

Sunshine Advocate

Warning of level crossing death unheeded, Milan Mandic, Aged 58

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In this car the driver, Mr. M. Mandic, about 58, of Bailey Street, St. Albans was killed on Friday last at Furlong Road level crossing. The car crashed into the side of a Melbourne-bound train, Bailey Street is two blocks over the crossing from St. Albans Road.

WARNING OF LEVEL CROSSING DEATH UNHEEDED

A few hours after a motorist met his death at Furlong Road level crossing on Friday night dozens of other motorists at Anderson Road, a short mile away, were placing their own lives on the line.

Gardeners Only Pick Up Stones

Men for the parks and gardens staff of Sunshine city council need not have experience with planting and growing trees and shrubs, in the opinion of Cr. Bon Thomas.

"Ninety per cent. of the work is picking up rocks and mowing grass," Cr. Thomas said at Monday's council meeting.

He was opposing a recommendation by the parks superintendent to engage a man soon to live in Sunshine who has 15 years experience as a gardener.

Cr. Thomas suggested T. Roach, junior, of Hutchinson Street, Albion, to fill vacancy on the staff. Mr. Roach's name, he said, was on the list of applicants for council positions.

Cr. Tyler: "We want a man with experience. We haven't enough of them."

After the town clerk (Mr. T. W. Deutschmann) had reminded council of a previous resolution regarding appointments it was decided to defer action.

In their impatience a little before 9 o'clock on Saturday morning they were prepared not only to flout the law but to risk their own lives and those of train passengers.

It was a little before 9 that the red lights at Anderson Road crossing started to wink, the warning bells to start clanging and the boom barriers come down.

One by one motor vehicles piled up on either side of the railway, until the queue contained about 30 idly drivers. Seconds at that hour became minutes. No train was in sight.

Then a leading driver on one side decided to take a risk with the law and his life. He turned sharply to nose the other side boom, and was on his way.

Confusion and decision among the others waiting followed this bold move. Evidently it was thought a defect had developed in the signals. Some started to follow the first man, others decided to make a U turn and take an alternative route.

Tangle of Cars

This was the picture on either side of the crossing and the orderly lines of waiting vehicles became a jumble of traffic as cars from either side weaved in and out in a double line across the railway, hampered in their speed by those prudent enough, although impatient, not to break any law.

Road Plan Queried

An effective reply to Cr. Thompson's query at Monday's council on the use of a two-lane roadway around the town hall corner was given by the Mayor (Cr. Grundy).

Cr. Thompson said he did not think the proposal would improve traffic conditions. On the other hand, it would make them more confusing.

He said that opposite the hotel there was a shambles every evening with vehicles making right and left-hand turns and becoming mixed up with through traffic. The situation could hardly be worse.

Cr. Thomas: "I think you'll find trouble with visibility."

The Mayor: "Not at all. A traffic Commission officer satisfied himself about that. He could see far down Hampshire Road, well past Carlo Street."

TIME TO THINK OF ROAD LINK

It was time to consider a road link between Sunshine and Avondale Heights said Cr. D. Thompson at last week's council. He added: