

## A Simple and Practical Way To Cut Traffic Violations

A city court judge in Utah has discovered a system which seems to be reducing minor traffic violations to a considerable degree. The Clerk of the Court has checked the record of violators who repeat after they are given the special treatment, and they are found to be few and far between.

The project has been in operation less than a year but it is apparent that the experience is already a success. The judge, W. Dean Loose, of Provo, Utah, says the new approach makes a profound psychological impression on traffic violators.

**WHAT IS THIS NEW approach?** It is giving the violator, when brought before the judge, the choice of a fine or a jail sentence, or the writing of a thesis on traffic safety. Many of the violators choose the latter course and submit a thesis to the judge.

Evidently the theses submitted have been well written for Judge Loose has

flunked only two of his pupils. Both rewrote their thesis and they were later accepted.

But the point of it all, Judge Loose contends, is the profound psychological impression the writing of the thesis makes on the violator. After the thesis treatment, the violators manage to stay out of traffic court in most instances.

After going to the trouble of having to write a thesis on traffic safety, we can understand why a motorist would be embarrassed to be hauled into court for violating the very principle on which he wrote so lavishly.

**WITH THE VIOLATOR'S name signed to the thesis, it is impossible for him to plead ignorance of the law, nor to escape the possibility of being placed in a hypocritical position before the judge.**

That seems to be the psychology involved in the Provo experiment.

## Competition in Politics

In an effort to "rally the faithful", the National Democratic Committee has just started publication of a monthly magazine, devoted entirely to the hope that it will win enough votes in forthcoming elections to replace Republican public officials with Democrats.

Nothing wrong with this idea . . . for only when both major political parties be-

come competitive can the American people get even fair government.

As we have often said, any single party too long in office will accrue "barnacles" (whether they be too many job-holders, too much extravagance, or even portions of graft and corruption) and these "barnacles" are the drags that slow down the U.S. Ship of State from reaching a safe harbor for all the people.

## Bing! Bang! . . . Bingo!

Bingo is, according to Michigan's Attorney-General, "a game of chance", therefore presumed to be gambling. So it is taboo . . . though almost universally popular all over the State.

Many organizations have used the game for raising funds for their various charitable and other projects.

Many sheriffs and county prosecutors, however, with an eye to votes, make little effort to squelch the playing of bingo in their respective areas. They want the State, through the Governor, to lend active support to stopping the practice . . . thus voiding the notion that home rule is the best type of government.

## Taking a Long, Long Walk

A new record in cross-country hiking was claimed recently by David Power, 51-year-old veterinarian. Mr. Power claimed he had hiked across the United States from Santa Monica, California, to New York in seventy-three days.

The old record is reportedly seventy-seven days, and was set in 1910.

To accomplish this feat, Power claims he averaged walking over forty miles a day, six days a week, during his cross-country walkathon. He did not put in any walking time on Sundays.

**THE NEW CHAMPION**, who covered a distance of 3,160 miles in his championship effort, began each walking day at seven in the morning, beginning on April 20th, and walking various distances on various days.

We congratulate Mr. Power on his accomplishment, although we do not necessarily recommend such a venture.

However, if one has the inclination, the seventy-three days and the money to buy food and shoes for such a trip, it is a good way to get a down-to-earth look at these United States.

## Helping Hand--For a Price



## Happenings of Long Ago

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

**50 YEARS AGO**  
July 21, 1903  
Everyone in town is pleased because we have a marshal and sheriff. During the short time has been in office he has worked hard. Our streets and sidewalks are cleaner and the laws are enforced better than ever.

A very few war people failed to enjoy the "destruction" of Rome in Detroit the past two weeks and bring down the play of fireworks that has thrilled tens of thousands of people.

Have you seen Dan Case's safe yet? It was caused by the arrival of Master Case last Monday morning. He hung up his hat, had an early breakfast and has decided to stay right along and help with the harvest.

Two new telephones were added to Manager Mitchell's Telephone Exchange this week--one in the home of W. Parks, Maple avenue, and one at Eugene Smith's home near Cooper Farm. It won't need but a few more and Birmingham will have an exchange of an even 50 subscribers.

Prof. Wadke graduated a class of ten from the Ovid Opera House. The exercises were fine and largely enjoyed by W. N. Perry, of Big Rapids, delivered an address, "Making the World Better."

**30 YEARS AGO**  
July 17, 1923  
While trimming trees on the Kenneth Emerson farm at Silver Lake, Emerson G. Brown, 504 Percy avenue, had a narrow escape from death last Saturday when he came in contact with a high-tension wire.

Forty thousand dollars worth of property was destroyed last Saturday morning, when fire swept the building owned by H. Field on West Maple avenue. The alarm was turned in at 8:30 a.m. and the blaze was not under control until 11:30.

Announcement has been made by the Board of County Road Commissioners.

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Sitting around the house with a "bumped up" foot last week, we had time to watch the neighborhood youngsters and marvel at their antics.

"While we mopped our dripping brow and considered trying the age-old trick of frying an egg on the pavement, the kid ran and jumped and scurried around all day long.

"Some played cowboy, which certainly could not be done without the heavy guns and gun belts, leather cuffs (although they wore no shirts) neckerchiefs and chaps. Some were a version of Superman, using a heavy bath towel or a crib blanket for the flowing shoulder cape.

A FEW, badly bitten by the baseball bug, strutted around in their suits and caps, wearing "catcher's mitts" or fielder's gloves.

Of course there were the motorists, too. They perched on their little cars, and some wore little roadsters and how those feet did it to get up speed!

Through the open door we could see a game of hop scotch going on most of the time. They pulled their little stoves and then hopped through the strawed pattern until we became exhausted just watching them.

A FEW, bidding young aviators dashed madly around the lawn after their paper craft and tore into the house for more construction material when a crash turned out to be particularly destructive.

The little kids, not old enough to take part in these games, tramped around, busier than any of the others because they had so many more things to keep track of.

The mama, the dog and young truly, sat the cool rug in the shade house. While the mama and dog had verbal comments, not complimentary praise, about the temperature, the dog added his

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

According to figures just released by the National Red Cross, it participated in 19 major and 211 minor disaster operations from July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1953.

Two of the major calamities were the June 8th tornado in nearby Flint, and the tornado in Massachusetts the following day.

Although the loss of life was greatest in the Flint area, more persons were injured or affected in the Eastern storm.

Here is a comparison of the two disasters, according to Red Cross figures:

Killed	Flint Mass 129	88
Injured	615	1310
Hospitalized at peak	512	438
Hospitalized July 1	185	101
Units of blood and plasma provided	800	274
Families affected	709	5008
Homes destroyed	377	450
Homes damaged	295	3250
Feeding units operated	20	25
Persons fed per day	800	18000
Volunteers who served	500	850

While most people don't realize it, the war in Korea has produced at least 1800 American "unknown" soldiers. The Army uses the most modern scientific detection methods to link each of its unknown soldiers with a name but even so, each war produces hundreds of fatally injured unknown soldiers.

The 1800 unknown soldiers who have been recovered from Korea today lie in Southern Japan, in army mass graves. Each day a few are identified from birthmarks, latents, fingerprints, dental work, old trousers, and so on.

This painful process is one of the tragedies of war and if the instigators of armed conflict were forced to perform the necessary work in these mass graves, wars might not be so easily won.

Some of the Americans who are among the 1800 unknown soldiers are undoubtedly listed as missing in action. Others may have been killed in action and never identified. The main point is, however, that somewhere a family, or a wife or mother, waits and wonders about this or that particular unknown soldier, who has given his life for the cause of freedom, and who may never receive the recognition this sacrifice deserves.

In many areas of the world, the average inhabitant is not given full access to the truth. He has only a poor chance at best of receiving a full and liberal education and, therefore, is not generally equipped to decide the great issues of the day.

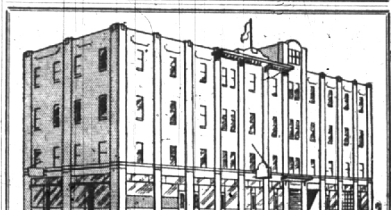
In the United States, however, our educational standards are comparatively high and where the industrious individual can find the truth if he seeks it, there is little excuse for narrow-minded, prejudiced views which have no basis in fact or reason.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale-Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

## When Buying or Selling Stocks or Municipal Bonds--Think First of

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## Modern Electric Range

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**COOL CLEAN FAST**

Your every cake is a perfect cake because electric heat is so accurate. The oven in your electric range is turned on and off automatically to maintain the one right baking temperature. What's more, cook and kitchen both keep cool.

Have you seen the 53 model electric ranges? They're really wonderful. Stop in soon, won't you?

See your Dealer or Detroit Edison

## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Ever try to get a telephone connection with, for example, the Fare & Information Dept. of the Michigan Central Railroad's Detroit headquarters? If you were successful after the first 12 hours' effort, you were lucky. It is our general experience that you get no answer at all, or a busy signal. No wonder some people take to other means of transportation.

Again Cupid is proving himself more powerful than governments . . . as in the current case of England's Princess Margaret, rumored to be in love with a young divorced commoner. The British Parliament appears willing to change certain laws that will allow the Princess to marry the boy, without endangering her established rights to possible succession to the throne. Boy, when Cupid sends out his arrow-venor big statesmen flinch under the impact.

A Detroit housewife, sitting on her front porch, saw a seven-foot blue snake come up out of a nearby sewer, then slither

over the ground to her porch. She ran inside and called the police station; 12 boys in blue speedily arrived and finally killed the harmless reptile. Would you call those policemen blue racers, too?

In the passing of J. Mark Hardin, Birmingham has lost a good citizen. Mr. Hardin once served on the local Board of Education, rendering splendid service in that capacity. He was a quiet, respected gentleman, brought up as a Democrat in Kentucky, he eventually voted Republican for certain candidates, especially on the national level. He was a Jeffersonian Democrat . . . not sympathetic to Socialism that crept into the New-Pair Deals.

That Birmingham continues to be Detroit's most attractive suburb is shown by the sustained residential building program being carried on this year. During the first six months of 1953 building permits totalled over four millions of dollars, representing 380 permits. This is an increase of nearly \$600,000 over the same period last year. Fewer and fewer are the vacant lots within the city's corporate limits. Tremendous residential growth also is in evidence for miles around Birmingham, too. All of this ought to augur well for sustained real estate values.

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## So They Say . . .

Dwight D. Eisenhower: "National security is everybody's job."

Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian Prime Minister: "We are not sending our men to Korea to fight anybody."

R. L. Trujillo, head of Dominican Republic: "I hope the world realizes that the entrance of the Russian bear is death."

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