

# DEAR EDITOR....

Mayor Asks  
For Band Aid  
Editor,  
Torrance Press

It is a pleasure and honor for me to direct an appeal to the citizens of Torrance in behalf of our own Torrance Area Youth (Concert) Band who has

been invited to perform at the Mid-West National Band Clinic to be held at the World-Famous Sherman Hotel in Chicago on December 18, 19, 20, and 21, of this year.

Our Youth Band is one of eight musical organizations from the United States and Canada so honored and the only band west of the Mississippi chosen this year to play for this Clinic—the nation's largest annual music teachers convention of its kind. 5,000 music educators from all over America attend this convention each year.

Our Youth Band was invited to this Convention on the strength of its musical performance ability and by virtue of its audition for two nationally known musical authorities, one of which is a former president of the American Bandmasters Association and the other a past president of the National Music Educators Conference — two of the strongest and most influential teachers' groups in the field of music education.

Besides year around musical activities the Youth Band annually sponsors the "Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant," the Youth Band-Artist Concerts Association, and the Student Music Scholarship Competitions. Advanced educational scholarships have been obtained by students whose musical skills have been developed through the Youth Band Program. Surely herein lies some of the answers why we are called the "All America City."

The band members and parents have accumulated around \$8,000.00 of the \$25,000.00 needed to defray the cost of sending the 32 musicians, chaperons, and staff members to Chicago. The parents will carry on. The band members have the worry of finances when they need every spare moment between now and Dec. 18th for practice and study.

The Youth Band needs your financial help. The sum of \$250.00 is required to send or "Sponsor" one student. Fifty "Sponsors" from individuals, organizations, businesses, and industry, would raise one half of the amount needed. The band organization feels that they can raise the other half.

If you can "Sponsor" the trip for one band member or any part thereof, your assistance in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated. Send your contributions to the Torrance Area Youth Band, Box 548, Torrance, California, or to me, 1607 Cabrillo Avenue.

Let's all get behind the project and show the band members, the music educators of America, and everyone, particularly our Torrance Citizens, that we are really entitled to the high honor of being an "All America City."

Yours very sincerely,  
ALBERT ISEN, Mayor  
City of Torrance,  
Torrance, Calif.

# DEAR EDITOR....

Editor's Note: The following letter was received from the Department of Traffic, City of Los Angeles, concerning The Press editorial on traffic hazards on Western Avenue between Pacific Coast Highway and 174th st.  
Editor,  
Torrance Press  
Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the attached editorial and letter from the Torrance Press regarding conditions on Western Avenue between Pacific Coast Highway and 174th Street.

The editorial cites a serious accident which occurred at a private driveway on Vermont Avenue, a three lane county road, as an example why traffic signal modifications should be made on Western Avenue, a four lane divided highway.

The three lane highway is recognized as an especially hazardous type roadway. None have been built for a number of years and the total miles of such roadways is steadily declining. The three lane roadway is particularly hazardous to vehicles executing passing movements or making left turns. Accounts in the press indicate that the latter movement was involved in the fatal accident referred to in the editorial.

According to state wide accident statistics the four lane divided highway has the lowest accident rate of all types of roads other than those where access is controlled, (freeways and expressways). This is primarily due to the fact that opposing traffic is separated and that generally an area is available where vehicles wishing to make left turns can wait without being exposed to through traffic. The latter is true of Western Avenue from Anaheim Street to Torrance Boulevard where a 16-foot dirt median is provided.

The three phase traffic signal which would be necessary to give protection to left turning vehicles, while being a very useful tool in traffic regulation, has some very serious disadvantages. The time allotted to left turning vehicles must necessarily be taken from the time now allotted to through traffic moves. The reduction in green time available for the major through traffic movements amounts to about 37%.

It should be noted that the non-productive amber time has necessarily been increased by 50%.

At certain intersections where there is a large volume of left turning vehicles and relatively low volumes of through traffic the separate left turn signal can be used to good advantage. In most cases, however, the volume of traffic at an intersection is such as to cause serious congestion under the three phase system. A recently completed study by the Department of Traffic of the City of Los Angeles showed this to be the case at the intersection of 190th Street and Western Avenue.

A second disadvantage is that three phase signals do not fit well into the signal progression systems used in the Los Angeles area.

The separate left turn lanes at standard two phase signalized intersections are very helpful. These channelizing lanes allow several vehicles to safely wait until a gap occurs in opposing traffic, so that the left turn movements can safely be completed. The intersections of Lomita Boulevard and Western Avenue and 247th Street and Western Avenue have recently been improved to include these separate turn lanes. In addition a similar improvement has been instituted at the intersection of 242nd Street and Western Avenue in anticipation of traffic generated by the new Narbonne High School.

It is the opinion of the Department of Traffic of the City of Los Angeles that these separate left turn lanes are far more satisfactory solution to the left turn problem than the three phase signal. Present studies along Western Avenue will continue and channelization plans instituted wherever they are found warranted.

Yours truly,  
Lloyd M. Braff  
General Manager  
Department of Traffic  
City of Los Angeles.

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