Santa

CITY YULE DOINGS

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Santa at Harbor General Hospital.
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.—Program by Melvin Kaiser Studio of Dance at Santa Land.
- 3 p.m.—Santa visits General Hospital and will return to Santa Land and stay until 4:30.
- 6 p.m.—Santa will return to Santa Land.
- 7 p.m.—First Christian Church choir will sing Christmas Carols.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

- 9 to 10 a.m.—Santa rides around Torrance downtown business and other areas.
- 11 to 12 noon—Santa at Santa Land.
- 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
- 3 p.m.—Melody Music Studio entertainment at Santa Land.
- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
- 7 p.m.—Church of the Nazarene choir singing Christmas Carols.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Santa walks around town, visits stores.
 - 11 a.m. to 12 noon—Santa at Santa Land.
 - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
 - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.—Santa visits stores again.
 - 5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.—Santa at Santa Land.
 - 7 p.m.—United Brethren Church choir singing Christmas Carols.
- (Following this, Santa will start on his rounds, ending the program.)

Postmen Get Money, Cart From Friends

Two neighborhood groups turned the tables on their postman this week, as they gave him a package instead of getting something from him.

Neighbors joined to give gifts to Moises C. Castillo, who works out of the Walteria station, and Ray Ambill, who delivers mail in the Shoerstrip. Castillo was given \$56 from his neighbors at a party held last night, while Ambill was given a "mail caddy" to push the mail around his route.

Castillo, who lives at 1700, E. Carson St., was given the money by persons living on Winlock, Raintree, Newton, Crickwood, and neighboring streets. The presentation was made by Mrs. Dorothy Quandt, of 24455 Winlock Dr. and Mrs. Doris Zellner, of 24452 Winlock Dr.

A postman for six years, Castillo has served his present route for six years. Neighbors said he was "one of the best postmen we ever had." They sounded him out last summer about a mail cart, but he didn't care much for the idea.

Ambill, however, was pleased as punch about his mail cart from his clients in the 1400 block on 215th and 218th Sts. A resident at 1556 W. 222nd St. he has served his route for eight years. Ed Burton, of 1413 W. 215th St., made the presentation on behalf of 33 residents of the area.

The presentation was made Sunday night, so that Ambill could push the heavy loads of Christmas mail, instead of carrying it.

SECOND LARGEST
New Guinea, 1500 miles long, is the world's second largest island.

Motorists Asked to Heed Safety Pleas

By JIM CRUMPACKER

The Tragic Holiday Story.

In December, 1954, 351 Californians died and 10,942 more were injured in ear-splitting traffic crashes on the state's roads. These figures compare to 258 deaths and 9022 injuries recprid in traffic during the average month last year.

In December, 1954, there were 13,203 traffic crashes in the state, as compared to the 1954 monthly average of 15,016.

In December, 1954, there were 83 pedestrians killed and 1168 injured in traffic throughout the state, as compared to averages of 59 and 910 respectively for other months.

These all are grim chapters in The Tragic Holiday Story, written by careless, reckless and drunk drivers at the wheel of high-powered machines.

Although the statistics cover the entire state, they apply aptly to Torrance.

A three-year-old girl hovers near death for months after being struck by a car. A young Torrance housewife dies in a two-car collision in a nearby city, two lives are smashed out when a car crashes a train.

These are past statistics of traffic violence in the Torrance area. And, unless safe, sober driving prevails during the coming festive season, similar tragedies might be included in Torrance's chapter of the 1955 Tragic Holiday Story.

Every year Christmas Eve is the date for more traffic deaths than any other single day in the year throughout the nation.

Plead For Caution
Safety groups, highway committees, civic organizations and police all have issued warnings to drivers and pleaded for caution in their holiday driving.

But the same warnings have been sounded before.

Carelessness, refusal to adapt driving habits to road and weather conditions and mixing alcohol and speed are the cause of most wrecks, safety officials

point out. Excessive speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol are contributing factors in more than one-third of all accidents.

Torrance Chief of Police Willard H. Haslam urged residents to be particularly careful and make the "one for the road" coffee. He said that New Year's in the past has been the high point in traffic mishaps locally, but continued by stating that Torrance drivers should be just as careful during the Christmas holidays, and every day.

All days off for local policemen have been canceled during the New Year's celebration period, Haslam said.

The education section of the Los Angeles Police Department offers the following suggestions to citizens to avoid year-end accidents:

1. Drinking and driving don't mix. For your safety be sober when driving, or walking.
 2. Drivers should extend every courtesy possible to pedestrians, being aware they probably are thinking more about shopping than safety.
 3. Pedestrians should exercise particular care and caution when crossing any street, especially after dark.
 4. Be a DEFENSIVE driver and pedestrian. Drive and walk with the expectation that other users of the road are going to do the wrong thing.
 5. Allow plenty of room between yourself and the car in front of you. A good rule is to allow a distance equal to twice your speed in feet, that is 100 feet for a speed of 50 miles per hour, etc.
- Don't be a subscriber to The Tragic Holiday Story.

Deputies Nab Three Boys, Stolen Car

Three 13-year-old Wilmington boys were picked up and a fourth boy sought in connection with the theft of a 1956 auto from a Wilmington car dealer by sheriff's deputies Friday.

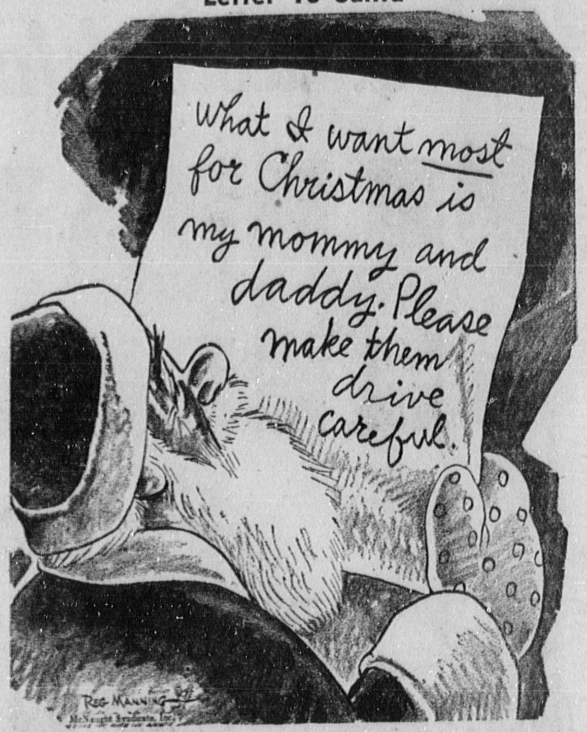
Deputies saw the car, owned by Suburban Motors, Wilmington, near 254th and Walnut St. Lomita, and gave chase, cornering the auto at the dead end of Lomita Park Pl. One boy fled from deputies, but the other three and the car were taken into custody.

The trio told deputies that the other boy had picked them up in the auto, telling them that his father had just bought it. They denied knowing that it was stolen.

After dinner, children come around with little tambourines asking for money. Postmen, milkmen, and other workers also come with tambourines and are given money. Policemen are showered with gifts from passing motorists.

The animals aren't forgotten in either country. The Spanish children leave food for their camels, just as American youngsters leave food for Santa Claus. In Holland, Saint Nick has to fend for himself, but hay or carrots are left for the horse.

In both countries, although the customs are different the thought is the same, however, whether it is expressed as "Merry Christmas," "Prettige Kerstdagen," or "Felices Navidades."



Yule Customs

(Continued from Page 1)

Christmas characters and of the Three Wise Men are held. The Three Wise Men visit orphanages and poor families, giving gifts, such as Santa Claus does here.

In America, a sprig of mistletoe gives the holder a license to kiss a pretty girl. The Spaniards also decorate with mistletoe, but no kissing is allowed, since nice couples are not supposed to kiss until they are engaged. In Holland, there is no mistletoe, but they kiss anyway.

Food is an important part of the festivities in all lands, and in Holland, each member of the family receives a cake in the shape of one of his interests. For instance, some interested in sports may get a cake shaped like a hockey stick, while an animal lover may get one in the form of a dog. Turkey or rabbit generally is the holiday fare there.

Surprise Cake Popular
In Spain, turkey also is the most common food with a champagne chaser. They also have special candies and what is called a "surprise cake." A special surprise is baked inside the cake and the person who gets it will have good luck for the coming year.

Setup Explained
"It will therefore be necessary for owners of all vehicles in these classifications to apply directly to permanent offices of the Department, or by mail to the Department of Motor Vehicles at Sacramento. The bank stations will serve private passenger car owners only from Jan. 3 through Feb. 3," he said.

The motor vehicles chief said the 1956 plates for commercial vehicles will be similar in pattern to those issued in previous years. The auto plates for 1956, however, will carry the new numbering system of three letters followed by three numbers. He said a small number of the new passenger car plates are

Register Vehicles Now, Truck, Bus Owners Urged

Owners of trucks, buses, cabs, and other commercial vehicles may secure their 1956 license plates and their registration renewals now, Paul Mason, Director of Motor Vehicles said today.

He urged them to apply for their 1956 registrations during the month of December, before the annual renewal of private passenger cars begins on Jan. 3.

Statements Made
Statements of fees due for the coming year on over 1,000,000 commercial vehicles owned in the State were mailed Dec. 1. They are due on or before Feb. 4. The statements for private passenger cars, numbering over 5,000,000, will be released in the mail on Dec. 27, the first business day after Christmas. These also must be paid by Feb. 4. Penalties take effect Feb. 5.

Mason warned owners of commercial vehicles that the temporary renewal stations installed in metropolitan area banks will be unable to handle commercial truck, trailer and cycle renewal and plate applications for 1956, because of the problem of storing the plates in such temporary space.

Prize-winning manuscripts in the Christmas test were read to the membership, with top awards going to Edith Battles of Redondo for her article "Santa's Slay Ride" and her "Office Calendar."

Zella Allison of Redondo won first place in fiction for her pioneer story "Maw's Christmas Present" chosen over a large number of entries. A close second was Katherine Bolton's short story "The Young Punk."

Other Winners
A. J. Bor Olson of Lawndale was also a second place winner with his article "Three Questions About the Nativity." Polly Booth placed third with her article "Easy Exchange." Mary Catherine Olson of Manhattan Beach was awarded a third prize for her verse "Santa Claus Comes Home."

Special judges for the contests were Edna Vann, 909 S. Gramercy Drive, Los Angeles; and Helen Eva Yates, 1415 N. Alta Vista, Hollywood. Both are professional writer-critics who donated their time to the club.

San Stewart, South Bay newspaper poet, judged the verse.

Southwest Manuscripters meet at Clark Stadium in Hermosa Beach the third Friday evening of each month. Professionals of national repute discuss phases of the writing craft at each meeting, and workshop groups and frequent prize contests stimulate productivity of the membership. The public is always invited to attend. Information on membership is available by calling Mrs. Fuller at FRontier 2-0330.

Manuscripters Install Officers For Coming Year

Four South Bay professional writers will head Southwest Manuscripters throughout 1956. Novelist Mark Clifton of Redondo and Harmonica S. O'Connor of Hermosa and magazine writers Polly Booth of Hermosa and Betty Fuller of Manhattan were among those installed at the December meeting of the organization.

Clifton was named president of the group of 60 professional and aspiring writers, with Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Booth sharing the spotlight as program chairmen and Mrs. Fuller as secretary. Each has been published repeatedly in national periodicals.

Other writers who will serve are Grace Larsen of Redondo, treasurer; and Catherine Bolton of Manhattan, chairman of hospitality.

Top Manuscripts Read
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Vandals Hit Tires, Windows on 2 Autos.

Vandals smashed two windows in one car and cut two tires on another auto, two irate citizens attending a dance at the Lomita Park Recreation Hall, 24529 Eshelman, told sheriff's deputies Friday night.

Carol Shepherd, of 1522 W. 215th St., said two side windows in her car were smashed, while Robert M. Chavez, of San Pedro, said the stem valves on his tires had been cut off, ruining the tires.

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