

The Birmingham Eccentric

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No School Bus Law in B'ham?

"STOP WHEN SCHOOL BUS STOPS" is not the law in Birmingham. Under the state school bus law only motorists in unincorporated areas must stop when a school bus stops to take on or discharge passengers.

For the law to be effective in incorporated municipalities, like Birmingham, it must be enacted as a local ordinance and signs informing people of its existence must be erected at the city limits.

We see such signs as we enter Bloomfield Hills, but they are missing from Birmingham.

SOME LARGER cities like Detroit have not enacted a school bus law because there are so few bus pickups within the city.

This is true to some extent in Birmingham, with the school district's buses transporting children from other communities to and from schools within Birmingham. Public bus service is not provided by the public schools for students living within the city.

However, there are private school buses from other communities picking up children in Birmingham. These children are denied the protection which is accorded them as soon as their bus reaches Birmingham's outskirts.

Not only would the enactment of a local ordinance punish offenders, but likewise the signs would be a daily reminder to all

of us that the safety of our most sacred possessions can be jeopardized by carelessness.

And certainly, children as well as motorists must find it confusing to have two sets of rules, one in the city and another out of the city.

AT PRESENT, THERE are several chartered buses carrying children back and forth to school, with no identification that they are functioning as school buses. They may or may not qualify as school buses under the state law in the technical sense, but shouldn't they be identified in some way so that motorists would be made aware that children may be getting on or off the buses — and that it is time to be extra careful?

The prime purpose of the ordinance would not be to "catch" violators. It is the children we are concerned with. No one consciously or intentionally endangers life and limb. But we all do get careless at times, and anything which can be done to keep us alert might result in the saving of a child's life.

With these views in mind, we think Birmingham might give serious consideration to adopting a local school bus ordinance patterned after the state law. Let's not wait until a serious incident occurs, and then regret our failure to have acted in time.

THE Way to Celebrate Halloween

Once again it's goblin and ghost time in the Birmingham area, and next Tuesday night the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 25th annual Halloween Celebration.

Included in the celebration will be a costume parade for the elementary schoolers led by the high school band starting at the First Baptist Church, travelling south on Bates to Merrill, then east to Woodward and back up Woodward to Parking Lot No. 5 where food and prizes will be distributed.

For the junior and senior high school students, five parties will be held, offering dancing, movies and games.

mischievousness in Birmingham.

WE ARE fortunate that the merchants and professional people will underwrite the cost of these festivities. The hazards of masked youngsters roaming dark streets are innumerable.

Yet, if we send our children to the parade or one of the parties on Halloween night, but let them roam the streets and beg the previous night, have we fully accomplished the original intent of the sponsored program?

Isn't we just transferring hazards to the previous night?

THE PURPOSE for the various celebrations is, of course, to keep the children off the street on one of the most dangerous nights of the year.

In the prior year, before these nationally recognized parties were instituted, over 100 boys and girls were picked up by police for over-enthusiastic celebration. Last year with over 6,000 children participating, practically no damage was reported by Birmingham police.

Having your children participate can be your reassurance that Halloween will not be an occasion of vandalism or unrestrained

ACTUALLY, I WE ARE to protect the community from immature pranks which lead to considerable damage, we must as residents, first encourage our children to participate in the Halloween Celebration and then, at the same time discourage any earlier participation in the holiday. This can be done, and this year might be a good time to test out its feasibility on a full scale.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham this year can again look forward to a reasonably sane and safe goblin night without finding our roof tops decorated with what earlier in the day had been part of a well-ordered front or back yard.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Michigan teachers propose the creation of a sort of "retirement village," on land about 10 miles from Ann Arbor. Such a community, most will agree, should prove to be an environment of great compatibility; many of those who may reside there are unmarried, and the social and intellectual pattern they may develop should offer a balm for their "life's afternoon and evening hours."

Governor Swainson continues to reveal himself a public official with an eye always on the next election. Can he be blamed for this? Some say no... others, "he's a scoundrel in terms of 'statesmanship,'" say he can be blamed. And so Michigan's Ship of State continues to wobble over the waves of political partisanship... and what matter if it now and then strays from its proper course—just so long as there's water enough to keep it afloat—providing, of course, it hits no rocks to open its "citizen-babby" hull to the water.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson is quite a sociable chap. Some months ago, while in Pakistan, he was shaking hands with many people; one was a camel driver. "Come over to the United States and see me," he half-jokingly suggested to the camel's companion. Well, some U.S. businessmen arranged to "call Johnson's bluff" by bringing the Pakistanian over. He was met in New York by the VP, taken to the Texas ranch, winded and dined and given a great holiday. (Boy! Would he do as much for a Republican!)

Former President Eisenhower recently appeared on a TV program titled "Eisenhower and the Presidency." He was interviewed by TV reporter Wally

ter Cronkite. Both did, we think, excellent jobs. He revealed many of the facts of the Presidency... some of them capturing humor, others very serious. While one may differ much or little with regard to Ike's two administrations, certainly no one honestly can question Ike's personal integrity. Dwight D. Eisenhower easily is our nation's contemporary No. 1 symbol of "The Good Citizen."

Hundreds of property owners in northwestern areas of Michigan's Lower Peninsula may have to forfeit their regular and their summer homes, as the federal government proceeds with plans to create a Sleeping Bear Dunes area. Not only much of the Lake Michigan shore line would be taken, but property surrounding Big and Little Platte Lake, Crystal and Glen Lakes also. The property owners affected are organizing to fight this "grab," which is being supported strongly by Michigan's U.S. Senators McNamara and Hart. (What next, Interior Secretary Udall? How much more of Michigan will you go after?)

President Kennedy recently addressed a college graduation class in North Carolina, and among other ideas he said: "... we are destined, all of us here today, to live out most if not all of our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril... This is a time of national maturity and understanding and willingness to face issues as they are, not we would like them to be. We must distinguish the real from the illusory, the long range from the temporary, the significant from the petty." Brave words, Mister President. Good advice. (And, Sir, does this not include looking farther than the next Presidential election?)



"Trick or Treat."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Writer Says UN Goals Should be Supported

To the Editor: As the world observes United Nations Day, there are many of us who in the face of today's upheavals all over the world, wonder about the survival of the United Nations, and if not the human race itself. A page from history may be reassuring. Aren't the nations of today's world going through much the same experience as the 13 original American colonies? Didn't their differences of national background, language and custom threaten their safety and growth in the face of a common danger? Didn't they first try a confederation until an overwhelming need for a peaceful, progressive and unified order compelled them to accept a federal constitution and government?

TODAY, THE SAFETY and growth of all nations and peoples are being threatened by several world forces. These forces can very well sweep mankind toward world unity—a world civilization—represented in its infancy by the United Nations. In spite of its many setbacks and disappointments, the United Nations has worked out many peaceful settlements in war-threatening areas throughout the world. Its technical cooperation with less privileged countries has helped to alleviate poverty and disease which

otherwise could have become hotbeds of war and destruction. Less obvious, but even more heartening, are the efforts of people who are working on those matters of the heart which deeply divide great groups of people and which treaties between nations and the laws therein can hardly touch, namely, the prejudices against those of other racial, religious and cultural backgrounds... prejudices supported by superstitions cloaked in sophomoric reasoning.

AMONG THESE PEOPLE of goodwill are members of the Bahá'í World Faith. They are engaged in a non-stop, world-wide crusade to lay the spiritual foundation for a world commonwealth in which all nations, creeds, colors and classes can be closely and permanently united.

Toward this goal the United Nations, though recently shaken by the loss of one of its great leaders, serves as a vital channel for connecting, politically and economically, a disjointed world. Through the United Nations we must place our interests as human beings above the level of narrow nationalism and build a lawful community for all mankind. If our generation is to open up new horizons of hope for all peoples.

HAROLD JOHNSON, Royal Oak

Happenings of Long Ago

Hits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO Oct. 27 issue The part of the village known as Birmingham Heights is bounded on the north by Oak Avenue, on the east near Woodward Ave., on the south by Harmon Street and on the west by Greenwood Avenue. We are not yet ready to exploit this 16-acre addition to the village until cement walks are made and streets and alleys better graded. Rapid growth and changes are going on at west Harmon Street. The plat, being prepared by Whitehead and Mitchell, will place 70 lots on the market.

On Oct. 21 our football team played their second game of the season with the Heptons of Detroit. Teams were evenly matched but Birmingham made up for their loss by the night by special Birmingham lost their only chances at a touchdown through a fumble on the Hepton's 3-yard line.

Frank Schlaack has bought the old James B. Bayley house from the D.U.R. It is now up in the air on rollers, all ready to fly as it were, but at this writing, Frank informs us that "he doesn't know where to put it."

30 YEARS AGO Oct. 22, 1931 Faced with the probability that Birmingham's public schools will be forced to close in November as less money can be borrowed to at least meet teachers' payrolls until the first of the year, the School Board, at a special meeting Tuesday night, determined to invite the aid of all influential citizens of the district to seek a solution for the emergency, created by the high percentage of delinquent taxes.

The Village Players of Birmingham got off to an auspicious start on their ninth season Friday evening when they presented three one-act plays.

Construction is expected to begin on the next two wings of the \$13,000 structure on the vacant lot on the northwest corner of

(See HAPPENINGS, 5-B)

Wants Airport-Aid Funds Diverted to GTW Railroad

To the Editor: Estimated commercial airline flights at Pontiac Municipal Airport during September amounted to 66 outbound and 14 inbound passengers.

The outbound figure was 84 below the minimum of 150 per month required by the Civil Aeronautics Board if the Michigan Department of Aeronautics is to retain the airline service. Nevertheless, the City of Pontiac will submit a Michigan Department of Aeronautics a request for approval of an estimated

\$388,100 airport improvement program for 1962, \$20,225 of which will be paid by the City, \$91,275 by the state and \$206,600 by the Federal Government.

IS IT ANY wonder that Grand Trunk Western Railroad's management is discouraged in its struggle to maintain a passenger service with no subsidy whatever from the Federal Government or the communities served? Surely, a fraction of the funds (See FUNDS, 5-B)

Talk of the Towns

When two out-of-town friends came to visit last week, they were taken through Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Woodward to Long Lake, Long Lake to Telegraph, Telegraph to Maple, Maple to Lahser, Lahser to 13 Mile, 13 Mile to Evergreen, Evergreen to Mayfield.

Bloomfield Hills High School, Brother Rice, Marian, Groves, Seaholm... There were accolades for the facilities. But there was one striking question.

"Why are the parking lots so big?" The query resulted in a discussion on teenagers and cars. The discussion prompted the forwarding of an interesting booklet, "A Teenage Pattern," a study of 20,000 high school students and the inter-relationship of their grades, cars and jobs.

Just a few excerpts: "The students were questioned on the practice of driving to school. Poorer students showed more of a tendency to use an automobile in getting to and from class."

"Looking at after hours driving, one finds the better students drive one day per week, or perhaps two, as might be expected from boys and girls leading a normal weekend social life."

"When we reach four evenings per week, we find that although the percentages are smaller, they have been completely reversed. The higher percentage has lower grades."

week, we see that there is a tendency for more than 20 times as many 'F' students to drive every evening per week as 'A' students.

"Consistently, the longer the car has been owned, the less is the chance of the boy being a good student. The sooner the student is given car privileges (or ownership) the more dramatic is the effect on scholarship."

"When following the conclusion that the car follows poor academic performance, it is seen that the automobile represents a diversion in a case when little or no interest existed in school work. Under such circumstances it would appear that to allow such students extensive use or ownership of a car would be the worst possible action for the parents to entertain any hopes of academic improvement."

"Even among students doing well in school, the acquisition of or extensive use of a car can be disastrous if the car is allowed to assume a dominant position."

"In both of these situations the blame points toward parents, who, by their own control over their teenage sons' or daughters' activities can decide whether these will work toward the betterment of his scholastic performance, or its decline, through the use of time in indulging in outside pastimes that could better be spent at his studies."

By DENI SCANLON

Suburban Sidelights By HANK HOGAN

The crystal Pool in Oak Park has apparently closed its doors and been sold as a result of racial picketing last summer. The Intertown Suburban bus line serving the downriver area has decided to halt its operations and go out of business, if the Public Service Commission will let them, as a result of a strike against it by its employees.

These two events in our neighboring communities are unfortunate, because in one case a recreational facility is taken from the community and in the other a service and hundreds of jobs have disappeared. SINCE THE END result of both was not for the common good I think it is about time we take a good look at the current craze of picketing to change a community's or merchant's way of life. No one can dispute the inherent American right to picket as a means of enforcing reasonable demands. But today it seems to be used as a starting point, instead of a last resort when all other means have failed. Picketing has almost taken on a carnival quality. You see workers leaving their jobs with broad grins on their faces.

At the Crystal Pool apparently the management refused to issue membership cards to all comers, as is their right under the laws of this state. The picketers claimed the refusal was based on racial or color discrimination.

THE RESULT WAS A continuing picket line around the establishment, with the pickets forming a human chain across the front. The demonstrators yelled at the members as they tried to enter. Slowly fewer members were interested in swimming. Law enforcement officers did not interfere because they said it was on private property. The owner finally closed the pool to prevent bloodshed.

I AM NOT using this as an example to say we should not have integration, because personally I believe in it. But shouldn't it be achieved by education, not violence and coercion. I have wondered what good the Freedom Riders have done in the South. Haven't their small accomplishments been overshadowed by the general unrest they have created? There are always people looking for a fight, but how often are these people effective in accomplishing their goals. AS TO THE BUS strike, no one is in a position to blame either labor or management. After all it takes two to make an argument. But instead of picketing a business out of business, wouldn't it have been much better for both labor and management to relent a little for the community's sake.

Isn't it about time that labor stopped threatening business with continued strikes like a bully with a big club, and let our springing with better results for the community. Management loses profits, labor loses wages, but the community has lost buying power, families have less to live on, citizens are pitted one against another. How long does it take for a community to recoup its loss after a strike? COULDN'T THE SAME principal which we have applied to the integrationists also be applied to labor relations? In both the pool and bus situations the hasty picketing boomeranged on the people seeking the change. Our neighboring communities have lost recreational facilities, bus service and jobs because cool heads instead of hot heads did not prevail.

By KEN WEAVER City Beat

"The greatest problem in the world today is a combination of fear and power. Every American fears the Russian missile that someday might come soaring over his home. On the other hand, the people of Russia also fear the United States' missiles." When Holy Name teacher Mrs. Theresa D. Kreuz gave her class an impromptu writing assignment one day, she had no idea "that seventh grade children were so aware of the world and its problems." Inspired by their thoughts, she passed their writings on to us.

MIKE HEISLER wrote Russia and the U.S. "fear each other's nuclear power. No matter how much fear they possess, they both come testing and making nuclear missiles, submarines, etc. Why? Because if one of the countries slacks off in tests and production, the other one will devise some instrument that will take the losing country a long time to make. Therefore, the winning country will create commotion and finally take over the world."

FEELING THAT "the world's greatest aim is peace," Sharon Slemmer wrote: "Right now peace is at stake with Russia and other countries. We are on the brink of war with Russia. To accomplish peace we must have talks with the countries and reason out the problems of today. We could probably come to an agreement that would satisfy us both. We must try to overcome Communism in Russia and East Germany free so it can become part of the free world."

BERLIN is the world's greatest problem today, said Laura Odenweller. "The problem in Berlin is that of ownership. Krushchev thinks West Berlin should belong to Russia since it is in the middle of Russian dominated territory. The United States believes that Berlin should have its freedom. Both of these countries and their opinions are of world importance. If ever we get in an argument with Russia, it would probably cause World War III, which would certainly involve nuclear attacks, which would mean the end of the world. All in all, we better be careful with the Berlin situation."

VICKI BOWMAN saw the world as "divided into two parts. Communism is one division and our democracy is the other. (See CITY BEAT, 6-B)