



SEMI FINALISTS . . . Marie Stansbury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Stansbury of 18008 Ermanita Ave., and John Lemke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Lemke of 18321 Van Ness Ave., receive congratulations from Dr. Richard G. Guengerich, North High principal for their performance on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests. Both students were named semi-finalists in the national competition.

Council Seeks to Alert Youth to Smoking Danger

By ROBERT STIVELMAN, M.D., President, County Heart Association

Can adults be persuaded to stop smoking? What can be done to persuade young people not to take up the habit? The Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Smoking and Health is working hard to answer these questions.

Twelve major Los Angeles County health organizations are convinced that cigaret smoking is a serious health hazard. The groups include the Heart Association, Board of Supervisors, Medical Association, Tuberculosis and Health Department, Cancer Society, and several health departments.

Some staggering facts have been collected as the councils preliminary effort to round up a library of existing literature on the monumental problem. For instance, more than 100,000 children now attending elementary school in California will die before they reach old age because of cigaret smoking.

THE SHOCK effect of these facts has had brief results. Almost two years ago, after an advisory committee turned in its report on the dangers of smoking to the U. S. Surgeon General, cigaret sales did a mild nose-dive. Findings confirmed that cigaret smokers die earlier than non-smokers, that cigaret smoking is a major cause of chronic bronchitis and lung cancer, and that the use of cigarets is associated with heart diseases and lung-crippling emphysema.

However, the Inter-Agency Council reports no dramatic changes have occurred because of this publicity. Cigaret sales generally have zoomed back higher than their earlier levels. Sixty million Americans continue to smoke, ignoring the advice of all the health agencies.

IS THERE any hope for a change? Serious researchers in the field say yes. Early setbacks are inevitable in the nationwide effort to reduce cigaret consumption. The long-standing habit of adult

smokers is hard to break. The best of books, pamphlets, classes, and clinics by themselves seem not to have been very successful on adults. A few have been helped but more practical aids are still in the experimental stage.

The best answer lies in preventing young people from starting to smoke, and the habit may be greatly reduced in the future. THE AGENCIES which compose the Inter-Agency Council on Smoking and Health have concentrated on this project. Many of the County's public school districts are conducting smoking education programs devised by the California Inter-Agency Council. Several private and church-sponsored schools have asked the Council's help in teaching the facts about smoking and health.

Smoking is a habit, that has been accepted too long as the "adult" thing to do. The Inter-Agency Council on Smoking and Health is dedicated to changing this notion.

Alan W. Grofe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Grofe of 389 Palos Verdes Blvd., Redondo Beach, Calif., has been promoted to airman second class in the U. S. Air Force. Airman Grofe is a weather observer at Luke AFB, Ariz. He is a member of the Air Weather Service which provides combat and peacetime weather service for U. S. flight activities.

United Nations Day to Be Honored by Chapter

An Issues Conference to commemorate United Nations Day this year has been scheduled by the Harbor Area Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States at Harbor College, Oct. 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Principal activities will consist of two major speeches from authorities in this field, plus a series of discussion groups in which the audience will get to express their views. The theme of the conference will be "The United Nations - What Next?"

HAROLD W. GARVIN, chairman of the Harbor Area chapter explained its purpose. "This year with crises in Viet Nam, Santo Domingo, and Kashmir the United Nations is challenged to demonstrate its ability to solve these problems. In order for the United States to most effectively use the machinery of the United Nations, citizens of our nation must understand this machinery and how it functions."

"To understand the workings of the United Nations, and to foresee potential problems that the UN must be prepared to deal with, is the purpose of this Issues Conference. To help residents of this

area to better understand the problems facing the United Nations, we are asking all interested persons to meet with us and to participate in

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Police Officer Says

School Children Must Learn Responsibility

Are today's children being pampered?

A Torrance police officer feels they are, at least where traffic safety is concerned.

Officer Tom Wooldridge, whose main job is to coordinate the activities of 39 crossing guards hired by the city to assist school-age children, feels parents are pampering their children too much.

Wooldridge told members attending a Safety Council luncheon meeting here Monday that most school-age chil-

dren involved in accidents are injured — or killed — after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

ONE OF the chief reasons, he said, is that children are taken by hand on their way to and from school, but when the children must cross the same streets on the weekend or after school they are alone and do not exercise the caution which the crossing guard forces on them.

"What we are trying to

do," Wooldridge said, "is give the children some responsibility."

He told the Safety Council a long-range goal is the elimination of crossing guards at many signal controlled intersections. Guards do not serve their intended purpose at such intersections because they must wait through several signal changes to work their way from one corner to another.

OTHER SPEAKERS at Mon-

day's session included Arthur Horkay, the city's new traffic engineer, and Al Kovacs, who served as acting traffic engineer prior to Horkay's appointment.

Horkay told the council his department is working toward developing a series of maps which show safe school routes. The maps, if they can be developed, would be distributed to school children and parents to assist parents in teaching their children responsibility and safety.

HE also emphasized Wooldridge's goal of eliminating unnecessary crossing guards and indicated the city is trying to install pedestrian control signals at several intersections.

Kovacs told the group that the "walk" and "don't walk" signs are an important part of signals if they are observed. The "don't walk" signal is flashed to halt the flow of pedestrians into the street, he said, but those persons in the crosswalk have ample time to complete their crossing before the traffic signal changes.

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