

## Under-Age Youths: Don't Drive!

"But, Dad, why shouldn't I be allowed to drive our family car, even though I am below the legal age—you know that some of our neighborhood young people, my age and lower, get to drive?" is a question that frequently perplexes parents in many communities, including the local areas.

Yes, why not?

The answer, of course, is a simple one: it's against the state law!

However, we all know that this answer is not sufficiently convincing to many youngsters who want to drive. Too, this answer often is not sufficiently powerful enough to convince some parents of below-age youth that the law should be obeyed.

ONE OF OUR ECCENTRIC readers, himself the father of a below-age youngster, has written us on this subject.

"Today we hear so much about juvenile delinquents and yet I feel that the problem lies with the parents and their apparent lack of interest or their lack of respect for the laws and rules of the community, or the property of others," wrote this reader.

"There are many fine families residing in this area and they are trying to do the right thing and raise their children to be law-abiding citizens," he continues. "There also are a few who are not and they are the ones creating some of the problems for other parents."

So The Eccentric contacted Ralph Moxley, Birmingham's police chief, and asked him to comment on this important problem. Replied Chief Moxley:

"Some parents are permitting their under-age, unlicensed children to drive the family car. It is a violation of Michigan law knowingly to permit any unlicensed person to operate a motor vehicle. The parent, as well as the child, will therefore be charged with violation of this law."

"MANY OF THESE youths are too young to obtain a license. The law now provides that a person must be at least 18 years of age before he can apply for a license, provided he has not taken a driver's course in the public schools."

"If he has completed such a course be-

fore his 16th birthday, and successfully passed the written and road tests, at the police station, his driving certificate will be signed by the license examiner and he can then drive with a parent or guardian in the car.

"The law also provides that every person must be at least 14 years of age to obtain an operator's license for a motor-scooter or motor bicycle of five horsepower or less. We have found cases where parents have permitted their youngsters who were only 13 years old to own and operate cars."

"Some parents also are building small cars and permitting 10 and 12-year-olds to drive them on the streets and sidewalks. Every motor vehicle must be licensed to operate and these small vehicles do not possess the safety equipment to qualify for a license plate."

CHIEF MOXLEY is quite vigorous in his convictions that it is morally wrong for a parent knowingly to permit a youngster to disregard the law.

"This action," declared the chief, "can cause the youngster to regard all of our laws with contempt, when a law does not agree with his personal desires."

"Our records also reveal that very serious accidents have occurred when these immature drivers lose control of their vehicle and crash into other vehicles or objects at the side of the road," concluded Birmingham's police chief.

All of which, of course, adds up to the generally accepted truth that the best possible source of characterful youth guidance lies right within each home.

AFTER ALL, LAWS ARE enacted for the protection of society; obedience to them, naturally, is the best assurance that society can enjoy the desired protections for which laws are placed on the statute books.

Parents know this to be the truth; youth needs to be taught to live within the law. After all, laws regulating the use and control of motor vehicles, when complied with, are one's best insurance against becoming a mere statistic in the traffic fatality and accident records.

right and wrong issues, if he would have the possible best government.

Apathy of voters plus cowardice of Congress, plus aggressiveness of certain hoodlums in some labor organizations, equals ever-increasing loss of personal liberties.

Years ago the old-fashioned straight razor gave way to the safety type. This, of course, contributed to the rapid disappearance of the razor strap. Has all this contributed to the growing problem of juvenile delinquency?



## NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

## Composites Color Autumn's Picture

September brings into sharp focus the largest and most recently evolved of our plant families, the composites. Their estimated 13,000-20,000 species span the season.

Of these, the asters and golden-rod of autumn combine to make the most showy bouquet of the floral year. Asters alone include more than 250 North American species, enough to confuse all except the specialist who gives a lifetime to their study.

The Composite family is most diverse in its habits and manners. Some members shake their dusty heads along roadsides and ditches. Others crowd in hardy disorder along fence rows and briar patches. Many spill color over meadows and hill-sides or fringe the border of streams and woodlands. Such cultivated favorites as asters, zinnias, marigolds and chrysanthemums grace our best-tended gardens.

The flower of a composite is a key to its family name. If one takes time to examine a common dandelion with a hand lens, what appears to be a single bloom is revealed as a compact head of separate florets, each of which develops its own seed with an attached parachute to carry it far afield.

FROM THE standpoint of the flower structure, the composites may be divided into three groups. The first, or "radiate," type has a central disc composed of several hundred small tube-shaped florets. These are surrounded by ray florets which look like petals. Aster, yarrow, sunflower and goldenrod belong here.

The second or "discoid" group has only one flower corresponding to the pin-cushion center of a daisy. However, they achieve a certain beauty by elongating and slenderizing their florets. Thistle, pussy-toes, tansy, bonaset and Joe Pye weed are examples.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
September 25, 1908  
"The people of Michigan can choose between sparrows and worms. The sparrows are taking thousands daily and when you kill a bird you insure the lives of thousands of worms, moths and caterpillars."

"The L. O. T. M. it will give a supper in their hall Sept. 25. Supper 15 cents. Everybody come and have a good supper."

30 YEARS AGO  
September 25, 1928  
"A lady who was slim and pretty was imperiously arguing with an officer. She laughed in a superior manner. The officer laughed, too, then another officer joined him and they led the lady a few steps up Maple avenue and stopped before a huge 'no parking' sign. There they stood—the impertuous lady with an officer on either side, both of whom were spelling out, 'No Parking.' The lady was 'no longer impertuous.'"

15 YEARS AGO  
September 23, 1943  
"Wabek State Bank is getting out a concise weekly radio page bulletin called 'Trends.' It contains up to the minute news of government, industry and forecasts, vital to every business. Maybe they'll put you in their mailing list if you ask them to."

"Mrs. F. W. Niedenfur, 511 Hanna street, would like to have any tomatoes or two quart jars that are not going to be used this year. They will be used by the Baldwin and Barnum school cafeterias this winter."

THE OLD TIMER  
"A happy marriage is a long conversation that always seems too short!"

(Copyright 1957, John Emery, Inc.)

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**Medical Mirror**  
WHAT DOCTORS SAY ABOUT  
• Stings  
• All Boys (Or Girls)  
• Protruding Ears  
Q. "Last summer I was stung by a wasp and became violently sick. Would the same thing happen if I am stung by a bee?"  
A. K. K.  
A. Venom of the wasp, hornet, yellowjacket and honeybee contains a common poison. A person who reacts violently to the sting of one of these insects would probably react just as violently to the sting of the others. People who are known to be very sensitive to insect stings can be desensitized or made less reactive. Your doctor can give you all the information about how this is done.  
Q. How do doctors account for some families having all boys and others all girls?  
A. There is no satisfactory explanation. Age of the parents may have some slight effect. Young parents tend to have more boys than girls. The boy-girl difference levels off as the parents get older.  
Q. If a baby has large protruding ears will it help to bind the ears back?  
A. No, not according to a British doctor. Protruding ears can be corrected by surgery but plastic operation should not be performed until after the ears cease to grow. Even then the why's and wherefore's of an operation of this kind should be thoroughly discussed with the family physician.  
Material in MEDICAL MIRROR is based on various scientific publications and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of all doctors. The diagnosis and treatment of disease requires the skill and knowledge which only a physician can apply by personally attending the patient. These columns anonymously Direct your inquiries to J. Downey Ralston, M.D., SCIENCE EDITORS, P.O. BOX 386, Madison Square Station, New York 16, N. Y.

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

It'll be as long as two years between waxing and polishing jobs on the new Dodge cars, according to a recent news item. And General Motors also has long-lasting shens on its newest models.

Now if these same automotive engineers can only come up with something to keep the chrome from becoming rusty . . .

We don't mind owning an expensive car. We just want to buy it at an inexpensive price.

More about cars:  
General Motors recently announced its

newest advance in automotive design—the experimental Firebird, which the company calls "the first space age inspired car."

Its operation is built around a single stick control system for steering, braking, acceleration.

That's nice to hear. Now we'll be able to settle down and keep both feet on the floor.

Jim: "What often gets lit when it goes out?"

Jam: "Dunno. What?"

Jim: A social drinker."

Don't know why all you guys worry about the day when a woman will be elected President of these here United States.

Don't you know that none of them will reach the required legal age?

Everyone has a place for them in church . . . and don't sit in anyone else's!

Girls marry two kinds of men—the go-getters or the already-getters.

## Suburban Sentiment

UNIVERSAL PROBLEM  
Sputniks, rockets, guided missiles  
Interplanetary flight  
Questions plague the world, while son's is  
"Can I have the car tonight?"  
—Madge M. Lane