

All Must Share the Blame for Tragic Christmas Death

A particularly tragic note marred the merriment of the Christmas season just past—a jarring tone that should make us all pause and give thought to the unfortunates in our community.

At the time of year blessed as the birthday of the Prince of Peace, at a time of feasting and plenty, at the time for present giving and new toys, of joy and the laughter of children. . . a 4-year old Torrance boy died of malnutrition in a local hospital.

The fact that the parents of the boy are alleged to be criminally responsible for the death of the child Christmas morning does not detract from the fact that, in our midst, a baby was allowed to die of neglect.

Beyond a doubt any one reading of the tragedy would have been glad to help this youngster, would have been happy to cut back on his own Yule com-

forts in order to make things a little more bright for this unhappy tyke.

And yet, although the parents must accept the responsibility for the child's death, a portion of the blame should rest on all of us for allowing such a situation to exist in our community.

At a time in the history of man when we have shouldered the responsibility of caring for the needy, the weak and oppressed of the rest of the world's teeming millions, to have allowed a small child to die of starvation in our own midst is an unbearable irony.

True, the false pride of the parents who refused to accept charity, the situation which allowed its father to remain out of work for several months, the large family with too many mouths to feed, are all contributing factors.

Yet a portion of the blame and the shame belongs to all of us.

Limited Number of License Renewals to Be Issued This Month, Says DMV Director

License renewals for motor vehicles to be operated on California highways in 1962 are being issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles to limited groups of owners this month.

Tom Bright, director of the department, advises owners of commercial trucks, trailers, taxis, and motorcycles that their applications and fees for 1962 may be received without penalty by DMV through December and up to the February deadline.

"We are also authorized by law to issue 1962 registrations to persons who acquire vehicles by transfer in December," he said. "This law works to the convenience of the motorist who buys a vehicle late in the year. When he applies for immediate registration, com-

plying with this provision spares him the time and attention he would need to give to a second transaction."

Bright said one million punched card registration renewal statements were mailed to California commercial truck, trailer, and motorcycle owners early this month. They may be validated for '62 by payment of fees by mail or in person. "We mail eight million passenger car statements on December 26, and will process them beginning January 2 at our 138 field offices, 140 temporary bank stations, and through traveling registration crews at remote points where there is no full-time DMV office."

SERVICE
"Over one hundred auto clubs and associations will

also serve their members with complete registration renewal services under long-term agreements authorized in the California Vehicle Code.

"The public service program of many banks in metropolitan centers is a unique contribution to the convenience of the California motoring public," he commented. "Public reliance on this economical arrangement is increasing every year. The number of people who will apply for their 1962 stickers and registration cards through the simple straight renewal authorized in the bank stations will approach two million in 1962. The banks offer extremely valuable space without rental charges to the State to accommodate DMV representatives. This reduces the load on the full-time DMV offices, and saves millions of hours of time for California vehicle owners who would otherwise add to the heavy demand made at this season on State facilities."

Los Angeles Noted As Area of Large 'Labor Surplus'

Alvin P. Meyers, regional director of the Small Business Administration, today released the latest U.S. Department of Labor List of "areas of substantial labor surplus" in this region, in which areas special SBA assistance programs are in effect for small business.

The special SBA programs that apply in the areas of substantial labor surplus (as listed below) include the following:

(1) A 4 per cent interest rate on loans to small firms and to State and Local Development Companies. (The rate in other areas is 5½ per cent).

(2) A differential of 25 per cent in SBA's size standards for loans, procurement and production assistance, and

(3) Priority handling of requests for financial procurement and management assistance from small firms. Areas in SBA Region XIV which are currently designated as areas of substantial labor surplus are:

Los Angeles-Long Beach, San Bernardino-Riverside-Ontario, San Diego and Oxnard, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

BERMUDA GRASS

If Bermuda grass is a dominant factor in your lawn, you're probably not too happy with its winter-brown look. There are two possible answers to

County to Check Safety Features On Area Bridges

On motion of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, the Board of Supervisors last week instructed the County Road Commissioner and the Chief Engineer of the County Flood Control District to study the problem of the safety of bridge design and submit recommended changes for new bridges under construction and for existing bridges.

In securing passage of the motion, Supervisor Hahn pointed out that certain bridges under the control of the County Road Department and the County Flood Control District are fenced with railings that are 40 inches high and with horizontal bars six inches apart between the railings.

It had been considered that the distance between the railings was too small for a child to crawl through.

Recently, in Torrance a child fell to his death off a bridge crossing Dominguez Channel at Arlington Avenue and it is believed that the youngster climbed through the bars. Although the bridge crosses over a County Flood Control channel it is under the jurisdiction of the City of Torrance which has decided to put protective fencing along the bridge.

"Certainly, we want to take all precautions necessary to prevent such a tragedy ever happening again. The basic design of the fence used on the Torrance bridge is the same that is used on most of the bridges built in Los Angeles County unincorporated territory," Supervisor Hahn stated.

VA Reports on Benefits for Area Veterans

Information concerning benefits administered by the Veterans Administration may be obtained much more quickly by writing or visiting local VA Regional Offices, rather than writing VA Central Office, Washington, D.C., it was announced today by Mort Webster, manager of VA's Southern California Regional Office.

Specific requests for information concerning individual cases cannot be handled in Washington. Webster pointed out. These must be supplied by the office where the records, files and case folders pertaining to the individual veteran are maintained. All records of this type are kept in VA regional offices and inquiries about particular problems must be referred to the regional office having jurisdiction over the records of the veteran concerned.

When veterans write their VA regional office for information, they should include their full name, complete address, birthdate and claim number ("C" number), if they have one. This will identify the veteran and assist the VA in locating promptly papers and records sometimes needed in supplying answers to queries.

this, and the best is to dig it up and start from scratch. This is a good winter-time job which can be completed before the spring sowing season. The second alternative: Rough rake the Bermuda lawn and sow over it with a fast-growing rye.

PRESS EDITORIAL PAGE

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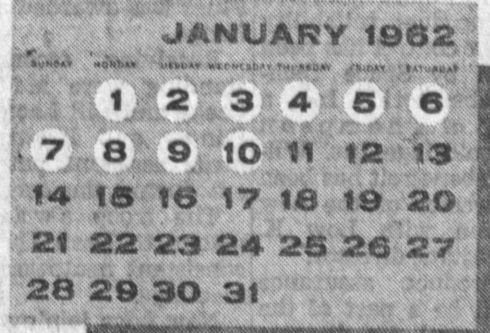
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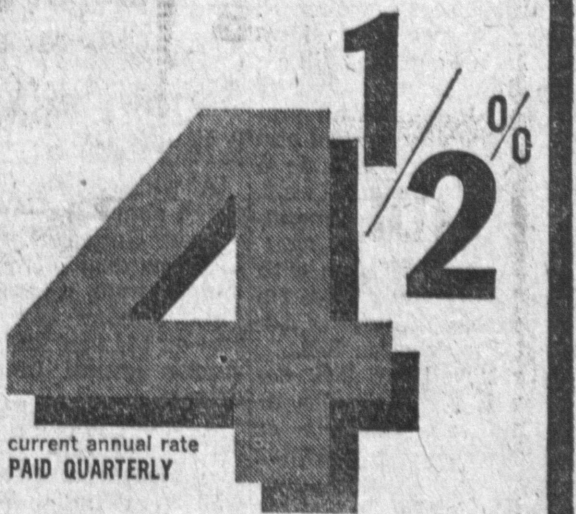
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January 1st thru 10th

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Atomic Physicist Named To Head Protection Group

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn this week announced the appointment of Dr. John Richard Holmes, head of the Physics Department at the University of Southern California, as a member of the Los Angeles County Atomic Energy Development and Radiation Protection Committee.

The Committee was established to advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters pertaining to atomic energy and radiation and consists of 12 members, five of whom are appointed by the Supervisors. The appointees of the Supervisors are required to be trained

in the application and monitoring of nuclear materials.

Dr. Holmes has had an extensive background in the field of atomic energy and radiation, having been one of the pioneer scientists on the Manhattan Project, and more recently having carried out extensive studies on radiation protection.

"I am pleased that this outstanding scientist and educator has agreed to serve on this important committee and I know that he will make many important contributions to the work of the committee," Supervisor Hahn said in announcing the appointment, which was unanimously ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Holmes resides at 3855 Lenawee Avenue, Culver City.

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