

EDITORIALS

It's Our Own Mess

It would appear, to quote a member of the Torrance city council, that "some of the mess is in our own backyard," the HERALD learned during the past two days while pursuing further the cause for the delay in providing adequate traffic control facilities at the busy intersection of Hawthorne Ave. and Carson St.

In an editorial published in the HERALD Thursday, this newspaper was critical of the state's part in that delay.

That criticism still stands.

However, discussions with officials in our own city hall and in the offices of the State Division of Highways, have led us to one conclusion:

The city has been lax—inexcusably lax—in its efforts to see that proper traffic safeguards were installed at the dangerous crossing.

The city made a formal request for the signal in February after the intersection was opened with the extension of Carson St. west from Madrona Ave.

This week, following the death of a Torrance police sergeant at the intersection, a second dispatch was sent off to the state conveying the city's offer to proceed with the engineering and installation of signals. This offer will be accepted promptly by the Division of Highways, the HERALD was told.

The same offer should have been made in February instead of the demand that the state install signals at its own expense, despite the city council's expressed willingness to share the cost.

Be that as it may, the statements of city officials in the interim in replies to inquiries of interested firms and the HERALD that the city was "on top of the situation," and that "all was being done that the city could do," appear, in retrospect, to have been made in error.

In light of disclosure now, on the part of the city and state officials alike, the city did very little about the signal after the official request in February.

Had city officials been doing what interested parties were told was being done, the badly needed traffic control measures might have been operating today.

Several paths laid open for city action: The city could have offered immediately to design and install the signal to state specifications; it could have suggested that the state move the signal from 238th St. and Hawthorne, which was placed in the middle of nowhere over the city's protest "because we like to have signals spaced every quarter mile, or so," or it could have maintained a closer liaison with the state to assure that the city, at least, was doing all possible to see the project through.

With the best of luck, it will still be many months before a signal is installed at the dangerous intersection. During the coming months, with the opening of new units of the Del Amo Shopping Center, traffic on and across Hawthorne will become even heavier.

And with the best of luck, the city might get by without another fatality at the corner while it is waiting for the installation of traffic control measures.

It will take luck — lots of it.

What You Want To See In Amerika?



Delinquency Rate Tried To Smut Mail--Conner

(This is another in a series of articles prepared by the Post Office Department in its campaign against smut in the mails. Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield testified in Washington, D. C. Friday that the mails were being used to peddle an alarming amount of smut and pornography, much of it going to children.)

The vile, nationwide mail order traffic in obscene material has played a flagrant part in the alarming rise in juvenile delinquency in the United States, according to Postmaster Clara A. Conner.

Mrs. Conner said that this point has been emphasized once again by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield in a recent statement before a Congressional Committee studying the mail order obscenity racket and its vicious effects.

Postmaster Conner noted that "time after time, in police investigations of armed robbery, extortion, embezzlement, and forgery, it has been found that those guilty were youthful collectors of highly obscene pictures and materials."

In his testimony before the Committee the Postmaster General emphasized that: "Sociologists and psychologists tell us that exposure of children to pornographic pictures and literature may often lead to sexual aberrations."

"Any experienced law enforcement officer," Mr. Summerfield continued, "can give you the grim information that virtually every sex criminal has a record of affinity for obscene photographs and other such filth."

This latter fact is what leads to the terrible indirect results of this seditious traffic, Mrs. Conner said.

"Many children who are never exposed to obscene material," she said, "can nevertheless become victims of the criminals who are affected by it. They can fall prey to the perverted imagination of the man who starts by pulling a little girl's braid

and ends by taking her life." Mrs. Conner stated flatly that this racket, which now operates at a half-billion dollar a year level, will keep on growing unless the members of every community take direct action to stamp it out.

She predicted that sex crimes will become far more prevalent than they are even today, as the filth racketeers seek to pervert the minds of more and more children, and concluded with Summerfield's warning that, if this trend continues, "We can expect an ultimate breakdown in moral strength, order, and decency in this country."

But, she emphasized, "There is something each parent can do—action the parent can take to help prevent his children and children elsewhere from falling into the clutches of these racketeers."

Her advice to parents is to

1. If the contents of mail arriving in your home are obscene, save all the material including the envelope in which the material is received.
2. Put the material and the envelope promptly in the hands of your Postmaster, either personally or by mail.

Postmaster Conner assures parents that the Post Office Department will take immediate action to investigate and, where warranted, to bring about prosecution of the parties responsible for the mailing. Conviction can result in sentences of up to 10 years in jail and heavy fines.

And she adds that "if parents throughout the country take these three steps, our local community, and our entire nation, can look confidently to the day when this insidious menace will be stamped out."

Garden Checklist

By California Association of Nurserymen

GARDENERS checklist..... puh.....

1. The wonderful Wonder of Stafa (Aster frikartii) will be showing up in bloom at nurseries. Plant several for vivid blue, daisy-like fall bloom.
2. Chrysanthemums take food at three-week intervals during growth. But hold off further feeding when buds start to show color.
3. Sink pots of Cyclamen in bloom for shade garden color from now through winter.
4. Cut back Shasta Daisy after bloom. Cut back Marguerites to maintain shape and to encourage new growth and bloom.
5. Keep after slugs and snails. Toss poison pellets into flower beds, or mound snail bait at strategic points for attack.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars. To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 22 - APR. 20 5-33-39-58 61-64-67	TAURUS APR. 21 - MAY 21 15-17-23-26 43-49-57-58	GEMINI MAY 22 - JUN. 21 57-59-66-69 70-76-85-86	CANCER JUN. 22 - JUL. 22 1-16-19-36 40-48-81-82	LEO JUL. 23 - AUG. 23 4-7-10-25 37-41-74	VIRGO AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23 2-9-28-31 32-45-53	LIBRA SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23 20-21-29-44 47-72-73	SCORPIO OCT. 24 - NOV. 22 22-25-27-52 62-65-65	SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23 - DEC. 22 11-14-18-38 42-50-55	CAPRICORN DEC. 23 - JAN. 20 12-13-24-30 49-78-83-84	AQUARIUS JAN. 21 - FEB. 19 51-56-60-63 71-77-79-80	PISCES FEB. 20 - MAR. 20 3-6-8-34 65-75-80-80
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Good Adverse Neutral

My Neighbors



"And what do you do besides teaching swimming?"

RED RYDER



By Fred Harman

VIRGIL

By Lew Kleis



SUPERMAN



RIVETS

By George Sixta



4% CURRENT RATE PER ANNUM
PAID QUARTERLY

- accounts opened by the 10th earn from the 1st
- each account insured to \$10,000
- save a trip — save by mail

ASSETS OVER \$56,000,000

Southwest Savings

AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

INGLEWOOD TORRANCE
2700 W. Manchester—at 6th Ave. Pleasant 3 2164
1603 Cravens—at Marcellina Fairfax 8 6111