

Fate Stepped In

New Home and New Life Awaited Pacifica Pair--One Day Too Late

Roy Banta and his wife, Marion, had planned to move into a new home yesterday and start a new life together.

The Banta's separated eighteen months ago because of his drinking problem.

Banta moved out of their home at 615 Miller Ave., Pacifica, and Mr. Banta filed suit for divorce.

But Banta, 35, was not content to let his wife and four children fade out of his life.

The mechanic rehabilitated himself and then asked his wife to start over again. She agreed.

Together they shopped for the new home which would represent a new life for them.

At 8 a. m. yesterday, James E. Leech, 45, of 577 Fifth Ave., San Bruno, was heading for a bait shop on Ocean Blvd. in Pacifica when he noticed smoke seeping from be-

neath the door of a cabin of Hazel's Motel at 31 Ocean Blvd.

Together Leech and an unidentified motel guest smashed down the door and pulled a charred body from the smouldering bed.

It was Banta.