

# SCHOOL-CROSSING PATROL DEMAND GETS RESULTS

## Chief Steckel Bows to Protests; 150 Intersections to Be Guarded Despite Shortage of Men

Reversing his original edict after a storm of protest from school officials and the public, Chief of Police Steckel last night announced that beginning tomorrow morning school crossings will receive virtually the same protection as in the past, with 150 major crossings to be guarded by officers as against the twenty-two which were guarded yesterday.

Previously Chief Steckel had declared shortage of men would make it impossible to supply crossing protection, but changed his plans after lengthy conferences with Mayor Porter and the Police Commission, the latter body ruling that school children must be protected no matter what other business of the police department suffers. At a conference this morning Steckel and his division heads will decide from what divisions the needed officers can be drafted and they will go on duty tomorrow morning.

### TWO INJURED

While police heads debated how to accomplish the almost impossible task of carrying on the regular business of the department and at the same time guarding the school crossings, two small members of the army of children, estimated at around 250,000, that returned to school yesterday, were injured at unprotected crossings.

Joe Snyder, 13 years of age, 2091 West Thirtieth street, on his way home from school in the afternoon, was knocked down by a hit-and-run driver at Harvard Boulevard and West Thirty-seventh street, receiving a fractured ankle and bruises. A description of the driver was given police by witnesses and he was sought last night.

The other small victim was Frances Bailey, 11, of 237 North Grand avenue, who with two other little girls was on her way to the California grammar school when she was knocked to the pavement by an automobile at Temple street and Grand avenue. She was treated for minor injuries by an ambulance surgeon. Mrs. Anna May Walker, 1917 1-2 Vestal street, driver of the car, was questioned by police but not held.

### ANOTHER MISHAP

A third casualty of opening day was Olive Anne Torrance, 5, of 1287 Bellevue avenue, who fell on her way to the Cortes school and received cuts about the face for which she was treated at the Georgia-street Receiving Hospital.

During the last spring semester 176 of the major crossings were policed, Chief Steckel pointed out, so that even by draining men from traffic, vice and other squads to pro-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

# CHILD SAFETY ORDERS GIVEN

Major School Intersections Will Be Guarded

Two Returning to Classes Injured by Autos

Quarter-Million Youngsters Resume Studies

(Continued from First Page)

Wide protection for crossings the safety margin will not be as great as last year and other steps will be necessary. As an additional safeguard thirty-five motorcycle officers will be instructed to check unprotected crossings and apprehend motorists found violating the laws enacted to protect the children at these cross-walks.

"These men have specific orders to arrest or give citations to all persons violating the traffic laws at these crossings," declared Police Captain Lofthouse, head of the motorcycle division. "The time for warning such drivers to be careful is past. We want the co-operation of the motoring public in protecting the lives of the children, but if we can't get it we will do our best to enforce it with the officers available."

Traffic courts also will be kept advised of the situation, Chief Steckel announced, and will be asked to penalize adequately those motorists arrested for endangering the lives of school-children.

## SITUATION EXPLAINED

The shortage of men was so great yesterday that throughout the city but twenty-two officers were on school-crossing duty, eight in the valley division, six in Venice, three in Lincoln Heights, one in Seventy-seventh street and four in Hollywood. There is a total of 1100 school crossings, Steckel said, while the personnel of the department numbers but 2307 men and women, of which number only 1944 are patrolmen. Of these, 392 men are needed for the new radio patrol cars, the use of which, he said, brought about the present situation. The traffic squad numbers 288 men, the vice squad eighty men, the motorcycle division ninety-seven men, while the remaining officers are spread as thinly as possible through other departments.

It was agreed both by Mayor Porter and Chief Steckel that more men are needed on the department, but that there is no possibility of obtaining them in the present state of the city's finances. The Mayor asserted his belief that Steckel will be able to handle the situation satisfactorily.

## BOUELLE MAKES PLEA

Both Police Commission and City Council took a hand in the situation yesterday after Superintendent Bouelle of the city schools had declared it the duty of the police department to guard school children, that the department had given fine co-operation until this year and that it would be a calamity to withdraw the guards this year.

Members of the school board and hundreds of parents joined in the protest in statements and telephone calls to public officials. A special session of the police commission was called at which a resolution was passed instructing the chief to place officers at all school crossings where driving conditions are a menace to pupils and holding that no other branch of police work is as im-

portant as protecting the lives of children.

## ORDINANCE ASKED

A second resolution passed by the commission requests the City Council to adopt an ordinance declaring all school crossings which constitute a menace to pupils shall be boulevard stops.

A third resolution directs President Drake to confer with the presiding judge of the Municipal Court for co-operation in the campaign against offenders whose recklessness is a menace to school children of the city.

Prior to the passage of the resolutions by the commission, members discussed in executive session the possibility of adding fifty more men to the department for school-crossing duty. No action was taken, pending information on the outcome of a general demand for adequate police personnel now before the City Council.

The City Council then entered the picture with a resolution by Councilman Jacobson calling on the Chief and the commission to assign the officers to all crossings formerly covered, the resolution being referred to the Police and Fire Committee.

## HUGE ENROLLMENT

While their elders tried to devise plans to protect them, the school children themselves trooped into classrooms yesterday morning an estimated 250,000 strong. The enrollment last June of 404,351 is expected to be eclipsed this year, but the fact that the school year started before Labor Day this semester is thought to have kept the first day's attendance down to around 250,000. More than 10,000 teachers resumed their desks to captain the army of pupils.

Despite the early start, the school children have almost a week of holidays to look forward to, Friday being the first holiday, declared as marking the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Los Angeles. Monday is Labor Day, Tuesday is official La Fiesta Day, Wednesday is Admission Day and school will not start again until Thursday.

## TWO NEW SCHOOLS

Two new schools will provide added facilities for the children before the end of the school year. They are the Alexander Hamilton High School, 2955 Robertson Boulevard, and the Overland Elementary School on Overland avenue, both to be opened in February. Additions to other schools to be available at the same time include enlargements at the Eighty-seventh-street school, Fletcher Drive school, Harmon school, Marvin-avenue school, Ninety-second-street school, Seventy-fifth-street school and Wilson school.

New units were ready for occupancy at the following schools yesterday: Phineas Banning High School, twelve-unit addition; Bancroft Junior High, new physical education building; Bret Harte Junior High, new physical education building; Horace Mann Junior High, twelve-unit addition; Thirty-

second-street school, twenty-nine-unit addition; Alessandro-street school, thirteen-unit addition; Cheremoya school, nine-unit addition; Burns-avenue school, ten-unit addition; Grant school, five-unit addition, and Heliotrope school, five-unit addition.

## BUILDING PLANS

At a meeting of the Board of Education last night it was voted to adopt preliminary plans for additions and new buildings at six schools, including a physical education building at the Phineas Banning High School, a home economics and cafeteria building at the Hollenbeck Junior High School, new class buildings at the Dayton Heights School and the Cahuengo School, an addition at the San Antonio School and a bungalow replacement at the Sierra Park School.

The board also expressed its pleasure on learning of the police department decision to furnish officers at 150 school crossings although it had not yet officially advised the board of the decision.

## STAFF CHANGES

Changes in staff include appointment of George Millage Montgomery, formerly vice-principal at Franklin High School, as principal at Roosevelt High School, where he succeeds Thomas H. Elson. Elson takes over the principal's duties at the new Alexander Hamilton High School, taking with him several former Roosevelt High School teachers.

Total enrollment at the Los Angeles Junior College, it was indicated yesterday, will be nearly 5000. More than 2500 applications for admission were on file yesterday morning from new students and hundreds may have to be turned away because of limited space and facilities.