

## **Think About Being a Corpse on 'The Fourth'**

The headlines of news reports of Fourth of July accidents of former years offer the best short sermons on the wisdom of observing Independence Day sanely. Here are a few from files of The Times:

**FIRECRACKER VICTIM MAY LOSE  
LEFT EYE**

**BOY EXPECTED TO LOSE SIGHT  
AFTER FIRECRACKER BLAST**

**HOMEMADE BOMB KILLS YOUTH  
MAN AND TWO BOYS INJURED BY  
FIRECRACKERS**

Fourth of July casualties, of course, are not limited to the victims of fireworks. Traffic accidents and drownings help to swell the list. Last year the Associated Press survey of the entire nation disclosed at least 411 fatalities over the four-day Fourth of July holiday. These included 164 traffic deaths and 123 drownings:

In the battle of the Pacific, gallant American boys are sacrificing their lives,

their limbs and their health so that the United States can continue to observe countless Independence Days in the future. While tragic, such casualties as the world is now constituted are regretably unavoidable.

Our home front casualties will come from impulsive stupidity, from selfish disregard of the other fellow's rights and from foolish attempts to make a little noise and to attract a little attention.

This year our tribute to our boys fighting in the Pacific ought to be to make the observance of the Fourth what it should always be—an occasion for the remembrance of all Americans who in the past have so lived and died that our freedom and our liberty become more secure as each Independence Day arrives.

But to far too many persons it won't be. The casualty reports will come in after the Fourth. But possibly the figures may be a few less because of this and similar efforts of the press to avert needless tragedies on the Fourth of July.