

There Is a Reason for Scarcity of Teachers

People who are interested in education—and this applies most forcefully to parents with children in school—should avoid food for thought in reading the following comment in a recent issue of Pathfinder—The Town Journal. It explains why, in large part, there is a scarcity of school teachers. Here it is:

"There is a truck driver up in New York state who is new at his job. Until this fall he was a school teacher. His teaching salary was \$85 a week; now he gets \$125. We have been thinking this over without, so far, reaching any hard conclusions.

"THIS FELLOW MAY BE so much better at driving trucks than at teaching that he has simply moved over into his proper occupation. Then, it may be that truck driving has become more important than teaching.

"Straight economic reasoning might indicate that if truck driving pays \$40 a week more, it is about one-third more

valuable to society. Perhaps we need drivers to haul television sets and beverages and groceries worse than we need teachers. Maybe the man felt that he received too little respect as a teacher and figured that a truck driver gets more consideration.

"After all, we Americans are a practical people. We can see what a truck driver does. A teacher, hidden away in a school room which few of us visit, is seldom on display and harder to evaluate. He, or more often she, merely educates our children and incidentally keeps them out from under our feet several hours daily during most of the year.

We always seem to find about enough teachers to go around. If the state certifies that they are qualified can we doubt their abilities? Can we tell whether they are worth \$45, \$85 or \$125 a week?

"Anyway, it seems to boil down to this; if we want truck drivers worse than we want teachers, we'll have to pay for them."

October 22 Editorial Clarified

In an Oct. 22 editorial entitled, "Torch Drive Funds—And Who Uses Them," The Birmingham Eccentric in endorsing the 1953 United Fund Drive, pointed out that only a portion of the funds obtained in the UF's current solicitation would be sent on to the Oakland County Red Cross chapter for the chapter's activities next year.

It also was emphasized that the Red Cross, because it would receive only a portion of the funds its 1954 quota would require, "will have to campaign (in the South Oakland area) next March for the remaining amount."

LAST WEEK, AFTER READING that editorial, Birmingham resident John S. Clair, who also is this year's UF suburban campaign chairman, contacted The Eccentric and suggested that perhaps a word of clarification as to just

whom will be contacted for Red Cross contributions next March would be advisable.

"Because the editorial did not specifically say so, there appears now to be some confusion and unfounded belief in the UF's current solicitation would be sent on to the Oakland County Red Cross chapter for the chapter's activities next year.

So today, The Eccentric is eager to point out: Red Cross solicitation next March will not be made of business, industry, schools and government. It will be confined to residential areas.

Too, those residents who already have included their Red Cross contribution in their Torch Drive donation will not necessarily be expected to contribute to the March Red Cross drive. Additional Red Cross gifts will be welcomed, however.

Expressing Your Emotions

Recently we attended a small gathering of people here who were paying tribute to a business concern on the occasion of its length of service to the public.

Showered with flowers and warm praises, one of the firm's members revealed his inner emotions of appreciation . . . his voice choked up and moisture came to his eyes.

He made a feeble effort to excuse his emotion . . . whereupon we said: "It is

good for a man to respond inwardly as you now are doing. On numerous occasions we have done it ourself. Indeed, we would not be happy without the tendency to react emotionally, when necessary, for this is but proof of one's natural ability to express gratitude.

"There certainly is nothing unmanful about letting the eyes become damp, the voice choked up, when one is overcome with gratitude to others."

Never Too Old

Earle Sande, the great jockey of the 1920's, is attempting a racing comeback at a ripe old age. Readers will remember Sande as one of the all-time greats in the history of jockeys. So consistent was he in bringing in winners that the writers of that day wrote poems about his talent.

Now, years after his fame has been recorded in the record books, the jockey is attempting to return to an active, and physically strenuous, profession. As this is written, Sande had not piloted a winner across the wire, but, in his first races, he

had made several creditable shows.

THE REAPPEARANCE of Sande, in the sporting picture of 1938, is somewhat nostalgic, since he was the Kingpin in one sport at the time when several other great champions, like Bill Tilden, Jack Dempsey, and the Yankees, were familiar names on the tongue of every sports fan. Now, at a ripe old age, one of these former greats comes back for another effort.

Naturally, every sportsman hopes the comeback is a successful one.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Birmingham was pleased to find last week that the American Telegraph & Telephone Co.—parent organization of all the nation's Bell systems—has selected our city for the first commercial use of automatic toll dialing facilities, effective Nov. 20. Such recognition, we believe, is further testimony to the progressive-mindedness of the community. Working together in a spirit of cooperation, open-minded and with a determination to help

the most and injure the least, city officials, businessmen and residents have elevated Birmingham to a position that is head and shoulders above the crowd. Such a high place is open to attack by sister communities who would like to topple us from our perch. It requires constant strength and foresight to keep it . . . and we can maintain it.

Somewhere in mankind's archives it must be recorded that no woman ever lived who could make a fool of a man—at least the man had to provide some cooperation in the achievement.

So They Say . . .

Nathan Howard Gist, author: "The more we put off, the easier it is to fall into the habit of waiting."

Dwight D. Eisenhower: "The Soviet have the capability of atomic attack on us, and such capability will increase with the passage of time."

Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary: "There is certainly room . . . for assurance to the Soviets that we do not threaten their security."

Trouble on the Hoot



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

October 30, 1983 Charlie Dennis is home from Texas for a short visit. The change of climate did not agree with him and for a time he was a pretty sick man. He's recovering fully now and is near to being his old cheerful, pleasant self.

County School Commissioner Elliott caught 11 had boys stealing his grapes one night. He had his arbor strung with electric lights and turned them on when he heard the noise. Some, abashed, ran at the sudden light and successfully escaped.

We here say that John Pound's block in Pontiac exactly fills the bill for the new Oakland county court house which will be built at a cost of \$100,000. It should not be too far from the business area, the center of the county but should be located in a spot away from too much noise. On the Pound block it will be.

Miss Gray of Pontiac has been engaged to sing at the Halloween social at the Baptist church Saturday evening last. The lowest in Birmingham will accompany her at the organ.

A pretty wedding at the St. James Episcopal church united Miss Nellie Cobb and Stuart Lowes in bonds of holy matrimony on Saturday evening last. The best wishes of all go to them.

30 YEARS AGO

November 2, 1923 Plans have been drawn up for a new library building in Birmingham to cost an estimated \$90,000. Commissioners view the plans at their meeting Monday and ordered the committee to continue clearing details for the construction.

Motorcycle Officer Green placed a Detroit fireman under arrest Saturday afternoon after being charged to fire warning shots past the car before the driver, Donald Frazier, would get out. The car was traveling at a dangerous rate of speed.

Wednesday was a busy day for Birmingham firemen who responded

to three alarms. Although none were serious, department members warn householders that with the coming of cold weather, fire hazards increase. The utmost caution should be exercised in starting new fires and checking heating equipment.

A group of 30 Birmingham masons finished their trip to a Highland Park Masonic meeting by trolley last week. Police arrested the driver of their bus for speeding on Woodward avenue.

Village Treasurer Charles Plumstead said this week a tax delinquent extension would make village taxes payable until Nov. 14.

15 YEARS AGO

November 3, 1923 City Manager Donald Egbert has been notified that a federal grant of \$3,525 has been approved for Birmingham. The money will be used to help pay the cost of a municipal garage and warehouse.

A sound truck will travel Birmingham streets Monday and Tuesday afternoon, reminding voters of their civic rights and duty—to vote. The truck is being sponsored by two non-partisan groups both interested in increasing balloting here.

Photographer Robert Plew of Detroit attended the Halloween party here and took about 200 pictures which will be submitted to Life Magazine for national publication. The idea was suggested by Sidney Orwin of 604 East Maple, a Life editorial staffer.

The Detroit Area Council has invited Birmingham Boy Scouts to take part in that city's annual Armistice Day parade on Nov. 11. Four fully uniformed scouts are invited from each troop, to carry the nation's and troop flags.

Rep. George A. Dondoro, Republican candidate for re-election to congress will discuss national issues in a program over WEXL Nov. 5. He will give his views on what national steps are needed to effect a permanent business recovery in the United States.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

For sheer dramatic beauty there's nothing like a fall sunset. The air has a special quality at this time of year, maybe from atmospheric conditions, maybe the smoke of millions of burning leaves. Whatever the cause—it's special.

The sun, at the end of a crisp and shiny day, slips out of sight, leaving behind it a blazing glory almost impossible to describe.

The brilliant flame seems to scorch the earth and, rising high and higher into the heavens, lose its fierce coloring until it has blended itself with the blue vault above it.

STARK AND black, the almost leafless trees stand out against these colors like scatterings of black velvet. Interlacing limbs, branches and twigs are scrawled across it, looking almost like black lines of a road map.

Housespots stand out in sharp relief, chimneys stabbing their way into the light that surrounds them. Some sending out lacy wisps of smoke, indicating the comfort and sanctuary of the home against the chill of fast approaching dark.

Fall, although it may be considered as the end of a cycle, certainly upholds the phrase, "Go in out in a blaze of glory."

We heard of a little boy the other day, who took the Torch Drive seriously.

In a classroom discussion, a practice adopted in all grades in all local schools, the youngsters were talking about how they had earned money for their donations.

This particular lad announced that he had had a tooth ready to come out. He'd pulled it and his daddy had given him a dime which he, in turn, gave to the Torch Drive.

"How are you going to earn more money for the Drive?" he

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Thirty-five teen-age "junior envoys" from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Columbia and Panama are currently touring the United States. The boys are enjoying an air tour of this country, which includes stops in most of the major cities and a call at the White House in Washington.

The idea of the tour has been received enthusiastically in all of the countries concerned. One of the boys on the tour is Manuel Oloria—the son of the President of Peru.

Uninhibited youngsters, given an advantage of travelling and seeing and meeting the people of foreign lands, will do much toward promoting better understanding in the years to come.

These boys will one day be leaders in their countries and if they begin life with an initial good impression of the United States, or any other country, the value of this youthful impression could almost be measureless.

Birmingham and area are not unfamiliar with this sort of goodwill visit by students from foreign lands. They have come from France, Germany, Arabia, England, Mexico, Spain and Portugal, to mention some of these other lands.

This idea should be continued, as far as is practicable, in the interest of better international understanding between the United States and other world nations.

The Birmingham board of education came in for some unfortunate criticism by the city commission last week. During a discussion of the city's smoke abatement program (which has made considerable progress since last year's heating season), City Building Inspector Jack Walker admitted to commissioners that the B of E seemed disinterested in seeing what they could do.

"In fact, we have received extremely little co-operation from school officials," Walker said.

Added Commissioner Lance Minor: "Just the other day I saw pouring

from the Barnum Junior high school chimney a dense black smoke screen."

In Los Angeles last week to speak before the annual convention of the American Trucking Association, Birmingham resident Philip J. Monaghan, 1043 Westwood drive, disclosed some welcome information to the truckers—information which will be equally applauded by the passenger car-driving public.

A GM vice president and general manager of the GMC Truck and Coach division, Monaghan said GMC has developed an exhaust system for its trucks that renders exhaust noises inoffensive to the human ear.

(The ATA has for some time been trying to find an answer that would eliminate truck exhaust noises, one of the truckers' serious public relations problems.)

"WHEN WE STARTED work on this two years ago in response to demands by truck operators, we had no formulas or a base line from which to begin," Monaghan explained.

"Our engineers by trial and error method, and in cooperation with muffler manufacturers, finally worked out a system, that will absorb those noises so offensive to the ear.

"It is our hope that other manufacturers will copy our system so that all operators in the trucking industry eventually will benefit from this development. Accordingly, neither GMC nor the muffler manufacturers will attempt to suppress details of the system for competitive reasons."

Monaghan's announcement is indeed appreciated by the average motorist who, if blindfolded, could not tell whether a big truck or an Army tank had pulled up behind or alongside him.

Now if only something can be done about the inconsiderate drivers who use no mufflers or exhaust pipes, or who have installed those infernal Hollywood mufflers, the nation soon will have a peace and quiet never before enjoyed.

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