

This Victory Will Save Lives

It was most gratifying to report on our front page last week that the Michigan legislature will require traffic to stop whenever it meets or overtakes a loading or unloading school bus.

For 10 years, this two-way stop bill had been introduced in one or both legislative chambers. Until this year, it had been pigeonholed in committee each time.

Last year The Eccentric became interested in why this legislation had not been enacted. Our motivation was strong; after getting off the school bus, one youngster in the Bloomfield Hills school district some years before had been killed by an oncoming car. Another had just lost a leg as the result of a similar accident.

BUT WE WERE NEW at this business of legislation, so 1957 went by and the two-way stop proposal got scarcely any legislative attention.

Then late last year, a second Bloomfield Hills girl was killed because traffic wasn't required to stop if coming in an opposite direction.

The Eccentric resolved that the 1958 legislative session **MUST** be the one in which the two-way stop is adopted. Already, 46 other states had the requirement, and they credited it with saving children's lives.

MICHIGAN SHOULD NOT BE the LAST state to do so, we determined.

Oakland county's senator and Birmingham's representative went right to work

on their respective chambers. Senator L. Harvey Lodge worked hard, finally got his colleagues to approve the bill, 21 to 6.

It now went to the house, where Rep. Farnell E. Roberts waged an intensive campaign for approval of the senate bill. There were discouraging delays, disappointing conversations. Several times it looked as if this year also would find the bill back in committee gathering more dust.

DURING THIS TIME, The Eccentric in front of and behind the scenes did what it could to rally public support of the bill. Organization followed organization in contacting legislators to favor the bill.

Public activity finally overcame legislative apathy.

At 10 p.m. on Monday, March 31, the house voted 77 to 19 to require the two-way stop.

Michigan's children are grateful for this legislative action, even though it took so long for logic and common sense to prevail.

THE TWO BLOOMFIELD school children's deaths and the injury to the third provided the spark. The Eccentric fanned these tragic instances with the oxygen of publicity. Soon there were the flames of public concern which consumed the debris of legislative lethargy.

It is you, the public, which deserves credit for the victory.

Recession Like a Spinning Hat

Perhaps the no-buying-state-of-mind, or the "I'll wait a bit before buying that item and see what's going to happen", mental attitude is as much responsible for a large portion of today's economic recession as any other contributing factor.

As a general rule, most people are spenders. Few of us are, by nature, miserly in conserving our resources. Indeed, we are just the opposite, on many occasions.

There is lots of money in the jeans of most of today's employed people—and the employed are very many. The unemployed really comprise only a very small segment of the employable population.

VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS have been made by people, from President Eisenhower down, that we Americans "loosen up", and go ahead with normal purchasing. This, they assert, will consume goods, make work for industry to produce more, provide employment for people, etc., etc.

Over in Sturgis, Michigan, something quite practical is being done to get people to spend their money. That city's newspaper, The Journal, is running advertisements, pointing out the need for more consumer optimism about the nation's economic stability. People are urged to spend their normal amounts of income for their normal needs.

THE JOURNAL'S BASIC theme is for citizens to overcome whatever fears they have about the country's condition. They are given the sound advice that optimism, based upon a faith that, itself, is founded upon practical commonsense, is what we need to restore a more full employment.

"Remember that busy dollars means busy people," is one of The Journal's sound statements.

Well, what is good for Sturgis ought to be good for Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, this entire Oakland County area.

Fear, indeed, is a terrible state of mind. No other human state of mind can be so disastrous.

THE EDITOR HAS lived through several so-called recessions, one terrific real depression. We know how fear can set a whole community, as well as a whole nation, into the hysteria of "hard times."

We call, for example, the long-ago story of a Chicago business man walking down a street in the heart of the city's banking section; it was summer, yet quite windy.

A sudden gust of wind took the man's straw hat right off his head, sent it over the sidewalk. The man started running after his hat. Likewise, several nearby sympathetic pedestrians also took after the hat.

The wind kept the hat spinning along the sidewalk and, by some clever and fateful caprice of the elements, the wind changed its course, causing the hat to turn right into the wide open front door of a bank.

THE HAT'S OWNER, plus the helpful pedestrians, ran right through that door after the hat . . .

Numerous other nearby pedestrians witnessed the final rush of the hat chasers into the bank . . .

Somebody yelled: "The bank's in trouble . . ." and so they too, rushed into the bank to withdraw their savings.

Well, there did follow a real "run" on that bank, and it wasn't until the next day that the public was made to realize that the bank was not in any trouble at all.

The cause of it all was a summer straw hat that a gust of summer wind had spun right into the bank . . . with human beings merely bent on retrieving the hat . . . not at all disturbed about their own deposits.

Something like this hat episode has and still is happening with much of the fearful American public.

We all need to refuse to allow a spinning fedora to try to convince us that our finances are in danger of loss.

Have to Make It Do



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Cat-tail Recessive Plant of Marsh

Crowding the edge of ditch, marsh and pond are many plants which live with their roots in the water and their stems and leaves in the air.

To this group belong such aquatic plants as water lilies, reeds, marsh grasses, arrowwoods, and water plantain. But most common of their kind are the high-standing arms of the cat-tail.

Widely distributed is the broad-leaved cattail, *Typha latifolia*, its common but growing in a similar situation is the narrow-leaved species, *Typha angustifolia*, with its more slender leaves and flower spikes.

THE "CAT-TAIL" which appears in June is the primitive flower of the plant. The upper more "chaffy" half is made up of staminate or male flowers.

Underneath is a cone consisting of the "cat-tail" which appears in June is the primitive flower of the plant. The upper more "chaffy" half is made up of staminate or male flowers.



Mrs. Frehe

In the narrow-leaved species the two kinds of flowers are separated by a stretch of bare stem. After the pollen from the male flowers is wind-distributed to the female flowers the former drop off, leaving the familiar naked spike atop the greenish cone.

After September, when the cat-tail has browned and ripened, it is often collected for winter bouquets. Buffeted by rain, snow and wind it lasts well into April when its quarter of a million seeds gradually loosen and disintegrate.

The cat-tail has many animal associates. Insects such as plant hoppers, grasshoppers, crickets, and the like feed upon the surface of the leaves and tunnel through them. The larvae of the small beetle feed upon the stalks and the starry root. The lower pistillate cone is host to the eggs of the cat-tail moth.

In autumn it larvae spin their silken threads around it thus preserving the seed while making for themselves a cozy winter home and a safe hiding place for the young which they spin in the spring.

Birds are indebted to the cat-tail both for nesting sites and for nesting material. Soon the red-winged blackbird will fashion the framework of its nest with the long wet and pliable leaves which have fallen into the water. If the house grackle nests near a marsh it too will use the same material.

The yellow warbler, kingbird and cedar wax wing may use the down from the wind-blown cat-tail to line their nests. The goldfinch also uses the down in the same way for its first brood when the thick and milk-weed have not yet ripened.

The marsh weaver's cozy nest is shared not with the wet leaves of the cat-tail, but with the supporting stems of the same plant. Such water birds as the Florida gallinule use the dried leaves to make a mounded nest above the water-line while the pond-skimmer grubs make a floating nest of wet leaves anchored to a supporting plant stem.

Among the mammals, the muskrat fashions his dome-shaped house of cat-tails and mud. The white-footed mouse often finds winter comfort and protection in the down-filled nest he builds when he may make a new home for himself atop a wind-blown cat-tail flower.

ALL LIFE was cradled in water. The cat-tail is a seed plant which has regressed to an aquatic habit of living although its ancestors spent millions of years adjusting to a terrestrial home. Now, like the whale whose forebears were land-living mammals, it is returning to the environment which gave it birth.

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

April 19, 1908
"Out on the Franklin road last week a dear old lady had just handed a horse a nickel and smilingly asked, 'Now what will you do with it?' His answer could be recorded for he said, 'Well ye see mum, if I buy an auto, there ain't enough left to hire a shofer, so I guess I'll get a schooner. I can handle that myself.'"

"71 majority Oakland county gave for a dry county. Many a voter in Bloomfield before the two years are up will be paving the ground and changing their bit to vote back again."

30 YEARS AGO

April 12, 1928
"More than 100 delegates from 15 countries are expected here April 26 and 27 at the annual sixth District Convention of the Michigan WCTU according to announcement made today as plans for the affair to be in the First Methodist church in Birmingham are being completed. This is the first time the group has chosen Birmingham as a meeting place."

"Birmingham members of the Ypsi club, composed of graduates from the Michigan State Normal college at Ypsilanti are to give the comedy, 'The Goose Hangs High' April 20. The show will be given in Ypsilanti."

"Birmingham kept its Easter fire inside its homes last Sunday when the mercury dropped many degrees below the usual standard for that Sunday."

15 YEARS AGO

April 8, 1943
"A queer dime came into our

office the other day. It is dated 1870 and shows a seated female figure holding a flag in one hand, while the other arm rests on a shield with the word 'Liberty' across it. Can some local numismatist tell us whether the dime has any value other than 10 cents?

"There's a special request from the garbage collector, via the City Hall: 'Don't wrap a lot of paper around your garbage. This bulk reduces the loads we can carry and that is inefficient and important these days.'"

Suburban Sentiment

NEWBORN
Spittin' image
Of his pop—
Big bay window,
Bald on top.

—Mary Jane Palmer

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Birmingham residents are consuming electricity in their homes at a rate that is 53 percent higher than it was in 1950.

Houses that were equipped only with electric lighting, refrigeration and a few basic appliances at that time have blossomed forth since then with all sorts of additional gadgets.

The changes that have occurred in the period, as to the amount of current used and the rates charged, are brought out in studies made by the federal power commission, the Edison electric institute and others.

COST OF ELECTRICITY in Birmingham, compared to that charged elsewhere, is shown by the FPC in data covering more than 1,500 cities in the United States.

For 100 kilowatt hours, enough for lighting, refrigeration and small appliances, local people pay \$3.73 a month, compared with an average of \$3.89 in the rest of the country.

For 250 kilowatt hours (which is about what most householders consume) the bill locally comes to \$7.74 a month. Nationally it is \$7.23.

Advices Care In Sales at House Door

Birmingham area house-holders were warned today to exercise care in dealing with the spring rush of door-to-door salesmen.

The advice comes from Birmingham chamber of commerce manager Charles Martensen. He said, "With the advent of spring, the annual rush of door-to-door salesmen will be on. They sell everything from magazines to chimney repairs. They are here today and gone tomorrow."

In many cases, service, adjustments, refunds, exchanges, etc. are difficult if not impossible.

THE PUBLIC is urged to treat all door-to-door sellers with caution—not to pay for anything until they get it and are satisfied with it—not to sign anything until they have read every word of it and understand it—to be suspicious of "common sales" in which a small item is offered below market

CHARGES IN OTHER CITIES for this quantity vary widely—from a low of \$3.15, in Eugene, Ore., to a high of \$11.75, in Elma, Pa.

For 500 kilowatt hours a month, local bills amount to \$10.41 as against \$10.39, on the average, throughout the country.

There is a direct connection, say economists, between electricity consumption and living standards. As one goes up, so does the other.

Consumption in the region that includes Birmingham increased from 2,040 kilowatt hours a year in 1950 to 3,130 kilowatt hours per household in the past year, or 53 percent.

WITH THE EXPANDING USE of electricity and the lack of an unlimited supply of the fuels that are now being used to generate it, the long-range reliance is being placed on nuclear energy as the fuel of the future.

Scientists feel that the people of this country may yet, within this generation, be served with electricity generated by nuclear power plants.

would cost her \$189.00. "The chamber of commerce again recommends to residents that they make their purchases from local merchants who pay local taxes to help support our city, sell a good product at a fair price, and will be there both today and tomorrow to give good service."

Troy Rotary Elects

TROY—Officers of Troy's new Rotary club have been elected for the coming year. They are President Stuart K. Baker, Vice President Clarence Snake, Secretary Boyd R. Larson, Treasurer Wallace Rice, and Directors William Price and Forrest Clippert. Their terms start in July.

You will find many bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns.

BONUS OFFER FOR ELECTRIC DISHWASHER OWNERS!

We'll Pay You \$5.00 to Prove

NEW FORMULA ELECTRASOL

Improves Your Dishwasher's Performance!

NEW ELECTRASOL NOW STOPS SPOTTING on Glasses, Dishes, Silver

EXCLUSIVE HYDRO-ACTIVE FORMULA

More than YOU'LL pay for your package of NEW FORMULA ELECTRASOL... that's what we'll pay you to prove—in your own dishwasher—that this is the detergent that absolutely stops spotting on glasses, dishes, silver!

NEW FORMULA ELECTRASOL is recommended by all leading dishwasher manufacturers! Try it today and see for yourself why it's the most popular dishwasher detergent for home use! It's the most economical, too... each box gives you more of the best dishwasher detergent for less money!

HERE'S ALL YOU DO TO GET YOUR \$5.00 BONUS!

1. Buy New Formula ELECTRASOL (your favorite) store today. Pay for it, temporarily.
2. Send the word "ELECTRASOL" with your name and address to: P. O. Box #60, New York 46, New York. We will refund \$5.00 in cash to you... actually more than you pay for your New Formula ELECTRASOL when you buy it!

TRY ELECTRASOL AT OUR EXPENSE TODAY!

Offer limited one to a family, expires June 30, 1958.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-234 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor
F. S. SYBELDON
Advertising Manager



"I have a feeling we're being spied upon."