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DEAR EDITOR....

Dig That Crazy Storm Drain . . .

(Editor's Note:—Mr. Shaffer's letter indicates that The Torrance Press has very alert and interested readers who read this paper from cover to cover, not missing anything—including typographical errors. If typos result in our getting such letters as Mr. Shaffer's, they're well justified.)

An article in your paper has caused me a bit of trouble: me, who never looks for trouble, but who generally gets shoved off the deep end. On page 5 of your issue of April 8, I noted an article to the effect that construction was about to start on a new storm drain, which is to be one of two new storm drains to be built in this area. This news item states that the drain is to start at the city limits, run in a general easterly course for a couple of miles, finally to hook at Santa Barbara College with an existing drain.

Ordinarily I'm not the type who pays too much attention to matters of this sort, not being overly-civic-minded; but not having much of anything to do at the moment, I decided how nice it would be to follow the line of the new storm drain. I felt the need of a vacation anyway, and the time away from work probably might do me a world of good. So, I followed the drain.

The trip was not too difficult at first, in fact it was rather easy. All I had to do was to follow directions and a map I just happened to have along. Easy. Easy, that is, until I came to the part where the storm drain was to connect with Santa Barbara College with existing drain.

Sir, you had me stymied. I thought the storm drain should end somewhere around the northerly end of Harbor City, which is where I ran into difficulties. I could not find it. Inquiry revealed the startling fact that no-one in the area had even heard of Santa Barbara College, either with or without existing drain. It just had to be somewhere, else how could the story have gotten into the paper?

Not to be undone, and being of a resourceful bent, I phoned around a bit and finally decided to call the office of the Governor of the State, who, being at the head of things, should know about such things. And things. And, after being shuffled around many departments of State, I got the answer. A spokesman who does not desire his name to appear in this, informed me that: "Santa Barbara College with existing drain might be located in the city of Santa Barbara, and it not, what the heck!" Just as simple as that. It surely pays to go to headquarters when in need of information.

A look at the map, however, brought forth the amazing information that Santa Barbara was about 100 miles away from where I stood. Imagine! A further look indicated how easy and inexpensive it might be to run this storm drain from Harbor City to Santa Barbara College with existing drain. How about that?

It was a long hard trip over what appeared to be the starightest and easiest way. But I made it. That is, after climbing the Santa Monica mountains three times, being shot at by bean farmers in the Oxnard area, and a row-boat trip on the ocean north of Ventura. No mention will be made here on the hassle with two guards as I was passing through Camarillo, who evidently thought: - but no matter, that's another story. I finally arrived at where the drain was to end at the Santa Barbara College with existing drain in the city of Santa Barbara.

And that, sir, is all there is to it. What I fail to understand is, why run that storm drain through all those towns and cities, over all those rugged mountains and finally under the ocean, just to connect up with an existing drain at Santa Barbara? Santa Barbara is northerly of here, therefore uphill. Why not run the drain to San Diego, which we all know, is down-hill from here?

I'm no authority on such things, but it seems to my feeble intellect that it would be easier and maybe a mite cheaper to connect up with one of the local storm drains, let us say, one in the vicinity of, maybe, Lomita boulevard and President avenue in Harbor City. How's about it? I just don't know. Someone, anyone, please tell me.

(signed) Edge Shaffer
Walteria,

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