

School Crossing Protection Need Cited To Council

The need for protection of school children at important crossings and the lack of cooperation of the California Division of Highways in like matters, held interest at the City Council meeting recently. After a four-way boulevard stop had been requested at Fern ave. and Eldorado St., Councilman W. H. Tolson suggested that a complete survey of "boulevard stops" be made. Chief of Police John H. Stroth had recommended the establishment of the four-way stop at this intersection.

At the same time, Stroth told the City Council that the Highway department has refused to consider the needs of the community at Ward street and 101 highway, where a school crossing problem is critical.

"We put a sign on the highway trying to warn traffic that children are crossing there and the next thing you know, we have to go to the wood and get the sign because the Highway department has picked it up," Stroth said.

In this case, it was suggested that if the Highway department will not cooperate, a tunnel should be built to permit children to cross the highway in safety, or that a school be provided north of the highway.

A similar case coming up for consideration from time to time is that of 182nd st. and Hawthorne blvd., where the state has not recognized the fact that speeding traffic coming over a "hump" in the roadbed north of 182nd st. hides the school crossing from the speeding traffic which bears down upon children as soon as the 182nd street crossing comes into view.

Bank Boosts Interest Rate

A further increase in the rate of interest on Bank of America savings accounts has been authorized by the board of directors, according to announcement by L. M. Giannini, president of the bank.

For the semiannual period commencing Jan. 1, 1948, interest will be paid on savings account balances up to \$10,000 at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent per annum, compared with the rate of 1 1/4 per cent established a year ago when Bank of America reversed the downward trend of savings interest with an increase of 25 per cent. The new rate represents an increase of 50 per cent over the rate applying in 1946.

Interest on that portion of a savings account which exceeds \$10,000, heretofore paid at the rate of one per cent per annum, will be increased to 1 1/4 per cent.

NEW ARRIVAL

Mr. and Mrs. Don V. Montooth of Hermosa Beach are the proud parents of a baby girl, Patricia Ann, born Dec. 10, Mrs. Montooth formerly was Lucille Nagel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Nagel.

SANTA GETS A BREAK; ELECTRIC TRAIN FOUND

The Santa Claus Express will go through this year for one "almost five-year-old" Lomita boy, named Billy, thanks to an alert clerk at the Torrance Hardware Co., 1515 Cabrillo avenue, and a story published last week in the Torrance Herald and Lomita News.

Santa almost was derailed when the clerk discovered that a package supposedly containing an electric train which the boy's father, who shall remain unnamed in accordance with the rules of Santa's Secret Service, had bought at the store last week held only the track and signal equipment. The locomotive and cars of the train were left accidentally at the store.

"He said the package wasn't going to be opened until Christmas," the clerk moaned. "Think how disappointed that little boy will be on Christmas morning, if the train isn't there!"

So the Herald and the Lomita News published a plea to all fathers to open any electric train packages and check on the contents.

Thursday Billy's mother saw the article, and after consultation with Dad, inspected the parcel hidden safely away for Dec. 25, and sure enough, the locomotive and cars were missing.

But the train is intact now, and Santa will deliver it just the way he's supposed to sometime on Christmas eve. "Billy wants that train very much indeed," said his mother, "and he was promised that Santa would bring it to him if he was a good boy when he had his tonsils out before Thanksgiving. He'll never know that this year Santa almost went off the rails!"

Which all goes to show that there is a Santa Claus, but that sometimes he needs a little help.

Metz Leaves News-Pilot

Bill Metz, who covered news activities in the Lomita, and Torrance areas for the San Pedro News-Pilot, sailed Friday for Hawaii and a position on the Honolulu Star Bulletin.

During his more than a year's stay with the News-Pilot, Metz became well known on a "beat" which included Wilmington, Harbor City, Watteria and Keystone, besides Torrance and Lomita.

The suburban editor, who left aboard the liner Matsonia, was feted the night before he sailed at a surprise party attended by members of the News-Pilot staff and friends.

STREET LIGHTS NEEDED ROCK WOOL HEAD SALES

American Rock Wool Co. recently asked that the City Council provide street lighting for the area of Arlington avenue, Dominguez street and 203rd street, stating that lack of walks and the darkness makes the area hazardous.

The petition by W. T. Tillotson was referred to the engineer for checking.

School Zone Danger Exists At Watteria

In spite of the fact that there is a guard at the school crossing for Watteria School on Highway 101, it is a very hazardous crossing, according to J. Henrich Hull, school superintendent. "Traffic on the highway is very heavy and much of it is heavy trucking," he said.

"Most of these vehicles are not aware that there is a school zone, or they are anxious to make the traffic light one block away on Hawthorne boulevard. Many cars do not see the small sign painted on the highway on each side of the crossing, and therefore they do not slacken their speed which sometimes reaches 50 or 60 miles an hour at the crossing. Very few cars stop when children are in the crosswalk. If the car can pass without hitting the child, it speeds by un mindful of the child's safety. All persons responsible for the children's safety are very much concerned over the possibility of serious accidents."

"Torrance Police Department has helped out by stationing a patrol car near the school, but 101 is a state highway, the patrolman has to stop a car in the school zone, or he has no jurisdiction. Since it is not possible to have a policeman at the crosswalk at all times, several suggestions are made to increase the safety of the crosswalk.

"1. There is a need for a sidewalk for at least three blocks. Children will not then be forced to walk on the same street level with no marker or division between them and the traffic. They cannot walk during the rainy season, where the sidewalk would normally be, because of the heavy adobe soil.

"2. There is a great need for proper signs and markers, which clearly call attention to the fact that a school stop is ahead.

"3. Large school zone signs should replace the old ones.

"4. Safety Sallies should be placed at the beginning of each zone.

"5. State support is necessary before any action can be taken."

Contributions from Torrance, Lomita and Gardena have been flooding the annual Christmas Toy Shop, but additional toys are wanted, according to the First District Welfare Council. Toys may be taken to collection stations at Fern Avenue School, Torrance Elementary School, El Prado Furniture, 1220 El Prado, the Moose Lodge, 1951 Carson st., Lowry Furniture Manufacturing Co., 1904 Border ave. or the Torrance City Fire Department.

Working on repairing toys in the workshop of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Caldwell's home are three volunteer helpers and members of the To-Lo-Ha Club. Aiding Santa Claus are W. McNitt, 84-year-old retired mechanical engineer, Lyman Igue, interior decorator and George A. Barham, prisoner of war.

Pupils Visit Griffith Zoo

Seventy first and second graders of Watteria School recently enjoyed a trip on the school bus to Griffith Park Zoo. They were accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Mildred Hanger and Mrs. Esther Theriault, and several room mothers, Mrs. Ann Fredericks, Mrs. Lena Hughes, Mrs. Yolanda Harline, and Mrs. Guy Kettering. Their trip was the culmination of a study which included animal appearance, baby animal care, need for animals, safety around animals, rules for bus behavior and safety at the zoo.

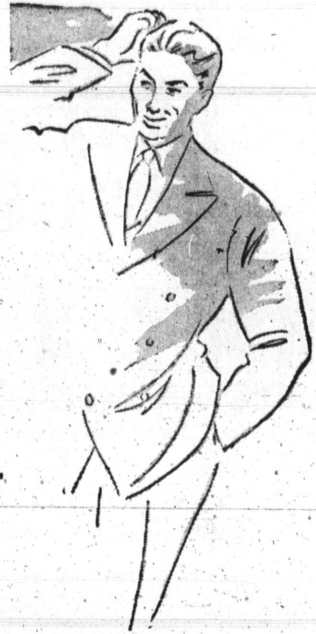
Children carried lunches and ate in the park.

Upon their return, several stories were written for social science and reading lessons.

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MOPSY by GLADYS PARKER

THEY ALL CHIPPED IN AND BOUGHT ME THE COAT, THEN I HAD A FIGHT WITH JIMMY AND HE ASKED FOR HIS PART BACK!



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