

Mothers Walk Picket Lines Near Dangerous School Zone Crossing

A Penny for your Thoughts

Torrance residents gave ideas on traffic safety when a HERALD reported posed this question:

"The city this week was given a poor traffic safety rating by the National Safety Council. What do you think should be done to improve this situation?"

John A. MacVicar, 2120 Gramercy Ave., parking lot attendant:

"People should obey safety zones when crossing the streets. Most of them never use the crosswalks and cars narrowly miss hitting some of them. Speed limits, especially downtown, should be enforced more strictly."

The Rev. H. Milton Sippel, 2914 Onrado Ave., minister: "I believe there should be a stronger education program for adults and children on the need for traffic safety. This program should be carried on in schools, in the newspapers, clubs and other media."

Ben Smith, 2504 Cabrillo Ave., merchant: "Too many people take streets for granted. . . they become so familiar with traveling down certain streets that they forget to pay attention to speed zones and traffic signs. If they'd pay strict attention to speed limits all the time, there would be less accidents."

Mrs. Zoná Beasley, 1033 Fiat Ave., housewife: "There should be more enforcement by traffic officers to slow drivers down, especially in the city and around schools. We also should have stricter traffic laws."

Mary Pagac, 1528 Post Ave., saleswoman: "I believe there should be better police supervision to relieve congestion during heavy traffic hours. Traffic also should be slowed down, especially on streets leading into the city."

M/Sgt. Jack Amberson, Room 1, Post Office building, U.S. Army recruiter: "The people themselves are to blame for the traffic situation. They could slow down—everyone is in too big a hurry. I think it's a problem that each individual should solve. We expect too much out of our police department."

Seek Witnesses For Bail Probe

Los Angeles County Grand Jurors are searching for two missing witnesses in their investigation of a former Torrance police warrant officer.

The former warrant officer, Jack Gee, has been under investigation since March.

Dept. District Atty. Fred Henderson said the probe will continue Wednesday even if the two unnamed witnesses cannot be found.

William Keene, former deputy district attorney, presented the case to the criminal complaints committee reporting court record showed that 85 warrants given to Gee to collect were missing. Approximately \$3500 in bail money was involved.

Hearing Postponed
The jury heard testimony last week and postponed additional hearings until Wednesday in the hopes that the two witnesses can be found.

Gee, who worked for the Torrance department under a verbal contract after a written contract was canceled because of cases of missing bail, finally was fired.

Originally Gee was hired, then fired, then former Police Chief Willard Haslam rehired him to collect bail after a new system of collections was devised.

Haslam finally was ordered by the Municipal Court and by the district attorney's office to dismiss Gee.
Presented as evidence to the jury are seven of the missing warrants, involving about \$300 in bail.

BICYCLIST INJURED IN ACCIDENT

An 11-year-old lad riding a bicycle was hit by a car Thursday at Torrance Blvd. and Acacia Ave.

Raymond Lee Douglas, 11, of 2815 Andro Ave., was taken to Harbor General Hospital and then later released.

Driver of the car was Donald Allen Lancaster, 16 of 175 W. Jay St. He was traveling west on Torrance Blvd. when the accident occurred.

Two cars collided Thursday at the intersection of 174th St. and Arlington Ave.

Helen Marie Giles, 26, of 2305 W. 178th St. and 13-month-old Brenda K. Giles received minor injuries.

Driver of the other car involved was Johannes Vbenis, 35, of 4632 W. 152nd St., Lawndale.

Supreme Court May Decide in Water Dispute

The California Supreme Court may be called on to decide the legality of an agreement between the Torrance Municipal Water District and the Dominguez Water Co.

City Attorney Stanley Remmeyer recommended that the city hire Los Angeles Attorneys Newlin, Tackabury, and Johnston for what he predicted would be a legal battle which would eventually go to the Supreme Court.

Agreement Eyed
At issue is an agreement between the City and the water company which was made on Nov. 10, 1953. It provided that the firm would furnish water to a 457-acre tract of homes at 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave. for the following 10 years, after which the system would be turned over to the Torrance Municipal Water District.

Plan Studied
Last year, the firm sought disapproval of the agreement from the State Utilities Commission, which still has the application under submission.

Optimism that the City will win the dispute was expressed by George W. Tackabury.

"The entire position of the Dominguez Water Corp. appears to us to be highly inequitable and the product of manifest afterthought," declared the partner in the firm retained by the City.

Who Says You Can't Take It Along With You?

Although he recently retired after 37 years as a timekeeper at the National Supply Co., Gus Colburn will have a part of his work with him.

During the 37 years he worked there, he sat in the same wooden swivel chair. When he retired, the company had the seat refinished and gave it to him as a farewell gift.



THEY WANT HELP . . . Some of the "Mothers West of Figueroa" pose by the 50-mile-per-hour speed limit sign, carrying the signs with which they are picketing the nearby 234th and Figueroa St. crossing. The mothers want a signal at the crossing and a reduction in the speed limit in the area, as well as school crossing signs for the 155 children who have to cross the street to get to 232nd Pl. School. Shown (kneeling) are Mary Baird and Judy Shults, and (standing) Florence Sperry, Gloria Wetzel, Barbara Comerski, and Doris Blakemore.

City Ready to Start Big Trash Pick-Up Program

Thursday to begin the roundup of combustible trash.

Street Superintendent Ralph Perkins announced yesterday that the schedule of home collections would be the same as in the past, at least for the present. Some changes may be made later as the program is under way. Thus, if the trash truck has been visiting your area on Thursday, it will continue to do so.

To get ready for the heavy increase in trash disposal, the city purchased five new 20-yard load packer trucks—trucks which compress the material to insure hauling maximum loads.

Larger Trucks
The new trucks are 25 per cent larger than the balance of the fleet which has been in operation. In addition, two flat bed trucks will continue to make the rounds until the program is coordinated.

On the matter of coordination, Perkins said it might be necessary to put a man in the field to coordinate the pickup fleet. The trucks are scheduled



A GROWING ARMY . . . Four of the new trash monsters which will start their rounds here this week are shown on delivery to the city. Standing by the trucks (left to right) are Drivers Lewis Cumford, Charles Bennett and Harold Clayton. In the foreground, Dwight Eubank hands the truck keys to Ralph Perkins while John Atkinson and Marshall Chamberlain look on.

Reduced Speed, Signals Sought

A group of mothers of children at 232nd Pl. school have vowed to picket the crossing at 234th and Figueroa until the state puts up a stoplight, reduces the speed limit from its present 50 miles per hour, and posts a "school crossing sign."

"We have written letters to officials and we are going to stay right here every day until something is done," according to Mrs. Mary Baird, spokesman for the group of ladies, who call themselves "The Mothers West of Figueroa."

A group of about 15 mothers were at the crossing Friday standing with signs bearing such slogans as "We want a 35 M.P.H. Speed Limit," "We want a Signal," and "School's Open—Be Alert."

Support Protest
Mrs. Baird said that support among mothers of children has snowballed since the picketing first started last Monday.

Some 155 children who live west of Figueroa St. must cross the busy highway at 234th St. to get to their school, which is located about three blocks away at 234th and Meyler Sts.

For the first time this year, the mothers were successful in getting a crossing guard, Mrs. Betty Conkle, appointed to guide the youngsters across the street. Even so, many drivers zooming down Figueroa St. at 50 miles an hour or more have to slam on their brakes to stop in time for the children.

View Obstructed
Curves on Figueroa St. on both sides of the 234th St. crossing partially obstruct the view ahead. Signs proclaiming a 50 mile per hour speed limit are within 100 yards of the crossing.

What the mothers want is a signal which would remain green all the time, except when children are crossing the street. This would require a signal which would be operated by hand.

Walking Limited
The mothers point out that there is no place for the children to walk but along the shoulders of the highway and when the weather is rainy, they must walk on the edge of the highway.

They have addressed letters to Royal W. Rice, senior highway foreman, and Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, seeking action. They have been told that, since the crossing does not adjoin the school, the precautionary signs are not authorized.

J. Rome Gately, president of the Carson Civic Betterment Assn., has pledged his help to the women.



GORDON F. ARNOLD . . . Passing Mourned

Gordon Arnold, Legion Leader, Dies Suddenly

Funeral services for Gordon F. Arnold, long-time employee of the city's water department and a past commander of the American Legion post here, were held yesterday afternoon. Mr. Arnold, who was 44, died suddenly at his home, 1424 Crenshaw, Wednesday evening.

Death of the popular Legionnaire is being mourned by hundreds of his Legion buddies, men who filled the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel yesterday to pay final tribute to their comrade.

Busy At Death
Mr. Arnold has been a prime force in the activities of the Bert S. Crossland Legion Post here for the past decade, and was busy organizing the post's annual Halloween party at the time of his death.

He was a water service foreman for the city's water department, one of the principal assistants to Superintendent Angus McVicar.

Born In Canada
He was born in Colgate, Canada, on Jan. 5, 1913, and had lived in Torrance for 34 years. He is survived by his widow, Anna; two sisters, Mrs. Adah Jeffreys, of Saskatchewan, and Mrs. Pearl Beavers of Culver City, and one brother, Ray, of Torrance.

Rev. Howard Rosine conducted the services yesterday while members of the Legion post served as pallbearers. Full military rites were accorded the Legion leader. Water department coworkers served as honorary pallbearers.

Burial was in Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Four Baptists Hurt on Way To Meeting

Four Torrance residents injured on their way to a week end retreat of the First Baptist Church at Lake Arrowhead were reported recovering yesterday.

Mrs. J. N. Zuttermeister, 17321 Delia Ave., was driving her car in the mountains near Lake Arrowhead Sept. 20, when the brakes failed. She crashed the car into a bank to avoid going over an embankment straight ahead.

Mrs. Zuttermeister suffered broken ribs and bruises. Her husband, riding in the front seat, received a concussion and cuts. Riding in the back seat were Mrs. Olga Brown, 2035 Middlebrook Rd., who suffered a broken leg; and Mrs. Grace Eller, 712A Amápolá Ave., who received a broken collarbone, wrist, ribs, and possible internal injuries.

The Zuttermeisters returned home Friday, but the two ladies were confined at Santa Anita Hospital, Lake Arrowhead, and will have to remain there for several weeks.

The quartet were enroute to Arrow Pines for an adult conference.

Calling All
Monday Morning
Quarterbacks!

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