Mailbox

Driver Training

Editor, Torrance Herald

Can we parents go on depending on miracles? For that is exactly what saved those six teenagers from sharing the same fate as Officer Lewis in the tragedies at Hawthorne and Carson last Sunday evening. I am sure that many were grateful for the prompt attention of the Torrance Police Force and the subsequent pressure by the Torrance HERALD to obtain fast corrective measures at that corner but should it end there? Doesn't the final solution to these problems and similar ones actually lay in the hands of each and every parent?

There are many, who after reading the news, shudder and said "I'm glad it wasn't mine," but how long can we go on depending on miracles to bring our young ones home without injuries or worse? Perhaps if a new approach to careful driving could be adopted, Torrance could lead the county in reaching the lowest accident rate. This approach must be the FULL responsibility of ALL PARENTS.

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We know the fine training that the high schools give our boys and girls but we must realize that this is only the beginning to their training. It must be continued by parents who are not only concerned about their children but are also willing to do something about it. All of you know that by giving a child an allowance and guiding him in his spending you teach him the value of money.

You allow him to obtain a license and either obtain his own car or have the use of the family car. How about extending their period of training by making their licenses to drive a limited one from the ages of 16 to 18? Make the conditions similar to a beginners permit whereby there must be an adult in the car at all times while the teenager is driving. Sure . . . they must drive. How else can they learn to cope with the conditions they must meet? But let an adult be a co-pilot for two years and help condition them as they drive. It might also have a hidden benefit of improving the driving habits of some oldsters by putting them into a position of setting a good example for their young charges.

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Oh, I know there will be screams from parents that they couldn't tie themselves down to such a regulation — their children must drive because they are old enough, physically fit and supposedly capable of coping with circumstances which present themselves on the highways. But match those screams of negations and restrictions to the screams of children being mitilated and shame itself will make each one decide what to do.

It would be almost too much to hope for to expect the powers that be to actually put this suggestion into effect, so it really resolves itself into a personal responsibility for each and every parent and an ACTIVE consideration of not only their child.

EMILY Q. McFADDEN

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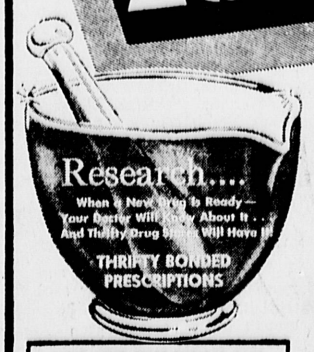

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