

## School Bus Law IS Needed

Two weeks ago, The Eccentric reminded the people of the city of Birmingham that they did not have an ordinance requiring motorists to stop for loading or unloading school buses.

Subsequent to the editorial, the city commission discussed the problem and again decided that such an ordinance was not necessary in the city.

During the discussion the commissioners brought out the fact that the commission had previously openly discussed the matter in September of 1958. Our memories are apparently not that long, so we apologize for reporting they had not openly discussed the issue.

HOWEVER, SINCE their conclusion was not to adopt such an ordinance, we will rest our case with the following comments:

During the course of a school day at least 11 properly marked school buses travel the city streets picking up and depositing over 150 children from Cranbrook, Kingswood, Brookside and City-Cook Schools.

One hundred and eighteen additional public school students are picked up daily within our city limits by properly marked Birmingham School District buses.

Additional rented school buses from schools such as Holy Name, Seaholm, Derby and Barnum without proper markings also travel our streets daily.

## A Word of Praise—and Caution

Announcement was made last week of plans by a Birmingham church group to bring Cuban refugees to the city.

We commend the members of that group for their humanitarianism. They exemplify man's interest in his fellow man.

Here is a group of people spiritually motivated to act in a worthy cause.

Their goal certainly is in keeping with the American democratic spirit and should offer encouragement to the oppressed people of Cuba, demonstrably proving to them that they do have friends.

WHILE we commend the church group for their lofty purpose, let us also urge them to think out carefully the practical aspects of their endeavor.

First of all, we believe there is a definite need to be selective. Bringing business, professional and executive-level refugees to our city would be in keeping with the community character.

We believe, however, that Birmingham does not offer a fair opportunity for any great number of lesser-trained, lesser-educated people. It could very well be a disservice to encourage their coming to a community which lack economic potential for their livelihood.

## President Monroe Still Popular

If popularity determines the rank of our presidents, James Monroe belongs at the very top. Upon his re-election in 1820 he was so generally acceptable that no opponent appeared, and he got every electoral vote but one.

The story goes that the one nonconformist said that he did not want any president to stand in Washington's shoes. This referred to Washington's unanimous elec-

IF THE ORDINANCE protected only one child it would be well worth its while. The chief of police believes that such an ordinance might nullify our children into a false sense of security. What is more confusing for children in the properly marked school buses to read on the back of their bus that cars ARE supposed to stop for it, when in reality under the present law the cars are NOT required to stop within the city limits of Birmingham.

SINCE THE CITY has dusted off its 1958 minutes concerning the school bus ordinance, let us also dust off a Birmingham School District memorandum to the city commission dated Aug. 26, 1958:

"... We as school administrators are very anxious about the safety of the students that we transport. But, as the law is set up, unless the cities and villages take action by adopting an ordinance, cars will not be required to stop when our school buses are picking up or discharging students in your particular community. It is within your jurisdiction to come under this act and we strongly urge that you give it serious consideration."

THE COMMISSION has decided not to adopt the state school bus law, believing it is not needed here.

We disagree. We believe there very definitely is a need.

FURTHER, WE would caution against bringing in refugees on a disproportionate scale to those in larger cities—we know too well the economic, racial and social problems that arise when displaced persons are congregated in one place.

Experience shows that amassing them in one location too often works to their own detriment as well as to those people already residing in the area.

Proudly, we look upon the high character—moral, spiritual, cultural and academic—of our community. We would seek always to preserve, and even improve upon, it. Therefore, we must be concerned about not being able to assimilate any influx of people and thus endanger this community's character.

INITIATING PLANS for this project were the Rev. John A. Root, pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, and Mrs. John VanderRoest, president of the United Churchwomen of Birmingham.

They met last week at the YMCA with leaders of 10 area churches. A committee was appointed to work out details. The group will meet again Sept. 29 at the Y.

These leaders deserve the praise and the cooperation of the citizens of Birmingham. Their efforts, their goals are laudable. We wish them success.

The real reason is now thought to have been a personal grudge.

Monroe was not as great as his overwhelming endorsement might be taken to indicate. Yet he was one of our ablest presidents. His name will grace the newest Polaris submarine. And there is no doubt at all that his name will long endure in connection with his famous and far-reaching doctrine for the Western Hemisphere.

Allah be praised that some segments of the U.S. Congress are beginning to look with more skepticism upon funds we give certain foreign governments. Perhaps Nehru's India is an important area that needs closer scrutiny. While it may be true that we should not cut out all aid, what is wrong with knocking off "X" number of millions to finance each anti-U.S. statement made by Nehru and/or his defense minister, one Krishna Menon? This latter gen never hesitates to point with scorn and contempt to the United States ... and he holds his official position because Nehru supports him. Let's have a more realistic look at what we give India.

A lot of people who never pray now complain because they think there's a new law against it.

## High School Dropout



## THE GOLDEN YEARS

By THOMAS COLLINS

At age 21, we separate the men and the boys. At 55, like it or not, we separate the what-you-were from the what-you-do.

The couple protesting it is counting the value of money, is in fact placing great store by it. Better they should open a second-hand furniture store and sell used baby carriages to low-income mothers. Money just won't do it in a retirement. Enough for shelter, food and medicine and a few checks is essential, but beyond that the good retirements are coming from accomplishments, not indulgences.

Along the California coast and along the west coast of Florida, are thousands of retired people with trust funds, blue chip stocks, tax exempt bonds, annuities and money they don't have to count.

They live in the finest of hotels, wear the best of clothes and eat the thickest steaks. They aren't very happy.

The retired fellow with \$150 a month who drives their limousine around to the front door and is playing some useful role in the life about him, as a rule, is . . . it boils down to this: If you've got money you've got troubles, and you may find it very much harder to invest it properly than you did to make it.

Nor is there much professional advice right now worth trusting. There's guessing by professionals, which is not much better than your guessing. If I were 55 years old, or 65, and had \$10,000 in savings right now and were planning for retirement, I would put \$5,000 of it into an insured savings and loan association at 4 1/2 per cent, and the other \$5,000 into stocks—not into the fancy-named stuff like "growth" stocks and such, but into the stocks of corporations that of necessity will be expanding their business as the population expands . . . like electric utilities, gas and telephone companies.

Consider the outlook of this couple: "We spent much of our lifetime contributing to the wealth and welfare of our old community. We feel we can now indulge ourselves. In a new life, in new surroundings, with new friends we have found life stimulating. We are happy. We are enjoying health. . . . This should be he obligated to any other purpose." "Why couple, apparently has (See YEARS, 6-B)

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Writer Corrects Error in Letter

This refers to my letter published in the People's Column of The Birmingham Eccentric on Sept. 6. Paragraph nine should read: "Due to climatic conditions, consumption might be increased to 3 to 4 litres (the copy read 3/4 litre) per day. This would be equivalent to drinking water fluoridated at 3."

It is important that this error be corrected, because the statement, as it stands, is inaccurate and would serve to confuse the reader. Thank you in advance for publishing this correction for me. PATRICIA ROONEY 628 Pierce St. Birmingham

## Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

### 50 Years Ago

Sept. 13, 1912

Wednesday was the closing day for the State Fair entries and while the list up to the closing day had gone far ahead of any previous year, the finish was a hummer. Entries poured in by mail and by telephone until the offices of the Fair were swamped.

Bloomfield Hills Seminary, the new school to be opened Sept. 17 will occupy its permanent home at the corner of Woodward and Lone Pine. Work on the new building is being pushed rapidly and although the building will not be completed by the 17th, the school will open on that date.

The Weavers of New Bedford, Mass. continue the strike which has kept 13,000 operatives idle for the past two months. This decision is the result of a vote of employees on the question of whether to declare the strike off. The vote was a tie, but a two-thirds majority was necessary under union rules to stop the strike.

### 30 Years Ago

Sept. 15, 1932

The first Bloomfield Hills City Commission, chosen last Saturday in an election which brought out almost three times as many votes as any previous election in the history of the municipality, will hold its initial meeting tonight for the purpose of organizing the city government. (See HAPPENINGS, 1-B)

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



### THE CASE AGAINST FRANK KELLY

Frank Kelly was appointed attorney general last Dec. 27 when his predecessor was elevated to the State Supreme Court.

He had formerly been the city attorney for Alpena, a community about half the size of Birmingham.

Upon taking office he intervened in the Grady Little homicide case in Detroit. Little was a white boy who got into a fight with a colored boy and the colored boy was killed.

THE WAYNE county prosecutor investigated the case and felt that the evidence showed a case of self defense on the part of Little and did not seek a warrant for his arrest.

The attorney general, in a rare move, stepped in and asked for a warrant. Little was arrested and tried. The court threw the case out on the grounds of self-defense.

It is very unusual for the state to involve itself in a purely local crime, unless there are political implications.

SHORTLY AFTER the Little affair the governor asked the attorney general to investigate legislative lobbying which resulted in the defeat of his income tax package. Under Michigan law the attorney general had no power to make such an investigation. This should have been done by the local prosecutor.

After several public hearings the attorney general made a report that no laws had been violated but that the investigative powers of the attorney general should be expanded.

THEN CAME the famous Scholle vs. Hare suit on reapportionment of the state senate. The attorney general had the responsibility of defending Hare, the secretary of state, and the Michigan Constitution.

Instead, the attorney general filed a brief agreeing with labor-leader Scholle, which meant both the secretary of state and the constitution did not have the benefit of an advocate.

Had the attorney general been an ordinary lawyer, his own prejudices on the matter would have allowed him to step out of the case. However, when he undertook the job of defending our state, he was expected to subordinate his own feelings to his oath of office.

In a matter such as this his own feelings don't mean a thing; he had a job to do and didn't do it. Through his vast career as attorney general, he has sought out legal issues that are more notorious than substantial, and common sense seemed to knock him down each time.

Now a candidate for another two years, if he is successful he probably will eventually be appointed to the State Supreme Court, since former attorney generals have followed this course.

If this happens the people have only themselves to blame.

## By KEN WEAVER City Beat

A couple years ago, a payola scandal involving disc jockeys rocked the radio industry.

Newspapers gave rooms of space to stories reporting the scandal. Indeed, they might even be accused of exploiting the situation.

Not much was said about payola in the newspaper industry. There are many forms of invitations to events that I, at least, regard as payola, even though the people sending them insist that they expect no special favors.

FOR EXAMPLE, I recently received an invitation to a press conference concerning a manufacturer's new product. A two-day meeting was involved, which offered for newsmen:

Lunch with top management personnel. The press conference, followed by an address by the president of the corporation.

"A spectacular presentation" of the product. A banquet, with a top executive as main speaker. Tours (the next morning) of the plant's manufacturing product. Buses provided.

A barbecue luncheon. "We'll help you catch trains or planes" was offered for the newsmen's return trips. Another service available was a reservation form for one of Detroit's most expensive hotels. Presumably, the firm would even pay the hotel bills.

MANY TIMES, I receive invitations to press conferences that include breakfast or coffee hour, lunch, dinner and cocktail reception. Sometimes, even an entertainment program is included, such as a musical production.

Why should I be offered so much? If a company's announcement of its newest product merits coverage by a newspaper, why should the paper not stand its own expenses?

Can a newsmen must rent a hotel room and buy meals, why shouldn't his employer foot the bill?

REPORTING THE news is the newspaper's job. Should it not pay the costs involved? If it cannot afford to, could it not accept a written or verbal report from the news source and use that for the basis of its coverage?

Certainly, cocktail receptions and entertainment programs are not necessary to report any information on a company's product.

I think what probably irritates me most is any kind of elaborate program for the benefit of newsmen by any organization soliciting funds from the public for charitable purposes.

Again, the same reasoning prevails: If it's news, no enticement should be necessary to obtain coverage. Now I wonder, will the radio disc jockeys inquire into these practices and exploit the situation?

## Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS



The easy-to-assemble toy came complete with directions, plus assorted gears, washers, cotter pins and nuts and bolts.

After hours of work and some frayed tempers, the mish-mash of parts was united into a nine-way stroller, doll-buggy, jumper and what-have-you for Miss Eight's birthday. The four "gizmos" that were left over would undoubtedly come in handy sometimes—for something.

Miss Eight had discovered her present several hours earlier. Despite delivery instructions to the store clerk, it had been left (plainly labeled) in an all-too-obvious spot in the garage, four days ahead of schedule.

FOR SOME TIME, she struggled with the big decision: should she open the box right away or wait until her birthday. Urgency won in a walk-away.

Her "big present" no longer a delicious mystery, the birthday girl immediately began speculating on other possible surprises.

"A badminton set would be awful nice," she told her big brother when he came home from work.

"Is that so?" he answered.

STROLLING casually by her older sister, she remarked, "I know where they have the nicest puppet."

"That's interesting," her sister said, "why don't you wheel your baby doll in that nice new buggy?"

"I'm going to," said Miss Eight with a sniff, "but I'd rather play badminton, except I don't have a badminton set."

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