

Toll Road Development Should Benefit Michigan

Practically all the through trunk-line highways built in the United States have been paid for, for the most part, from taxes levied on gasoline, weight, and automobile licenses. This is true of Michigan, the home of the motor car.

Now we are on the threshold of embarking on toll roads in Michigan. A special Turnpike Authority has been created for this purpose, and will operate separate from the State Highway Dept.

There are many who honestly believe that toll roads are not in keeping with the American tradition of free highways. They overlook, it seems to us, the important fact that through express highways are vitally necessary in many areas of the United States, and cannot be planned and built by dependence only upon existing tax levies for road construction.

IT SHOULD NOT BE forgotten that tax monies that flow into the traditional highway departments of the several States

are always subject to the pulling and hauling of local pressure groups.

Indeed, if you ask an experienced public official connected with a State's highway department, he will agree that the diversion of existing, or even new, tax levies will not allow him to use this money for toll roads.

So, it seems to us, the creation of a Turnpike Authority, with power to finance through tolls, collect tolls for their use and payment, is a correct method of solving the problem.

Numerous other States, especially in the East, have built toll roads and declare that tolls collected for their use are paying off the cost of such highways.

LET US HOPE THAT Michigan finds the same satisfactory results.

For Michigan certainly needs a few of these express highways to enable motorists, with more safety, to make business or recreational trips over its wide expanse.

At Last a St. Lawrence Seaway!

Approval by Congress of the long-sought development of the St. Lawrence Seaway project augurs well for the Great Lakes area. For 30 years this project has been studied and discussed in Congress. It always was opposed by eastern interests, including railroads who realized that ocean steamers that discharged their cargoes at Great Lakes ports, or took on export cargoes, would cut into the railroads' business.

So it was only within the pattern of human behavior that such a great project should be fought over long and loudly.

Together with Canada, the United

States will dig canals, widen existing ones, and do other things that will provide sufficient water to float vessels. Detroit already is studying how it may develop a water-front capable of handling increased marine business.

COME TO THINK OF IT, when things really get humming after the Seaway is operating, why not get Congress to widen and deepen our own little River Rouge, thus making Birmingham a seaport?

On second thought, though, why spoil our nice little tributaries of the River Rouge for mere mercenary gains!

Republican Leaders Need Courage!

Our United States Senate Policy Committee of the Republican Party is headed by Michigan's senior Senator Ferguson.

This committee has just released a statement that starts out: "Communism remains a serious and fundamental threat in 1954." How true, Dear Senator... but is that really news?

Your report says "Roosevelt and the New Deal let Communism into government, Truman and the Fair Deal spent its time in denying and concealing the fact, etc., etc."

You imply that only the Republicans and the Eisenhower Administration are capable of identifying present Communies in government and kicking them out.

YOUR LEADERSHIP FAILS to credit the McCarthy Committee (Republican in control) with doing anything to oust the Communies... yet you know this Committee really has helped to do it.

Obnoxious as McCarthy is becoming, your Republican leaders fail to credit him with any success, simply because he and Ike are now "on the outs." But don't you think the American people know about this, and are gauging present Republican Congressional leadership not only by what you say... but also by what you are afraid or just won't say?

Boy, how inept can you Republicans be? ... and don't forget, Senator, that ostriches with their heads stuck in the sand become excellent targets for hunters.

Beware Charity Rackets

In the past few years, there has swept over our country a veritable avalanche of requests for contributions to various so-called "charities." Every week millions of homes get, via mail, these requests... from so many alleged philanthropic organizations and committees that one wonders what new identity will next come along.

We suggest that you toss most of these requests into your waste basket, for many of them are mere rackets, we are told. Never send a dollar back through the mails unless you are very sure the request is a legitimate one... and, if in doubt, remember the waste basket.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

We who live in the Detroit metropolitan area are in environment unlike anything ever endured by our ancestors herabouts... unless you are willing to assume that the possibility of an enemy Indian behind every tree was akin to our present danger. Any time a slap-happy leader of the Kremlin decides that the U.S.A. is good pickin', we can expect the possibility of a hydrogen bomb paying us a visit. So can many other large centers of U. S. population. We don't wish to alarm you... just remind you that this Twentieth Century is fraught with various kinds of danger to human society.

A Brooklyn, N.Y., army private, located now in Germany, received from his fiancée a 3,200 foot long letter, written on adding

machine tape. Such devotion certainly should add up to quite a sizable sum of bliss.

You may recall that the U.S. Army has developed a bullet-proof combat jacket. To prevent criminals from buying and wearing them, the Congress is considering banning their sale outside the military. That's as it should be, of course. Any future criminal caught wearing such a jacket will be guilty on two counts: one for wearing the jacket, the other for the crime of the moment.

So They Say...

Arthur Connell, National Commander, American Legion:

"I have learned from personal experience... that life is worth living for those who live true to themselves and to their God."

Clem D. Johnston, newly-elected President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce:

"Business activity this year will be good by any standards except possibly 1953."

Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense:

"Great and encouraging progress has resulted from the re-examination and re-orientation of our military program."

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor
HAROLD F. BURGESS, Advertising Manager

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Vacation(?) Time



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Just think, five more sleeps, as the Indians who roamed this section used to call the passing of a day, and June will be with us in all its varied glories.

Probably the two most important items of the month are those June brides and June graduates—both there are many, many other interesting things about the month, too. Our gardens will suddenly begin to look like something. The bits of green which a short time ago were tiny seeds, will begin to show their personalities and it will not be too difficult to identify them even after the youngsters and dogs have pulled the packets off row markers.

THEN, The active season of summer camps, etc., will be going along at a good clip. Many a fond parent will be trying to get sonny or daughter into a very special camp, only to find their enrollment was S.K.O. 'way back in February. Having promised a summer at camp, they pick one which still has room and send the small fry off with deep misgivings.

These same parents are beginning their own vacation plans. They will not learn their lesson from the summer camp episode but will wait another month or so before making reservations for hotel rooms or a cottage at their own chosen resort.

THE RESULTS will be the same. Those people who praised Lake Luxuria's Hotel Splendorous to them will have told a couple of hundred other people. The place will be packed. Poppa and Momma, like Sonny and Daughter, will take second and what time they will have.

The cottage will really be a cottage, but not one of the dream places the song writers moon over.

At the 1924 fete which came last Wednesday, the freshmen class made their first appearance in an interpretation of the myth of Prosperine and Pluto.

Among the weddings set for June attracting extensive interest, is the double wedding of the Misses Mack, Marjorie and Katherine, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mack of Quorton road.

15 YEARS AGO
May 25, 1939
That letter yesterday from grandpa and grandma said they were taking a trip to the coast this year. Isn't it wonderful?

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
May 27, 1904
"Rumors of a new hotel, yes three new hotels, fill the air and around our village. We are on the eve of great advancement. Give sewers and electric lights and we cannot be beaten."

"Mrs. Dr. Neff and son visited Pa and Ma Bigelow over Sunday and had a lovely time."

"A Chicago club woman recently gave to her club the following motto: 'There is so much that is bad in the best of us, and so much that is good in the worst of us that it doesn't behoove any of us to say anything about the rest of us.'"

"The painting of Dr. C. M. Ray-nale's house and barn, by Bert Gravlin, with Bert Paint for an assistant, is a beautiful job, and the doctor's corner now shines like a diamond."

"The board of supervisors met at the old courthouse one day last week for the last time. The meeting was called to legalize the \$100,000 bond issue, and other matters were attended to."

"The Misses Denison of Troy are visiting Mrs. A. W. Wooster."

30 YEARS AGO
May 23, 1924
Twenty Birmingham men, comprising the membership of the local Rotary club, were distinctly honored Wednesday night when 160 Rotarians from 15 cities of our eastern Michigan and Canada, attended the formal charter presentation to the Birmingham club.

Fear over the supposed mad dog in Birmingham last week has subsided, since it was discovered that the dog which bit five-year-old John Smith on the Adams school ground, last Friday, had been engaged by teasing from the children.

A parallel parking system along Woodward avenue in Birmingham went into effect yesterday with the completion of parking lines, a car's width from the curbstone.

For the first time in the history of the University of Michigan freshmen have been allowed to take part in "Lantern Night" do-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Some newspaper editor some day in some community on this earth is going to have the following happen to him all in the same day:

"Mr. Editor, I want to thank you for not publishing that news item I sent in. After reading today's issue, I realize that compared to the stories which you actually published, my item was much less important. I'm certainly glad you used the space to better advantage for the community."

In the editor's morning mail will be a letter similar to this:

"Dear Mr. Editor:
"I believe your advertising rates are not as high as they should be. We have been advertising in your newspaper for a number of years, and have suffered some pangs of conscience because of the low rate we are paying compared to the wonderful amount of business we attribute directly to our advertising in your paper."

"We no longer can continue to operate under this mental handicap. Unless you considerably increase our rate in our next contract, we shall be forced to cancel it. (Signed) A Loyal Advertiser."

Among his phone calls that day, the editor will hear something like this:
"About that lead, editorial in today's paper, Mr. Editor. You really take me to

task for the way I handled that city paving contract."

"I thought it extremely funny when you referred to my having a hazy ancestry, and that perhaps I had a few hazy thieves buried in a family closet. Tell me, was that a guess—or did you know?"

"In fact, Mr. Editor, I get a lot of laughs from reading your cracks about me. So much so I can promise you when I run for mayor again next year, I am going to double my usual amount of campaign advertising as a thank-you."

This note from one who signs herself, "Eager Reader":

"My subscription will be expiring in three months, and I want to be sure I don't miss a single issue. Therefore, I'm mailing you a check for \$10. Please give me as long a subscription as you have, and if there is anything left over, just keep it on hand to apply against my account the next time I buy some of your wonderful want ads, which will be soon, I know."

And "Understanding Subscriber" will write:

"I have just noticed you printed my street address as that of the fellow who got arrested last week for drunk driving. I just want you to know I understand mistakes like that can happen. In fact, I've driven while pretty drunk myself, so think no more about it. My whole family says your newspaper is tops!"

UD Chapter Hears Merritt D. Hill

The prime requisite for leadership is a healthy discontent.

Merritt D. Hill, assistant general manager of the Ford Tractor division, told members of the University of Detroit chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma last week.

A graduate of U of D, Hill was made an honorary member of the business-professional honorary society.

Speaking on the development of leadership qualities, Hill stated that the "progress of men, companies and nations can be measured by the degree to which they are with things that can be improved."

"When they reach the contented state, watch out. It's the beginning of the end."

He pointed out that some of man's most important moves are

School Board Buys Special Equipment

Contracts totaling \$3,503 for school equipment have been let by the Bloomfield Hills board of education.

Seventy-five lockers for Vaughan high school costing \$915.75 will be purchased from the Pontiac General Printing and Office Supply company.

Crown Equipment company will furnish 200 folding chairs for \$748. McPadden equipment company will furnish three roll-away tables at \$1,650, and Givley company two tables at \$150.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

PLANNED LEISURE—To-day an increasing number of men are planning hobbies for the future that will add to the enjoyment of their retirement years. An essential part of planning for retirement is the provision of an adequate retirement income. For competent advice—Consult our representative

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Fire loss in Birmingham during the historic April is estimated to be \$4,637, according to the report submitted by W. W. Griffith, chief of the department to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Bloomfield Hills' High School Saturday successfully defended its title at the State Regional Track meet held at Ypsilanti.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

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