

### School Bus Law Will Help

The Eccentric commends the Birmingham City Commission on its action last week concerning the adoption of the state school bus law.

We respect the commissioners for taking a community idea and extensively investigating it. They did not run into it without thoughtful consideration. They found that the law was not all good or all bad.

Our paper has advocated the step that they took. In our advocacy we did not feel that adoption of the state law would solve all of the many complex problems of getting our children safely to school.

However, since it could possibly protect some of our children we felt it was well

worth the effort in passing it.

WE ARE pleased that the commissioners aired their dissatisfaction with the law as presently written. It is only in this way that such a measure can be improved.

If the city attorney can come up with a draft for a new state law which will protect more of our children, The Eccentric here and now pledges its support in seeking legislative change in Lansing.

Several years ago we worked for the enactment of the present law, and we are not so proud that we won't say it can't be improved.

Again, we commend the commission for taking a step which is, in our opinion, in the best interests of our community.

### The Rise of the Paperback

It is generally agreed that the so-called paperback has brought about a revolution in book publishing. The extent of this revolution, the enormous variety of material that it has made available at low cost, is not so widely understood.

The commonest point of contact with the paperback revolution is the book rack, generally in a drugstore or depot. In most cases, such racks display a rather narrowly limited range of books. They lean heavily to mysteries and popular novels dressed in lurid "come-on" covers that often have little to do with the contents.

TO MAKE one more use of an over-used figure of speech, such books comprise the tip of the iceberg that appears above the water. The great bulk of it is not so readily discernible, though it is far more important. The more or less submerged part of the iceberg can be seen by browsing in any good college bookstore. Such stores are

quite different from those of, say, 30 years ago.

The modern store is filled with a dazzling variety of books—excellent books, though not as flashily covered as many on some bookstands—ranging in price from 50 cents to under two dollars.

In addition to a wide range of fiction, biography, history and the like, there are dozens of critical studies and other special works. All can be obtained for substantially less than hard cover editions, and in many cases the books have not even been published in hard covers.

TIME WAS when only a man of wealth, or one willing to make real sacrifices, could afford a comprehensive library. Now, thanks to paperback editions, a fine collection of books can be put together for a relatively small outlay.

Browsing to see what is available is a pleasant, and frequently exciting, way to spend an occasional hour of free time.

### Universal Pay Cut

Each of us took a little cut in pay last summer, though we might not have noticed.

This loss occurred automatically when the price index climbed 0.6 per cent for the largest rise in four years. Using 1957-59 as a base of 100, the price index now stands at about 105.

Stated another way, the green certificate with Washington's portrait on it has lost six cents in value in about five years.

According to government officials meat and clothing prices were responsible for the latest boost in the general price level. But they are quick to point out that this price inflation is much less than was experienced in Western Europe and Japan dur-

ing the same period of time.

EVEN SO, any upward pressure on prices is cause for concern. To make it more serious, this event coincides with the Cuban crisis. United States defense expenditures can hardly go any way but up in the foreseeable future. This is in itself inflationary.

Few things in modern living seem more difficult to stop than this seemingly inexorable upward creep of prices. Though it must be admitted that some economists believe there is nothing to fear from gradual inflation, those who look forward to retirement on fixed incomes cannot be so optimistic.

### From The Eccentric's Point of View...

We've often wondered just how an American citizen thinks and feels if, election after election, he or she fails to vote? Is it complacency, indifference, laziness, resentment, opposition to civic freedom... or even love for some type of "benign" (?) dictatorship?

Yes, Junior, on the surface it seems that the transportation of those Soviet Russian missiles from the motherland to Cuba and back was an expensive deal—unless, of course, those Comrades managed to hide some of that hardware beyond the ken of U.S. inspection. Only time will expose or not explode this conjecture.

English gentlemen have accepted the colored shirt for evening wear, thus breaking the long reign of solid white—and making a lot of staid Britons see red.

It's said that the average U.S. person consumes 1,500 pounds of food each year; this is exclusive of liquids—though the latter is reported in evidence amidoupside-ways, that is.

The American College of Surgeons thinks there are too many surgeons. This may be because surgeons cut everything but their fees.

The old adage that you're never too old to learn is illustrated by Ike. At 72, he's learned to like politics.

Senator Humphrey says it's the "cornfield generals" who advocate invasion of Cuba. Well, let's hope they don't have the ear of America.

When used moderately, liquor is an effective tranquilizer, says a specialist on alcoholism. And when used immoderately it's an effective stupifier.

If the football upsets continue, coaches are apt to start hanging themselves in effigy.

We're reminded of fall when the stores start reminding us of Christmas.

The elections are being hailed as a broad triumph for the administration. Mm-hmm. It will be harder to find alibis if Congress is as balky as last time.

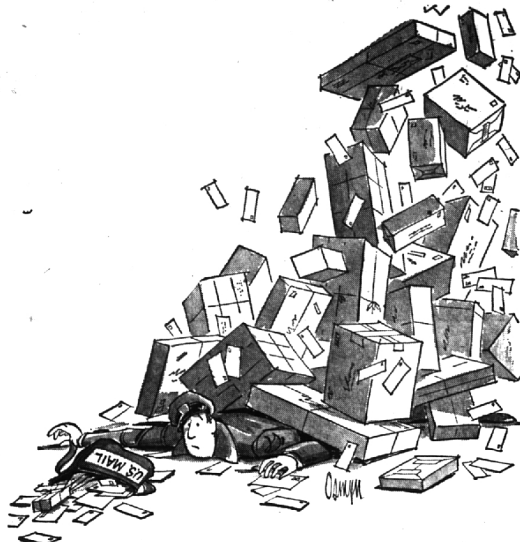
NASA is developing a rocket-powered "flying bathtub." The time may come when a commuter can take his morning bath on the way to work.

Automatic supermarkets are promised for the future. The way they reduce a \$50 bill to small change is automatic enough already.

It's rumored that Bob Hope may go to work for the State Department. Maybe they want him to do something called "The Road to Havana."

The year 1963 will probably go down in U.S. political history as the year when the Kennedy name, out of Washington, D.C., was more prominently mentioned in newspapers, magazines, radio and TV than any other contemporary name... as Jack presides in the White House, Bobby in the attorney-general's habitat, and Teddy in the U.S. Senate. Just how long this condition may last is, of course, in the laps of the ensuing ballot boxes.

### Do Your Christmas Mailing Early



### Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 8, 1912  
The work of religious education is receiving a new emphasis and a larger attention in the Methodist Church. The Board of Sunday Schools held a great institute for instruction and inspiration, at the Detroit Central church Thursday and Friday. The most notable educational experts of the denomination were present to give help to the Sunday school workers of southeastern Michigan.

Two chorus girls danced ragtime dances on the platform of the pulpit of Rev. C. L. Morrill in Minneapolis, Minn., illustrating his sermon on "Praise Him With the Dance." The most amazing and bold dances were "put on the boards" by the two chorus girls and the audience fairly gasped at this.

Advice to my neighbors. If my chickens stray into your yard, you are authorized with my full consent to kill them, as we all know there is a village ordinance forbidding these neighborly nuisances and garden destroyers, from running at large.

30 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 8, 1932  
The formation of tangible plans for securing the co-operation of the public in the purchase of new books needed to keep Baldwin Li-

rary up to date will be one of the purposes of a public library party to be held at the Library Saturday, Dec. 17. The party is to be in honor of the fifth anniversary of the Library's occupancy of its new building.

An entirely new principle in sound control—a principle whereby air vibrations and echoes are actually trapped in hollow frames from which they cannot escape to confuse the ears of auditors at lectures and concerts—has been discovered and put to successful application by a Birmingham man. He is William McIlroy, 168 East Brown street, a building contractor to whom government approval of an application for a patent has brought to a successful conclusion an 18-month period of study and (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

### Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

Dear Santa:  
I understand that your specialty is granting wishes to good little girls and boys. Do you suppose you could maybe stretch a point this year and pop a surprise or two into some community stockings?  
Just a few small miracles will do, like several hundred parking places for downtown Birmingham or another year without being mentioned in Fortune magazine.  
Bloomfield Hills is willing to share this last gift with Birmingham, but would you bring the Hills a comprehensive master plan too?  
I HAVE A LONG list for the township area but then that's a mighty big family so perhaps you won't mind.  
Franklin wants a community house but be sure it has a New England look and please don't leave it on the route to the cider mill. It would only be in the way in the fall when the traffic gets bad.  
If your building department hasn't run out of plans, maybe you could give Lathrup a new city hall and some easements for sewer lines and things like that. They've been talking about shorter council meetings there too and I think you're the only one that can manage something that hard to get.  
GEE, SANTA, when I look this list over so far, it seems like we're short-sited around here. What I mean is, places like Wood Creek and Bingham

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

DO YOU SAVE STAMPS?  
A common question asked in many retail establishments before a sales transaction is completed is "Do you save stamps?" Whether they save them or not, most people say "yes" because they're afraid they'll miss something if they say "no."  
Actually, if the establishment does offer them and you don't take them you, of course, are losing something because the price of the goods purchased includes the cost to the merchant of the stamps.

TRADING STAMPS have become such a part of our lives that we all had a chuckle the other day when the phone rang and the voice at the other end said, "Is there anyplace in Birmingham where you can trade trading stamps?"  
We replied that we knew of no such place but thought the idea had great possibilities.  
We contacted our realtor to see what buildings were available in the area because we felt we would need a lot of area.  
We called the Michigan Employment Security Commission to inquire about help. If we could set up a chain of such stores, we could solve the state's unemployment problem. (Do you suppose Romney had this in mind when he said he could bring new jobs into the state?)

WE CALLED our accountant to set up a trading formula, how many yellow stamps for a pink?  
We even considered starting our own stamps which could be used for trading other stamps. We had problems, however, in deciding which color our stamps should be. Several groups had already been formed but some other group has preempted this type of coloring.  
One of our staffers suggested that we save money and leave the glue off our stamps, so they won't stick together lying in the drawer or glove compartment. Someone else suggested that we put vitamins in the glue so the kids get some benefit when they lick them and paste them on the wall.

SOMEONE SUGGESTED that we misprint a certain amount making them more valuable than others. As long as the Post Office Department is discouraging collectors' windfalls, we could fill in the void.  
We decided to design our stamp book short and wide, so that you could paste in the stamps you receive at gas stations without a lot of ripping and fitting.  
We also decided to split our stamps in half so that we could have double stamp days every day.  
We were all set to go ahead when our attorney called back and told us about the problems of zoning, sales tax, income tax, unemployment tax, business activities tax, intangibles tax, personal property tax and a couple of others we would have to face, so we decided that we would let someone else make a killing.

### By KEN WEAVER City Beat

To understand the language of teen-agers today, you almost have to be one yourself—or at least have one in the family.  
They have their own words to convey certain meanings. And, of course, these change almost as rapidly as their moods.  
Talked to the mother of a teen-ager recently.  
A favorite local pastime these days, she said, is "garaging."  
It means—stealing beer from a Bloomfield garage and taking it out to the woods, or some other secluded spot, and having a drinking party.  
Another activity enjoyed by the younger set is "Woodwarding"—drag racing down Woodward after boozing it up at a "garaging" party.  
At any rate, the terms are quite descriptive even if the activities aren't exactly the best to be desired for our young people.  
THERE WAS a charming visitor at the Birmingham City Commission meeting last week.  
She is Sandra Coogan, resident of Sidney, Australia, here as a guest until February of the Lorin J. Vollmers at 1135 Hillside Drive.  
Mrs. Vollmer, a member of the Birmingham League of Women Voters, was her hostess for the meeting.  
Mayor Florence H. Willett thoughtfully took time out during the proceedings to explain to Miss Coogan what various actions by the commission were all about.  
THE STREETS of Boston once were cowpaths.  
City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham, former Bostonian, finds this a handy reference sometimes in discussing street and traffic problems in Birmingham.  
If you've ever been in Boston, you know that the streets aren't much wider than cowpaths today.  
"How many cows do we need for this trip?" quipped Commissioner Robert Page at last week's session during discussion of the possibility of routing traffic from Hunter onto Lawndale, then left onto Oakland.  
WILLIAM E. ROBERTS, the very humor man on the Birmingham commission, has a handy answer whenever the question of parliamentary procedure arises.  
"Roberts Rules of Order," he replies.