

Present Traffic Pattern Inadequate

There is no doubt but that the Woodward-Oakland-Willits intersection requires more caution in driving through than do most arterial street intersections. It always has. But most local drivers soon get used to its peculiar requirements. According to police department records, Chief Ralph Moxley says, surprisingly few bad accidents have occurred at this particular intersection.

He adds that fouled fenders, dinged doors and banged bumpers are the majority of damages checked up, usually involving an out-of-towner who seldom, if ever, had seen the intersection before.

THEREFORE, IF THE NEW \$1,500 installation of two new overhead signals, approved by the city commission last week, is designed only to aid these passing-through motorists, no one can question that the new setup will be more clearly visible than the present two signals so hard to spot at the sides of the intersection.

But we don't believe commissioners were fooling themselves that the two new signals will relieve the traffic congestion that now takes place at this intersection, particularly on weekends.

Many residents, battling the mounting, vehicular congestion caused by a rapidly increasing population and expanding business area, are becoming exasperated waiting for the city to bring order out of its presently inadequate downtown traffic pattern.

SOME IMMEDIATE ATTENTION must be given to obtaining the answers to this problem. That's why two city commissioners—Charles Renfrew and Lance Minor—voted against installation of the two new Woodward-Willits signals. They felt this problem was only part of the over-all downtown traffic tangle.

Their comments evidently led the commission to agree to a meeting with the city's consulting traffic engineers to see if the latter had any ideas or recommendations.

We suggest that if these consulting engineers haven't the time or the means of obtaining such a downtown traffic survey and thus coming up with recommendations, that the commission continue its efforts and get some large organization to do it, possibly at no cost to the city. We understand there are several reliable groups which make such traffic surveys without charge.

Residents will cut up with present conditions if they know the answers will be forthcoming shortly.

DiMaggio's 'Mom'

Joe DiMaggio, one of the great baseball players, has retired. So far as we know, fame and fortune have not spoiled the humble boy from "the other side of San Francisco's tracks".

He has not gotten himself mixed up in scandals. Perhaps the basis of Joe's splendid character is revealed in the love he had for his wonderful mother, while she lived.

Any boy who can be brought up so that he loves and respects his mother will not go wrong; proving, again, that adult character is moulded at the knees of good women.

Municipal Lotteries

A majority of New York City's Council recently voted to create a city-wide lottery, revenues from which are to be used to help finance its government. All that is needed to put it into effect is an amendment to the State's constitution.

Well, we'll prophesy that if the lottery goes through, existing taxes will not decrease at all. It only will mean more money for the predatory politicians and private interests to scramble for.

Truly, this last half of the Twentieth

Century may well earn the label: "Git yourn while the gitin's good; in the name of the tax powers of government, we've got legalized stick-up men!"

Supersonic Russia

Those Russians are supersonic people. Because its scientists (so say the Russian leaders) have developed supersonic methods of cooking, anything within three minutes, domestic science will go overboard, along with a lot of cook books. "Why learn how to cook with gas and electricity when supersonics will do the job?" asks the Kremlin.

Because Russia has developed a new type of nylon, darning and mending will not be necessary, either. Wonder or wonders! Don't be surprised, some of these days, if the Kremlin declares: "We've just discovered how to make a new earth, so don't try to improve your part on this one... we'll all be moving away pretty soon."

From Our Point of View

A man may be the president of a bank whose funds have been stolen, in part by some of the bank's employees, and that president may be honest. But if, as time goes on, more employees steal more money and the president makes no effort to investigate and eliminate the problem, he still may be honest, but he ought to be fired. Indeed, he would be, at the next meeting of the bank's directors. We hope the American people, when they vote next year for federal public officials, will do plenty of firing.

This T. Lemar Caudle chap who was fitted from his job in the nation's Attorney-General's dept. is quite an emotional guy. Maybe he should have taken up melodrama in his youth, so that now he might be a Hollywood star. Come to think of it, there's also a lot of Washington, D.C. talent that could play the villain... and rightly, without too much acting.

Recent unseasonal warm weather caused hens to lay more eggs than usual for this time of year. This resulted in a considerable decrease in the cost of a dozen eggs. The hens, of course, do not know that winter is still with us—they being governed by instinct. As with so many other items of food, Mother Nature pays little attention to the screwball ideas of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture which tries to regulate the law of supply and demand. Hens are wonderful!

So They Say . . .

M. J. Coldwell, Canadian government official: "The hate that has been stirred up against the West is for the sole purpose of diverting the minds of the people away from the exploitation and poverty at home."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

REMARKS AT RANDOM

Using a sensitive microphone, a couple of Wisconsin professors proved it's possible to hear young corn growing. If they want to hear old corn dying, I suggest they try twisting the dial on their radio or TV set.

Some women claim beer is excellent for setting hair, probably because they can't wash, probably because they can't wash, probably because they can't wash.

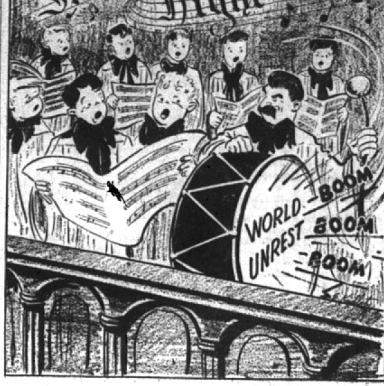
Congressional committees continually come up with ways to eliminate federal jobs. What I come up with is someone to come up with an idea to eliminate federal job-holders.

A Pittsburgh woman was accused of deliberately running her car into a boarding house neighbor, Mrs. Kransover, whom she accused of constantly "hogging" the hall phone. Looks

like an instance of a car hitting a telephone pole. As far as a home library is concerned, today's kids are only concerned with Mom and Pop keeping two books—check and cook.

All the claims in cigarette advertising are laid out to end, they would like across every country in the world. There appear to be only two kinds of people—those who are recognized by their clear principles, or else those who are recognized from a clear set of fingerprints.

Consumers are constantly trying to find reasons behind the high cost of meat. How about the fact that it will get so high that there will be need for government officials to accept deep freezers.



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
December 20, 1901
We are pleased to state that Cobb Bros., the enterprising drug firm—successors to F. Hagerman have contracted for space in our advertising columns and we call attention to their brand-new ad in this issue.

Before our next issue appears Chelmers will have come and gone and Jolly Old Santa Claus will be with us each and every one of our subscribers and readers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year—world without end.

S. B. Daboll, overseer, promoter and establisher of rural routes from the postoffice here was in town last week inspecting said routes. There are three, one through Franklin and one out the Southfield way and 17 candidates are lined up for appointment. An energetic mailbox salesman is going through the area.

Edward Shook of 15th U. S. Cavalry stationed in Montana here this week on a visit and very nice he looks in uniform.

This cold weather makes the plumbers happy. Bill Hilliard has eighteen dollars inside his pocket and I wish I were a plumber.

20 YEARS AGO
December 22, 1931
Two Birmingham service clubs, Lions and Rotary, have planned special Christmas parties for youngsters. The Lions, last night feted 280 village children, while 50 crippled children of the area were guests of the Rotary. The parties were complete with treats for a quiet and visit from Santa Claus.

A quiet, uneventful Christmas is seen for Birmingham this year as homes prepare for small family gatherings. Special services of prayer and music are planned by all local churches, including several Watch Night services for Dec. 31.

Charles C. Parks, local coal dealer, has been elected to serve another term as president of the

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

REMEMBERING TIME
Christmas is remembering time—old friends and other seasons. Funny, how your memories will slide back through the years, many of them standing out sharp and clear. A great many of those memories are associated with our Christmas trees.

Remember the ones you used to go out and cut? The first one you went after, without parental supervision. Remember the lecture about being careful with the hatchet? Remember how Dad and Mother cautioned you to make up your mind, first, then cut one tree and one only?

Remember how big and important you felt when you took the sharp hatchet, a piece of rope and your sled and started out? The road slipped away beneath your feet like a shadow as you headed for the woods.

REMEMBER THE shadowy blackness you fought here? The tall trees, many with only a few dry leaves rattling a ghostly tune. Here, after there you crossed a rabbit's funny trail—back feet head of front ones as he hopped stitched. Field mice had feathered around nearly every clump of brush and squirrels had tossed down empty shells as they lunched in deep into the woods.

You went deeper into the woods and it began to feel like some strange, strangely quiet church. You could almost feel the silence and it sent little shivers up your spine. You hurried on to where the balsams grew straight and strong and suddenly there it was—your tree!

Remember the sharp ring of that first hatchet stroke? The knot that showed your head and shoulders as you shook the branches, the chips that flew from your blade. The way you heard around the flake beauty, admiring

People's Column

The Executive column letters for this column will be sent to the editor and will be limited to 200 words.

To the Editor:

Having read your story about the city commissioners trying to solve the downtown traffic problem in Birmingham, why don't they try to solve some of the problem with what they have? Why don't the commissioners drive up and down Woodward from Lincoln to Harmon and see how many times they have to stop for traffic lights. When they have given this a good trial, they should try it east and west along Maple from Chester beyond Adams.

HUNTER MAY BE out of their jurisdiction, but they should drive from the city's northern limits to the southern limits and back just to see what we mean.

What is so complicated about properly timed traffic signals such as Detroit has that Birmingham can't have? All I ask is that the commissioners ride around and see for themselves. DRIVER

Library's Holiday Hours and New Year holidays. Baldwin public library will close at noon Monday, Dec. 24 and 31, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. Jeanne Lloyd, head librarian, will be on duty. General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! LAWSON & SONS Lumber & Supply

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