

## Law in Action

We think of murder as a willful, deliberate, and carefully planned killing. California's code says that murder is a killing with "malice aforethought." Lacking such malice, a killing becomes second degree murder or even "manslaughter."

Murder calls for death, life imprisonment, or a long prison term. But lacking malice "premeditation," manslaughter calls only for from one to ten years in prison.

Strangely enough, "negligence" that causes death, can be a killing with "malice aforethought." Hence, murder.

Supreme Court Justice Holmes said that courts could find out of the person at fault knew "from the circumstances of his act that a death might follow."

In one case the defendant took a revolver, placed it at a young friend's head, and played "Russian roulette." He pulled the trigger twice. On the third try, the gun went off and killed his friend. The court found him guilty of second degree murder. The recklessness, "abandoned heart" showed cruelty. Enough to become malice aforethought.

Often the court speaks of an "abandonment and malignant

heart," a lack of care for human life when a reckless act brings about death. This becomes malice aforethought.

In one case a husband threw a heavy beer glass at his wife who was carrying a lighted oil lamp. It hit and broke the lamp. The husband did not try to put out the fire and the burning oil killed the wife. The court called it murder.

Other cases involved someone's shooting into a house, a moving train, or a crowd. Such a person should know he might kill someone which is enough to show malice aforethought. Hence murder again.

Still, in another case, a farmer killed a trespasser 500 feet away with a shotgun loaded with buckshot, thinking it was loaded with bird shot. The court found him guilty of second degree murder. With ordinary care, he should have known it had buckshot. Such extreme lack of care made the act murder.

A usual case is the person who wants to beat up his victim "only slightly." But in the scuffle, he knocks the victim down. He strikes a curb or sidewalk, and dies. This too can be murder.

Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.



**DRIVER LEADERS . . .** Mrs. George H. Bliss (left), Harbor City, Lomita city chairman for the Muscular Dystrophy Assn. of America campaign Saturday and Sunday, discusses drive plans with Mrs. Lloyd Carson, Torrance city chairman. County chairman is Vin Scully, popular Dodger announcer, who said funds will be sought to aid nearly a quarter million sufferers of the crippling disease.



**SETS OPENING DATE . . .** The grand opening date for the new Vel's Ford Sales and Service Center at 20900 Hawthorne Ave. has been scheduled for Friday through Monday, Dec. 7-9, according to Vel Miletich, president. Shown here inspecting the signs to go onto the lot are Miletich, Ben Kazarian, vice president of the firm, and Councilman George Vico.

## Polio Clinic Locations

Sabin Oral Sunday polio clinics will be held in the following Torrance schools Sunday:

- Anza Elementary ..... 21400 Ellinwood Drive
- Arlington ..... 17800 Arlington Ave.
- Flavian School ..... 5038 Halison Ave.
- Greenwood ..... 1520 Greenwood Ave.
- Hillsire ..... 25600 Crenshaw Blvd.
- North High ..... 3620 W. 182nd St.
- Riviera School ..... 365 Paseo de Arena
- Seaside ..... 4631 Sharynne Lane
- South High ..... 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy.
- Torrance High ..... 2200 Carson St.
- Wood Elementary ..... 2250 W. 235th St.

All locations will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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## From the Mailbox

By Our Readers  
Editor, Torrance Herald  
The very recent comments

of Sen. Wallace F. Bennett, of Utah should be given wide and loud distribution throughout the Republic.

As a top member of the Senate Finance Committee he has said he "might vote against any tax reduction unless there is some evidence of willingness to cut Federal spending."

The Liberty Amendment (H.J. Res. 23) now pending in Congress is specifically designed to "cut Federal spending." Federal agencies have taken over 40 per cent of the land area and 20 per cent of the industrial capacity of the nation. More than 700 Federal agencies have been identified as directly engaging in enterprise competitive with private enterprise although they have NO constitutional authority for so doing.

U. S. Senators (and all elected representatives) who should have time for analysis and study of important policy matters concerning national defense and prevention of license or abuse of the principles of freedom, spend their valuable time bickering over price-support levels for peanuts and other trivia that have become the day-to-day business of an elephantine bureaucracy.

Write to your Congressman or Senator and ask for a copy of H.J. Res. 23, study it, work for and support the Liberty Amendment.

ROBERT W. DEMERS

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## Christmas Workshops Set at Crafts Center

Christmas workshops for adults will be offered by the Torrance Recreation Department at the Arts and Crafts Center, 22730 Lupine Dr., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12, 13, and 14.

This is an extra workshop added to the schedule of the center. Further registrations are not being accepted for the seventh annual Christmas workshop for the first week of December which is filled to capacity.

Christmas decorations for the home, including candles, wreaths, ornaments, table centerpieces, and door decorations will be made at the workshop.

The afternoon group meets at 1-4 p.m. and the evening group 7-10 p.m. The registration is 75 cents. Materials for

the projects taught at the workshop will be available at nominal cost. The projects range in price from 50 cents to \$1.

CHILDREN will have their Christmas workshop the week before Christmas; ages 6-8 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Dec. 19, 20, and 21 from 1:30-3:30 p.m., and ages 9-14 years of age on Thursday and Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

To register for either the adult Christmas workshop or the children's Christmas workshop, call the Arts and Crafts Center, FR 5-9142, or the Recreation Department, FA 8-5310, Ext. 263. Enrollment is limited in workshops, so please register early.

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THURSDAY

PUNJABS  
By gumparty



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