

A SMALL MATTER . . . It wouldn't take a patching truck very long to fix this little mudhole, but Fred Lane, shown here looking at it, says he has been unable to arouse any interest on the part of county officials. Many outpatients at Harbor General Hospital pass this way on foot, Lane says. (Herald photo)

Man Tries to Help Neighbors, Hits Cold Wall of Officialdom

Fred Lane, who lives at 21926 S. Vermont Ave., thinks people forced to walk along Carson St. to get to Harbor General Hospital have a squawk.

And, he's tried to do something about it, but he has bumped into the stone cold wall of officialdom, he told the Herald this week.

It all started out several months ago when Lane tried to get someone interested in fixing a perpetual mudhole on Carson St. just east of Vermont Ave.

HIS INTEREST came after watching scores of hospital patients, some of them old, a couple even on crutches, try to slog through the mud hole or move out into the heavily traveled Carson St. to get around it.

Lane started out by visiting the County Health office here and complaining about the stagnant water and mosquito breeding possibilities. A health inspector visited the area almost immediately, he reports, and the mudhole was sprayed.

AS TO DOING away with the water—that would be up to the road department, the inspector told Lane.

So, last Sept. 3, Lane wrote to the County Road Department, explaining the situation and asking them to patch the road so the water would drain away and not stand on the roadway and shoulders.

No answer. JUST A MONTH ago last Tuesday, Lane wrote to the County Board of Supervisors, going through the details of the matter again.

Still no answer. "It just seems that everybody is passing the buck on this little project," Lane told the Herald.

A check of the area indicates that a huge concrete water main adjacent to the roadway has several leaks which contribute enough water to keep the mudhole supplied with splashing material.

JUDGING FROM the sedges, tules, or cat-tails growing there, it didn't happen over-

night. It is difficult enough for those with sound limbs and breath to get across Carson St. on a normal day, but it is especially trying for the oldsters hobbling along trying to get to the hospital for treatments, Lane observed.

But his efforts to help them have led to nothing, he says sadly.

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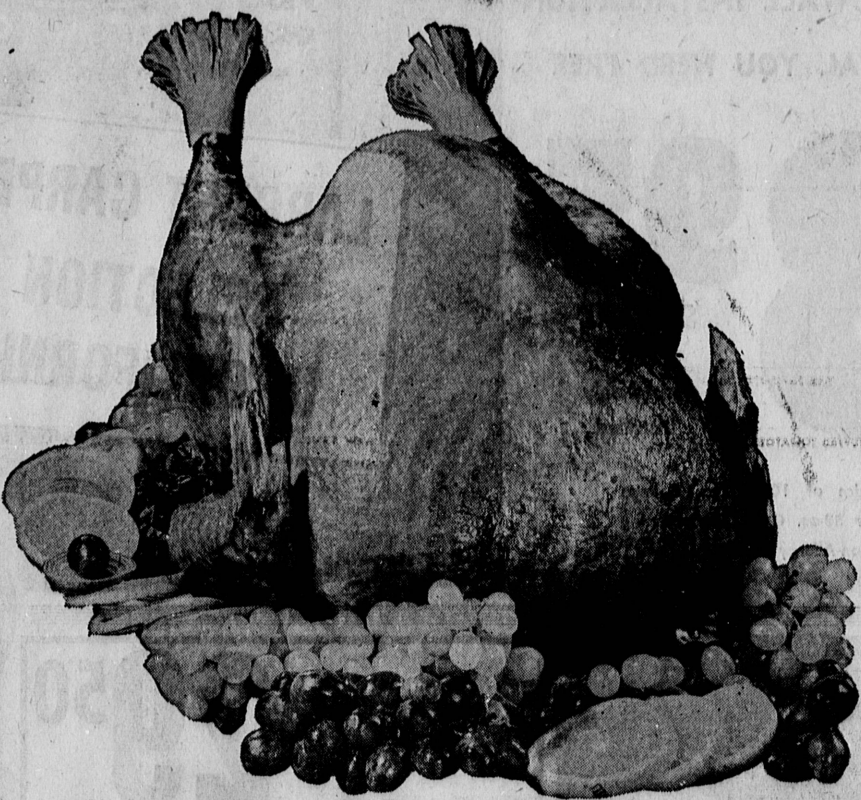
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