

# HWY 1

By Philip Day

The Pacific Coast Highway is a seam of scar winding recklessly up the coast between the palisades and the ocean: rocks that slide and waves that overwhelm.

On a 27.6-mile stretch between Santa Monica's McClure Tunnel and the Ventura County line, its landscape is as much crumpled automobile and sobbing victim as surfboard-carrying van and sunburned hitchhiker.

With regularity, cars, trucks, and vans collide with each other as though the road were awash in a riptide that dashed them into each other, crushing steel and bone.

In the last five years, nearly 50 persons were killed and more than 2,000 injured on the stretch which meanders between the ocean and the Santa Monica Mountains.

It is as if, by the surrealistic brush strokes of Salvador Dali, the man who works the controls and takes the tickets on the Santa Monica pier has been gagged and bound and his bumper cars set free to bounce and bang their way from Santa Monica to Malibu and back.

"That highway is treacherous," said then Assemblyman William Brophy just hours after his 1972 congressional campaign — like the windshield on his state-issued car — was shattered by a collision in which his wife killed a man and a woman.

"It is an example of the lack of responsiveness to the safety of all people who drive automobiles. It proved itself this morning to be a death trap and I'm goddamn mad about it!"

Later, his wife Susan, who was 19 years old on the day of the accident in Pacific Palisades, was convicted in Santa Monica Superior Court of two charges of vehicle

manslaughter and one of driving under the influence of drugs.

Last September, in an accident involving Dr. M. Norvel Young, chancellor of Pepperdine University, two more deaths were added to the highway's toll.

California Highway Patrol investigators said three women were in a car stopped on the highway at Coastline Drive at about 12:20 p.m. on Sept. 16 when Young's car struck theirs in the rear. The gas tank in the women's car exploded and both cars burst into flame. A 55-year-old woman was burned to death and an 81-year-old woman died later of injuries. The third woman was released from the hospital after treatment.

Dr. Young, a minister and former television emcee of "Family Bible Quiz," was arraigned in Santa Monica on manslaughter and drunken driving charges. After pleading guilty to felony manslaughter, he recently was fined \$2,000 and given a county jail sentence (stayed until July to see if he has complied with the terms of probation), and four years of probation that includes six months of research and lecturing on traffic safety.

For many victims of the highway, there never was any hope. During the past four years, people have died in every kind of accident on this asphalt serpent of a road.

A 16-year-old Malibu motorcyclist ran off the highway into a power pole near Zuma Beach. A 34-year-old Venice man drove his car across the center line and smashed into a parked automobile at 80 miles per hour. A Topanga man crossed the highway a half-mile south of Las Flores Canyon and was struck by a hit-and-run driver.

The car of an 80-year-old man collided broadside with a car reportedly fleeing from the scene of a minor traffic accident. A Catholic priest crossed the highway in Malibu at night apparently against a red light.



**OFTEN FATAL** — The accident rate is high on the Coast Highway, and a high percent age of these are fatal or result in serious injury.

# Not Just Another Pretty Place

The car of a 22-year-old Santa Monica man went out of control and crashed into a fire hydrant near Carbon Canyon. Other accident victims escaped with only injuries. A 21-year-old man was burned when his motorcycle caught fire after it struck and killed a deer which suddenly darted across the highway in Malibu.

A Pacific Palisades man received minor injuries when his truck collided with a police car. At the time, the officer was standing on the curb citing a speeding motorist. The police car was smashed into the motorist's vehicle.

A Malibu man and his wife were injured when their car was hit by a massive landslide.

Rocks and dismembered bumpers aren't the only things that fall onto the highway. In accidents, several thousand gallons of milk, 12 tons of lightweight rock, tons of loose and bagged sands, and hundreds of prefabricated cardboard boxes have splashed or crashed onto the road.

Despite the overturnings, the collisions, the deaths, damages, and injuries, California Highway Patrol Officer Mel Mitchell, who works at the Malibu station, doesn't foresee any improvements being made in the highway.

"The main problems are the people who are in just too much of a hurry, drunk drivers, and in summer particularly sightseers looking at the scenery instead of the road," he continued, expressing a view held by representatives of the Santa Monica and Los Angeles police departments who also patrol parts of the stretch.

To make conditions safer on the highway, the state department of transportation, Caltrans, has planned minor improvements — the construction of four pedestrian overcrossings, the reconstruction of an intersection at Big Rock Drive, and a widening of the highway at the Bel-Air Club. Due to a spending freeze, these projects have been shelved for at least the 1975-76 fiscal year.

Several years ago, a plan to create a coast highway — to relieve the road of through traffic and some of the commensurate load — was defeated. The highway would have been built over the ocean, on the shore, or in the hills.

The controversy of constructing a freeway to replace the highway began in 1959 when the state legislature conceived the California Freeway Expressway System and included Pacific Coast Highway. Environmental and developmental interests argued for several years about the various freeway plans and finally, in 1971, the highway was deleted from the state system.

So most people agree that if there is to be any immediate improvement in the road's accident rate, it must come from the persons who use it.

"If people could just be more considerate of speed laws and their fellow human beings, it wouldn't be so dangerous," said Richard Wright, 31, who lived beside the highway in Malibu.

Wright parked his car on a side street across from his house because passing vehicles throw up sand and gravel which could pit and dirty his car and because of his fear that it might become involved in an accident.

If his car had been parked in front of his house Sept. 16, he thinks it would have been set afire in the two-car collision involving Chancellor Young. Wright did not lose his car, but gained memories that he will not easily forget. He pulled Young from the flaming wreckage.

After that accident, Wright was reminded every day of the tragedy that can be wreaked on this highway which grew from a sandy path through a Malibu rancho into a pulverized bumper and body.

"The front of my house is charred from the fire from the collision," said Wright. "Every time I look at the house, I think of the accident and the woman who was caught in the back seat. I see her skin. It is burned and blistered. She died."

# Who Says You Can't Take It With You

By Philip Day

"When you get on a motorcycle, sometimes you get the bear and sometimes the bear gets you." — a biker saying.

At one end of the coffin, beside a spray of gladiolas and roses, lay a small flag bearing the emblem of the Scavengers motorcycle club: a vulture perched atop a skull.

On this flag were placed the individual offerings of men who called themselves brothers of Pat (Grease) Castle, 25, the club vice-president, Santa Monica, who died when his motorcycle collided with a van.

These men who had drunk with, ridden with, worked with, and fought beside their dead friend, laid down their final gifts on the flag's embroidery. With the same unrestrained emotion they kissed each other's faces and thumped each other's backs, they kissed the flag and thumped the coffin with their hands.

What were the gifts they wanted Grease to take with him into the afterlife? A T-shirt rolled around a revolver, a motorcycle chain, a marijuana cigarette, a can of beer, matches, Harley-Davidson wings, a pin with a swastika on it, a crescent wrench, a rosary, a cigarette lighter.

And, of course, the motorcycle: a Harley-Davidson, the one Grease rode into the curve on the canyon road in the City of Orange when he was returning from a run to a park in Orange County. The motorcycle was buried with him. The day before the funeral, the Scavengers had laid it in the

ground below the vault. It had cost them \$125 to deepen the grave by 18 inches.

"Grease is the greatest biker of them all!" shouted one of the Scavengers after the offerings. "And he's still riding his bike. His bike is buried with him and now it has wings." He started to cry and said, "I just had to say it."

The club president hugged and comforted him, saying, "That was right on."

Earlier, at St. Bruno's Church and at the graveside, the priest and altar boys had given their Catholic service: the funeral liturgy, the sprinkling of holy water, the giving of Communion wafers, and the swinging of the incense-burning censer. When members of the Scavengers, Heathens, Hell's Angels, Verdugos, Chosen Few, Mongols, Vulcans, and

**"Grease is the greatest biker of them all. His bike is buried with him and now it has wings."**

Loners had walked into the church sanctuary wearing their sleeveless jackets and jeans, they muffled the tread of their boots and gave respectful silence to the sanctity of the Mass.

But when the priest had finished his duties at the cemetery, it was their turn to give the rites. The offerings were made, beer cans were popped open, and words were spoken.

# Biker Takes Bike

"We want the same atmosphere as if Grease was still alive," explained Tom Hall, of Whittier, a Scavenger. "He could be phony and dressed up, but that wasn't his life."

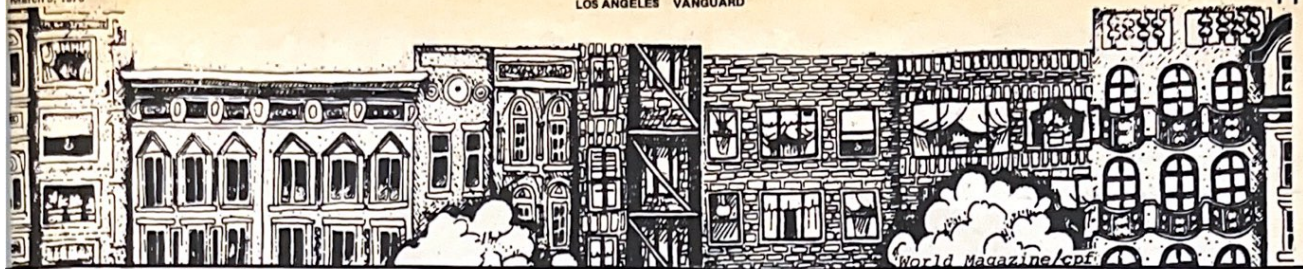
For the club members, who had driven to the church and then in the procession which includes cars and close to a hundred motorcycles to the Queen of Heaven cemetery Rowland Heights, this was a party for Grease. They told each other to celebrate, that Grease wouldn't want them sad — gaiety was not easy under an overcast sky.

Their service would not end with a bulldozer, driven by a young man who did not even know Grease, pouring dirt over the vault containing the coffin. The coffin, the offerings, the flag, and a blanket of flowers were put in the vault. The vault was lowered into the earth with the aid of chains and a bulldozer.

Then, with shovels, they covered the grave. When the gathering at the cemetery dispersed, a party began at the Scavenger clubhouse at 12336 Penn Street. There, they had already held a benefit to raise money to give to Pat's parents.

As the party continued, the Scavengers — whose name and symbol mock death — found that the words of a rider in another club expressed their feelings: "You know something, Grease is still riding with us. I mean it."





# COMMUNITY HANDBOOK

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## OLDER FOLKS

THIS IS THE BEGINNING of a comprehensive resource guide for Los Angeles and nearby communities. In the weeks to come, we will be updating these categories and adding others. We are already developing resources for Youth, Hot Lines, Ecology, Economic Alternatives, Labor, Law, Prison, Divorce, Elderly, Education, Yoga, Employment, Family Counseling, Free Films, Political Organizations, and Immigration. Readers are encouraged to contribute listings and comments, complaints, reactions, ideas, updates, deletions or other responses about these resources to the Los Angeles Vanguard, 1060 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles 90019 or call us at 31-1641.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTERS

Provide family counseling, children's programs, food, shelter, educational services)  
Asian Community Service Center, 1351 Westmoreland, LA, 747-7623.  
ASA, 2673 W. Pico Blvd., LA, 487-171.  
Community Service Organization, 2820 Hittier Blvd., LA, 269-3141.  
Daymarket, 715 So. Parkview, LA, 387-932.  
Ocean Park Community Center, 245 Hill St., Ocean Pk., 399-9228.

## CONSUMER GROUPS

### CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.

Consumer Services de Aztlan, 929 N. Bonnie Beach, LA, 263-7355.  
CLA Consumer Affairs Office, Kerckhoff Hall, Rm. 311, LA, 825-2820.  
East LA Center, 1508 Brooklyn Ave., A, 264-4981.  
ABC Radio Ombudsman, LA, 663-311.  
Neighborhood Legal Services, 13327 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima, 896-5211; 109 Owensmouth, Canoga Pk., 346-170.  
Peraon Estofadores, 1611 E. Brookline Ave., E. LA, 225-2293.

### CONSUMER INFORMATION.

Right Inflation Together, 1434 Westwood Blvd., LA, 474-4518 or 475-5256.  
A County Consumer Information Service: 628-3141.

### CONSUMER REFORMS.

Association of California Consumers, 1 S. Virgil Ave., LA, 388-7676.  
California Citizen's Action Group (ALCAG), 2315 Westwood Blvd., LA, 5-0417.  
AUSE, 5889 W. Pico, LA, 938-6241.  
Center for New Corporate Priorities, 16 Westwood Blvd., LA, 475-5856.  
Coalition for Economic Survival, 5889 W. Pico, LA, 938-6241.  
Women for Malpractice Reform, 5400 Alboia Blvd., Encino, 783-7286.

Senior Citizens Outreach Program, 207 Ocean Front, Venice, 396-5964.  
VITA Active Senior Citizens, 317 N. So. to, East LA, 261-3109.  
Westminster Senior Citizens Center, 392-5566.  
Continued Employment & Activities for the Retired, 601 S. Kingsley Dr., LA, 385-4221.

## FOOD CO-OPS

### WESTSIDE & BEACHES.

Bananas Co-op, 1222 Fernwood Dr., Topanga, 455-1988.  
Canal Council Co-op, P.O. Box 575, Venice, Call Robbie, 821-5793.  
Co-opportunity, 11556 Santa Monica, LA, 479-7122.  
Cove Co-op, 3644 Via Palomino, Palos Verdes Estates, 373-3900 or 373-6042.  
Food Family, 1221 Cabrillo, Venice, Call Manny, 399-0340.  
El Segundo Co-op, 742 W. Mariposa, El Segundo, 322-4283.  
Georgina, Santa Monica, 393-5194 or 396-7040.  
Good Times, 1731 S. Bedford, LA, 836-4950.

Inflation Contemplation, 1902 Loma Hermosa Beach, 379-8811.  
Long Beach Co-op, 1206 E. Anaheim, Long Beach, 591-9042.  
Manhattan Beach Family Store, 1130 Laurel Ave., MB, 545-0067.  
Our Topanga Co-op, P.O. Box 282, Topanga, 455-2770 or 455-1244.  
Palos Verdes Co-op, 5241 Sunnypoint Pl., Palos Verdes, 377-4325.  
Penmar Buyers Co-op, 1620 Glyndon Ave., Venice, 399-2072.  
Southern California Co-op Community, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., LA, 466-0254.  
UCLA Village Co-op, 308 Westwood Plaza, LA, 825-2820.  
West LA Buyers Club, 3534 Barrington Ave., LA, 391-7318.

### EASTSIDE, CENTRAL, SOUTH LA.

Altadena Co-op, 90 E. Loma, Altadena, 794-7544.  
Alhambra Co-op, 3928 Stockbridge, LA, 221-9934.  
Ananda Marga Co-op, 1245 S. Norton Ave., LA, 731-1372.  
Chinatown Co-op, 1431 Allison, LA, 628-9704 or 825-2974.  
Co-op East, 1033 S. Bradshaw, Monterey Park, 572-0274.  
Eating Together, 4303 Price, Hollywood, 664-9232.  
Echo Park-Silverlake Food Conspiracy, 1336 Echo Park Ave., LA, 485-0506 or 665-7625.  
East Hollywood Co-op, 4207 Russell Ave., LA, 665-0126.  
Good Herb Food Co-op, 11615 Mississippi, LA, 478-1922.  
Hidden Manna Foods, 4505 Abbott Road, Lynwood, 567-3258.  
Highland Park Co-op, 927 Terrace 49, LA, 254-4436.  
Hub City Buyers, 1112 N. Santa Fe Ave., Compton, 635-9043 or 774-5463.

Immaculate Heart Food Co-op, 2021 N. Western, LA, 462-1301, x. 228.  
Jefferson Community Buyers Club, 3443 10th Ave., LA, 732-4057.  
Occidental Food Co-op, 1026 Palm St., Altadena, 798-8252.  
Palm Street Co-op, 1026 Palm St., Altadena, Call Jackie, 798-8252.  
Shoe Workers Co-op, 3212 1/2 Baldwin St., LA, 221-8093.  
Sinoloa Ave. Co-op, 950 Sinoloa Ave., Pasadena, 791-1354.  
Verdugo Hills Co-op, 2072 LaPaloma Rd., Tujunga, 353-7357.

### VALLEY.

Alba Co-op, 13345 Glamis St., Pacoima, 896-1473.  
Emerson Buying Club, 22663 Kittridge St., Canoga Park, 781-8211, x. 4192.  
Friendly Co-op, 20562 Quedo, Woodland Hills, 344-0930.  
Onion Grocers, 9550 Haskell Ave., Sepulveda, 363-0143.  
Peoples Grains & Greens, 17722 Vanowen St., Reseda, 881-9783.  
Harvest Food Co-op, 17949 Hattan, Reseda, 344-0930.  
St. Cyril's Co-op, 4956 Odessa, Encino, 990-0951.

## HOUSING

U.C.L.A.. Environmental & Consumer Affairs Office, Kerckhoff Hall, Rm. 311, 825-2820. Tenants' complaints about housing.  
Centro Legal de Santa Monica, 235 Hill St., SM, 392-4188.  
Tenant's Council, 11669 Santa Monica Blvd., 473-2961 or 473-2962.

## TAX ASSISTANCE

Community Care and Development Services, 1450 W. Venice Blvd., LA, 747-9611. Handles all types of tax services for senior citizens, property tax assistance, renters' refunds, etc.  
Northeast Valley Community Service Center, 13309 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima, 896-5302.  
VITA Program, IRS Clinic, East, 572-7851; San Fernando Valley, 997-3143; Hollywood, 462-3181 x 407.  
Cal State Northridge, 885-3166. Students will help with taxes.

## WOMEN

Affirmative Action Association for Women, 481-7843.  
Center for New Direction, LA College, 5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys, 785-3955 or 785-9171.  
Commit, 817 W. 34th St., LA, 747-7255.  
Bilingual pre-school, aged, housing reform.  
Fat Underground, P.O. Box 597, Venice, 223-1549. Women's switchboard answering service. Fat Liberation Group.  
LA Feminist Federal Credit Union, 1434 Westwood Blvd., LA. Financial counseling.  
NOW, 8271 Melrose, LA, 655-5332; Valley Chapter, P.O. Box 20, Canoga Park, 883-7042.

Westside Women's Center, 237 Hill St., Santa Monica, 388-3491.  
The Women's Bldg., 1727 No. Spring St., LA, 655-3331.  
National Women's Political Caucus, 1133 Hacienda Pl., LA, 654-0275.  
Sisterhood Bookstore, 1351 Westwood Blvd., LA, 477-7300.  
Women's Institute & Health Center, 7151 W. Manchester Blvd., LA, 641-2911 or 776-5177.  
Sunshine Mission for Women, 2600 S. Hoover, 747-7419.  
Mamma Organization, P.O. Box 5759, Santa Monica.  
Women's Resource Center, UCLA, 405 Hilgard, Powell Library, Rn. 90, 825-3945.  
Women's Center, 6399 Wilshire, LA, 651-3528.  
Women's Information Center, USC Library, 746-6057.  
Westside Women's Health Care Project, 1711 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, 450-2191.

## YOUNGER FOLKS

### DAY CARE CENTERS. (Free or fee based on ability to pay.)

Children's Center, 718 Rose Avenue, Venice, 392-4836.  
Albion St. Children's Center, 348 S. Avenue 18, LA, 221-1798.  
Archdiocese of LA, 1520 W. 9th St., LA, 388-1291.  
BUSCA, Inc., 4752 S. Huntington Dr., LA, 221-7133.  
Campus Children's Center, Valley College, Van Nuys, 988-8570.  
Child Development Center, 1620 E. 12th St., LA, 564-3215.  
Child Care & Development, 2137 N. Marriana Ave., LA, 268-1931; 1450 W. Venice Blvd., LA, 747-9611.  
Children's Place, The Church in Ocean Park, 235 S. Hill, Santa Monica, 399-6405.  
Commission Feminil Mexicana Nacional, Inc., 379 Loma Dr., LA, 748-4912.  
Compton Model Cities Day Care, 600 N. Alameda, Compton.  
Counseling & Learning Center of Watts, 1457 E. 103rd St., LA, 564-7911.  
Gate Street Children's Center, 2306 Thomas, LA, 222-5302.  
Los Feliz Co-op Nursery School Griffith Park Recreation Center, 3401 Riverside Dr., LA, 664-5335.  
Neighbors of Watts, 226 E. 126th St., LA, 779-6196 or 779-6298.  
Pasadena Day Nursery, 450 N. Garfield, Pasadena, 449-6220.  
Pierce College Children's Center, 6201 Winnetka, Woodland Hills, 884-8553.  
Silverlake People's Playgroup, 1336 Echo Park Ave., LA, 665-7625 or 485-0506.  
Tribal American Preschool, 4753 E. Slauson, Maywood, 771-3563.  
Woodland Hills Co-op Nursery School, Box 100, Canoga Park, 348-9580.

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