Recently a letter was re-ceived at the police station from a mother of a boy who received a citation for hitch-hiking. She indicated she was very unhappy with the police department for citing her boy. She mentioned that on many She mentioned that on many occasions she has observed others doing the same.

From reading this letter it appeared that she was con-cerned, but not aware of the

law pertaining to hitchhiking. The California Vehicle Code the cantornia vehicle Code states that no person shall stand in the roadway for so-liciting a ride from any driver. In other words, hitchhiking is not illegal on long or the hisnot illegal as long as the hiker is not standing on the road-way. When the hiker stands on the roadway he then becomes a traffic hazard and can affect the motoring public.

## . .

DRIVING TODAY on our busy streets and highways un-der ideal conditions is a chore in itself, but hikers standing in the roadway only add to the already present hazards in driving.

Many times the hikers will place themselves far enough into the roadway to cause traf-fic to change lanes to avoid contact with the hiker.

From an enforcement point of view, the office, will cite those hikers that are standing in or upon the roadway and are creating a hazard or are in conflict with traffic.

IN ADDITION to the traffic hazard, there are numerous other reasons why hitchhiking

is not safe. To name just a few crimes involved by drivers on hitch-hikers are rape, sexual moles-tation, kidnapping, and rob-

When a hiker is picked up by a motorist, how can that hiker know what kind of a person is driving that car? How can he tell a sex offender or deviate just by looking? I ask you, the parent, do you want your son or daughter to risk this?

Perhaps your answer to this would be, "My son is old enough and big enough to take care of himself." Then if this be the case, could your son de-fend himself against a knife or cure?

Hitchhiking may seem harm-less enough and in most cases nothing serious becomes of it,

## Toastmaster **Club Names** New Slate

Winners in a hotly contested election for officers of South Bay Toastmasters Club 280 were James McDonald, presi-dent; James Riple, educational vice president; Dr. William Labit, administrative vice pres-ident; Donald Payne, secretary; Stewart McDonald, treasurer; and Collins Dunn, sergeant- at-arms, Richard Squires received the appointment of deputy of publicity.

publicity. The elected officers will be installed in their offices on April 4.

Thomas Eadie, Hollywood Riviera, winner of the club speech contest and club representative in the area speak-off March 24, is undergoing rigor-ous practice sessions under the guidance of experienced mem-

bers. During the formal portion of a recent club meeting, Stanof a recent club meeting, Stan-ley Levenson won top honors with his humorous demonstra-tion and talk on "How To Rhumba." Runner-up was Wil-lard Monahan of Manhattan Beach. Other speakers were Stewart McDonald, Manhattan Beach; W. Howard Smith, Tor-rance: and Dr. William Labit rance; and Dr. William Labit of Torrance. Men in the South Bay area

interested in speech training are invited to attend regular meetings at 6:45 p.m. Wednes-days at the Redondo Beach Files Club days at 1 Elks Club.

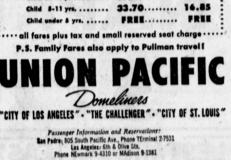
your son or daughter will not become a statistic, traffic or

. . . I THINK the mother who Torrance office to new larger

really gave hitchhiking enough

officer is picking on them, but rather preventing an accident or perhaps saving their lives. the new offices. Pyle said.







## Phone Co. Moving to New Office

A large scale moving operation is scheduled for this weekend when Pacific Telephone transfers its 10,800-account

wrote this letter, as well as most of you mothers and fathers, just never stopped and The customer business office

really gave hitchhiking enough thought. I'm sure that in think-ing it over you realize it is not safe under any circum-stances. The citation that is given is not nearly as costly as a life lost. How do we attach a cost to an accident or injury? We as parents can eliminate this problem by telling our children, "Don't hitchhike un-der any circumstances." Should your son or daughter be cited for hitchhiking, don't feel the officer is picking on them, but

THE TORRANCE HERALD

