

Chain of Creston School Parents Blocks Traffic to Force Safer Powell Blvd. Crossing



Motorists on SE Powell Blvd. had lots of warning Thursday at the school crossing just east of 47th Ave. A small army of 31 determined mothers and fathers took up a hand in hand stance on either side of the crossing so their children could walk safely. Parents did not obstruct traffic, but filed out across the busy street when the crossing red light was activated. This view looks west. School is at left. (Staff photos by Frank Sterrett)

probably because of the greater jam of people visible. Only one near mishap was observed in the first half hour. While the parents were stretched along the crossing itself, the two patrol boys normally assigned to the crossing look stances 20 feet on either side of them at the yellow line behind which motorists were supposed to stop. One driver, not realizing what was going on or possibly not seeing the red light because of the panorama in front of him, screeched to a surprised stop a car length too far, causing Patrol Boy Doug Gray to pull in his flag lest it be hit.

The determined 33 are members of the school's PTA safety committee. They protested that their letter to the City Hall suggesting certain traffic reforms and improved safety measures has been unanswered.

The parents maintained their double-line in the street during all crossing periods, morning and afternoon, Thursday, and Mrs. Dirks said they would return Friday morning to continue their demonstration.

Signs Say 20 m.p.h.

Although the street is posted with the usual 20 miles an hour limit for school crossing hours, which are all times between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., the traffic customarily goes much faster. A red light can be activated by the patrol boys for the crossing of children. It is not available in summer months when children use Creston Park next to the school, the mothers said.

The mothers object to these features:

1. No stop light in operation except at patrol times. Blinking amber signal confuses motorists.
 2. Crossing is not at intersection of 47th and Powell, where motorists might pay more attention, but a few feet east.
 3. No yellow crosswalk signs.
 4. Button for lights can be activated only from one side. Children coming late have no protection.
 5. Locked signal. Can be used only when safety patrol is on duty. All children crossing to park during summer have no protection.
 6. No special signs such as "Signals Ahead" or "School Crossing" painted on pavement.
 7. Telephone pole partially obstructs driver's view of safety patrol.
 8. There is 30-mile-per-hour zone just a short distance from the school zone.
- Members of the safety committee have some suggestions:
1. Establish a crossing at 47th intersection.
 2. Bus stop should be surveyed and put past 47th intersection rather than have it so close to crossing.
 3. A permanent red and green light.
 4. Or an overhead crossing, or a three-way light similar to one at Barbur Blvd. between Slavin road and Burlingame.
 5. Crosswalk painted on pavement.
 6. Other warnings painted on pavement, such as "Signals Ahead" and "School Crossing."
 7. Remove 30 miles per hour sign which is so near school zone.
 8. If nothing can be done, remove safety patrol and establish adult patrol.
- How long will the parents continue their crossing stand? "As long as necessary," according to Mrs. Frank Dirks, 4915 SE Bush St., chairman of the safety committee.



Two girl students, lunch sacks and notebooks in hand, walk obediently across Powell Blvd. between the double line of parents. Safety committee says plans have been unanswered.

Patrol boys Tommy Cox and Doug Gray, 13, of Creston School, had a whole army of parents to help them Thursday.

Thirty-three of them, including two fathers, took up a determined double-row stance shortly after 8 a.m. across busy Powell Blvd. to protect children who come to the grade school from the north side of the four-lane traffic-heavy state highway.

As soon as a few children collected, a mother in a yellow slicker and with red school crossing flag, would push the button to activate the overhead red light. It would flash to yellow, then red.

"Let's go!" said one of the fathers behind her, and from either side of the street the 33 parents filed out in a double line, hand in hand. The lines were back to back, and the parents thus faced motorists who meekly stopped their cars and waited. Traffic had slowed when a photographer-reporter considered from a week ago team visited the intersection.

McElroy Building Remodeling Muddled

The recently acquired McElroy Bldg. apparently won't be ready for occupancy by space-hungry city bureaus for another three months at least.

City Commissioner Ormond R. Bean made that estimate Thursday after scanning a new set of bids for making over the general floor plan of the building.

A first set of bids was rejected by the City Council as too high. The new bid call cut out many refinements to come within an allotted \$150,000.

15 Bids Opened

Bean said that 15 bids opened Wednesday are in that range and probably acceptable. He said he expects to make a recommendation on the contract awards next week.

The Traffic Engineering Bureau and City Planning Commission will have to seek a lease extension on present quarters at 526 SW Hill St. because of the delays.

Present lease arrangement for that building, the old Oregon Motor Stages offices, expires at the end of December. A renewal into the spring will be needed.

Joint Use Involved

The city's plans to get on with the remodeling of the McElroy property were further complicated by an earlier jurisdictional spat with Multnomah county commissioners.

County officials balked at approving the city's plans although under terms of the joint acquisition the city received sole use of the two-story McElroy Bldg.

The business block between City Hall and the County Courthouse, on which the McElroy Bldg. is situated, was bought by the two government bodies for some \$200,000.

While the city gets the building itself, the county is to have control of all the remaining property for parking, except 10 spaces for the city.

Eventually, the block is destined to become the site of a new city-county government building. Just when, and how it will be finished, is undetermined yet.

Outside rentals for overflow city bureaus now are costing about \$2,000 annually. The county has no immediate need for additional office space.

Offices Await Moves

Under the remodeling plan worked out by Commissioner Bean, seven city offices will move into the McElroy Bldg. to effect a saving of rents and provide needed space.

Stated for occupancy are the Park Bureau—now in the basement of City Hall—Traffic Engineering, Traffic Safety Commission, Meter Mails and meter repair, Planning Commission and the Portland office of the Bureau of Municipal Research.

The remodeling bids were called for in three divisions. Apparent low bidders for the work, based on Wednesday's bid opening, were:

General—Anfel, B. Hanson, \$22,445, and Gene H. Settergren, \$28,453. Electrical—W.R. Graale, \$23,890, and L.W. Hembrer, \$23,914. Mechanical—Urban Plumbing and Heating, \$32,652, and Lord Brothers, \$33,676.

A lower base bid for the general contract work was submitted by George A. Moore & Associates, at \$63,955. However, that firm since has claimed a \$13,000 error in its calculation which would put it higher than the Hanson bid.

STAR GAZER
 By CLAY R. FOLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide
 According to the Stars.

To develop message for Friday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

1 Day	31 Fire	61 Friends	91 Luck
2 Let	32 Oil	62 Good	92 Money
3 Aspects	33 Change	63 Demerol	93 News
4 Good	34 People	64 Advertising	94 Today
5 Seek	35 People	65 Promoting	95 Today
6 Knowledge	36 Air	66 Your	96 News
7 Day	37 Day	67 News	97 News
8 Progress	38 Fire	68 Affairs	98 Today
9 Oil	39 May	69 Today	99 Today
10 Accomplish	40 May	70 Today	100 Today
11 News	41 Oil	71 For	101 Today
12 Lady	42 Scale	72 For	102 Today
13 You	43 Sounded	73 For	103 Today
14 Today	44 Oil	74 Today	104 Today
15 Luck	45 Misfortune	75 Friends	105 Today
16 Bring	46 Your	76 Personality	106 Today
17 Home	47 Your	77 Personality	107 Today
18 News	48 Selfish	78 Today	108 Today
19 Move	49 To	79 Financial	109 Today
20 Fear	50 News	80 Oil	110 Problems
21 Scar	51 Impressed	81 Today	111 Problems
22 Year	52 You	82 Today	112 Today
23 In	53 By	83 And	113 Today
24 News	54 Oil	84 Year	114 Today
25 For	55 Direct	85 Plans	115 Today
26 Time	56 Some	86 Interests	116 Today
27 Deputies	57 Mirror	87 Authority	117 Today
28 News	58 Some	88 Pure	118 Today
29 Chair	59 Some	89 Oil	119 Today
30 A	60 Development	90 Progress	120 Today

Good Adverse Neutral

NOW! SPECIAL OFFER!

15¢ OFF



the first instant coffee that smells like coffee and tastes the way good coffee should

Save 15¢
 on 6-oz. jar

Fragrant with real coffee aroma, flavorful with fresh-brewed coffee taste—that's Instant Hills Bros. Coffee. If you haven't tried it you're in for a treat—at a saving. If you're enjoying it now, you'll want to stock up and save!

LIMITED TIME ONLY!