

Look First at the Driver

Step on the brake.
Yes, it's time to call a halt to the senseless killings on Michigan roads, in Oakland County and in our own local area.

Traffic authorities say that if the present trend continues, one of every 10 Michigan drivers will have an accident this year. One in 20 will be injured; and one in every 2,500 will die in traffic.

It's time to put an end to this slaughter.

Accidents do not have to happen. They are caused by drivers ill-equipped to travel on our wide, smooth highways.

They are caused by drivers who are uninformed about traffic regulations and the limitations of the vehicle, by drivers who are grossly negligent or momentarily careless behind the wheel.

The blame is on the driver. This, we cannot escape. And let us not try to skirt this issue but face it head-on.

We can blame the high-speed cars, the wide open spaces of the freeways, the curves, the hills, the side roads and the interseptions.

We can fool ourselves by saying it's the fault of the young drivers, that they are the ones who cause the bad accidents.

This may be so to some extent; but let's not overlook the fact that there are many, many accidents caused by adult drivers drunk with the power of the "hundreds of horses" under the hood.

A study of traffic zooming along Woodward will show older drivers as well as younger ones racing in their gas-drinking machines. It will prove that this "sport" is not limited to the young ones.

Legislation may help solve the problem statewide. Stricter laws, especially for drunk driving, racing and negligence, with stiffer penalties are needed.

Laws requiring greater safety precautions will help, too. Unthinking people might say, "But the manufacturers are pushing the safety equipment laws."

The thinkers will say, though, that "anyone who can make equipment that will help save lives should endorse such laws. The fact that they stand to gain a profit is not the important thing; the saving of lives is what counts."

Yes, laws may improve the situation; but greater achievements will result when we accept the responsibility ourselves to improve our driving methods.

Let us not quibble about this and let us not kid ourselves. The accident rate will be reduced only when better trained, better informed, more responsible drivers take to the roads.

It's time to end the killings. It's time to make our roads safe.

It's time to:
Step on the brake.

'It Certainly Is Beautiful'— And Let's Keep It That Way!



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

The average person knows very little about how intoxicating beverages are dispensed in our fair state yet it amounts to one of the biggest retail operations around.

We are, in Michigan, a monopoly state, that is, the state is the only legal wholesale distributor of alcoholic beverages.

The state selects and licenses its retail distributors. Not only does it license some stores to sell liquor, it also runs its own stores which are generally very unprofitable.

The liquor operation is run by the Liquor Control Commission, which is appointed by the Governor.

THEY ISSUE SDM licenses to retail stores that want to sell beer or wine and SDD licenses to stores that engage in the sale of hard liquor, that is anything over 16% alcohol.

These licenses are issued at the complete discretion of the Liquor Control Commission. They feel since it is a retail business they should select outlets that will do the best job possible in pushing their product.

Naturally since it is a monopoly operation, whoever is licensed usually ends up with a profitable business.

THIS IS WHERE politics comes in. The Commission reserves the right to arbitrarily select its outlets. If two people want a license for the same corner, one will get it and one won't.

While we have not had any recent scandals in our state, certain lawyers who are close to the party in power on the commission specializing in securing licenses at fees in excess of the time and effort it takes to file the necessary papers for licensing.

THE COMMISSION also issues three other types of licenses. If you own a hotel and want to serve liquor in the rooms you need a class B license.

If you want to operate a bar or restaurant serving liquor you need a class C license.

These latter two licenses can only be issued upon approval of the local municipal board. Each municipality is given a quota of one of these licenses for each 1,500 inhabitants.

If the quota is used up the Liquor Control Commission can also issue a nine months resort license if it is the type of area that has a seasonal increase in inhabitants. This type of license is just like a class C license (liquor by the glass) except it can only be used part of the year.

THE COMMISSION can also issue a club license to any organization that has been in existence two years for a purpose other than serving food and drink, such as a country club.

The whole liquor distributing business, because of the nature of its product and the fact some get the privilege to sell it and some are by-passed, makes it probably the most criticized yet least understood operation in the state.

Not all the criticism has been unwarranted, since the commission in the past has been arbitrary and high handed. Yet nothing has been proved as dishonest.

Hail—to Our Own Victors!

In sports, the teams traditionally adopt at the conclusion of a season an attitude of "wait till next year."

In the case of the Colt All-Stars in the Birmingham Colt League, we hope that the success of their first year of play will breed equal or greater success next year.

We are reminded of this comment in Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote": "Fortune may have yet a better success in reserve for you, and they who lose today may win tomorrow."

The All-Stars won their district and sectional tournaments, then fought valiantly in the regional event at Maumee before losing to a very good Hamtramck team.

Thus, our own local team emerges as one of the two best teams in Michigan and Ohio combined.

THE TEAM members, Manager Star Pearn and Coach Andy Anderson are to be commended. They deserve the plaudits of

the entire community for their achievements.

We would remind them of the old French proverb quoted by Dumas in Vol. 1 of "Ange Pitou": "Nothing succeeds like success." With this in mind, may they reach even greater heights in the next season.

To be victorious, the team had to fight long and hard against tough competition. To remain on the victory road, they will have to continue, and more than likely improve upon, the caliber of play that brought success this year.

AS BENJAMIN Disraeli, one-time prime minister of England, put it in a speech in 1870, "The secret of success is constancy to purpose."

May the All-Stars remain true to their purpose and retain their poise, their enthusiasm, their courage and their strength for the battles of the next season.

They have our congratulations, and our best wishes.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The pedestrian, already appalled by the volume of traffic he must daily dodge, will risk appetite if he ponders what he will be up against before long. By the end of this year, there will be 82 million vehicles registered. The car-truck-bus population 20 years from now is estimated at 115 million. There has been nothing like the automobile to change our way of life or the appearance of our cities. At present 11,900,000 families own more than one car, four times the number 10 years ago. The parking problem alone has dismayed engineers, architects and municipal officials. The growth of Suburbia and the supermarket has been hastened by the central city's traffic ag. Interchanges, multiple-lane highways and parking ramps must continue to increase as cars proliferate. But these are palliatives, not solutions. Solutions are not yet in sight.

There is some reason for believing that the ideological dispute between Communist China and the Soviet Union has now gone beyond the point of reconciliation. The test ban agreement has increased Red Chinese leaders that they have thrown off all caution, not only in their denunciation of the nuclear accord, but in their bitterness toward this country and Russia. Whatever the consequences, Red China's attacks seem to have been an open bid to other countries in the Communist orbit to get under Mao Tse-tung's banner and abandon Russian leadership. This makes a Soviet-Chinese reconciliation seem quite unlikely unless there is a major change in circumstances.

You may recall that when President Kennedy took office he made one of his Utopian speeches and declared himself in favor of developing an "Alliance for Progress" with South American countries. Hundreds of millions of U. S. dollars were to be given to those countries that gave promises of defending freedom and other collateral progress. But now that plan is being changed. Seems that few, if any, of those nations are making sufficient progress on their own efforts to

warrant giving them U.S. money. Seems that the few rich don't want to lead their impoverished fellow-creatures into an era of better times. So the Kennedy boys and girls aren't going to "dump" our millions south of the border...not yet. Well, that's good news! Would that more of such thinking were applied to scores of other "do-good" Utopian plans that are fashioned in Washington, D.C.

A Chicago specialist recommends that husbands who seek to improve their physical conditions should give their wives a vigorous five-second hug every morning before going to work. That sounds splendid...but, Doc, what about the bachelors and the widowers?

Latest wrinkle in efforts to thwart the theft of precious jewels is to have them "finger-printed." So that when later offered for sale, the theft may be detected. This reported that personal jewel thefts during 1961 totaled 31 million dollars.

Business leaders form a political action group they say is nonpartisan. That will allow them to support conservatives in either party.

The Red Chinese say the test ban is a fraud and call for an end to all nuclear testing—until, one supposes, they can get around to some themselves.

Goldwater has an embroidered vest that depicts highlights of his life. A spot is left open, just in case, for you-know-what in '64.

The national debt limit will be extended again. With individuals it's different: there's no debt limit, but you have to pay back what you borrow.

The Democrats hang onto a congressional seat in a Pennsylvania special election. Depending on party loyalties, it's a trend or a fluke.

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Special Privileges Before Annexation?

To the Editor:

Why do some citizens have to abide by the rules, while others are apparently granted special exemptions?

In November of 1954, Restrict's took out a permit to enlarge a building on Lot 10 near Palmer and Eton. Off-street parking was to be provided for 52 cars.

As of March, 1962, no such parking had been provided and Michigan Panel Components (tenants of Restrict's) were monopolizing parking on Eton Road and Palmer. This is a city street which should be available to the customers of all the businesses in this area. Has this situation been corrected as yet?

THIS SAME company, Michigan Components has asked for special privileges before. About a year and a half ago they wanted to close the end of Palmer St. in order to continue and make legal their use of a public street for storage.

Three of the commissioners, Robert Page, William E. Roberts and William H. Burgum, voted yes to allow this private business to use a non-travelled public street for storage purposes, stating that they wanted to help them out if they could.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Floating leisurely down the Buffalo River in Northern Arkansas recently, pulling in a few small-mouth bass along the way, was a man who has found a new approach to retirement.

The man, Lindlay Beekman, is 63, a Northerner, and a union electrician.

"I am reversing the order of things somewhat," Beekman said. "I am spending the hot months in the South and the cold months in the North as I look up my house for retirement. It feels like things are going to work out..."

MR. BEEKMAN had worked as an office building electrician for 23 years when he passed his 61st birthday two years ago.

At that point he had earned a pension of \$122 a month, provided he waited until 65 to start collecting. Also at 65 he and his wife (both the same age) would start collecting \$136 a month in Social Security. "I love outdoor life, and especially fishing," he said. "I like the Southern climate and the Southern ways. I figured out a plan that I thought would give me at least part of this package at 61 and at the same time set me up at 65 in a business that could last for 20 years."

"I had a long talk with my union, took two special trips to the Arkansas (he and his wife had spent their last three vacations there), counted my money for the fortieth time, and told my boss I wanted to retire..."

Now this company plans to build a factory and warehouse on the Grand Trunk right-of-way and have Birmingham supply water, sewage and fire protection.

COMMISSIONERS agreed to this with the fee for water and sewer service being twice the "regular" rate and fire protection on an undetermined cost. They authorized City Manager L. R. Gare to negotiate an agreement providing the company petitions for annexation to Birmingham. This is like putting the cart before the horse. Shouldn't they be annexed to Birmingham before privileges are granted?

Four-fifths of this property is in Troy and can only be annexed to Birmingham by a popular vote in both Birmingham and Troy. It is difficult for this author to understand why Troy would willingly relinquish to Birmingham a highly taxable property.

Perhaps the Birmingham City Commission is underestimating the intelligence of the citizens of Troy? And why should Birmingham supply services for property which is mostly in another community?

MANY LOGICAL requests (See PARKING, 1-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
Aug. 22, 1913

The possibility of gas service for Birmingham and Bloomfield townships was brought one step nearer last Monday, when the Township election to ratify the franchise granted by the Town board to the Pontiac Light Company was unanimously approved. Said one member of the board, "Gas adds one more City convenience to the beauty of suburban life."

The latest thing in buttons are in the form of fruits, the small ones cherries and strawberries, the larger apples and plums. These are used for trimming country dresses in light crepe or voile. It must be noted that for the seaside season shoes of white satin with black velvet heels and sandals of black satin rib are the latest murmur.

Mr. Perry Vaughan, northwest of our village, had a very narrow escape from death last Saturday while cranking his auto. As soon as the machine was cranked up, it started with Mr. Vaughan in front of it. It tore out the big door post, through the side of the barn, when he fell 12 feet to the lower floor. The heavy machine went part way through and the engine straddling a beam struck fast there thus preventing it from falling on the surprised and painful man. Dr. Shaw found both bones in his right elbow broken.

30 YEARS AGO
Aug. 24, 1933

Tuition rates in all grades in the Birmingham public schools were reduced Tuesday night by the Board of Education. The new rates are \$60 per year for kindergarten, \$75 for elementary grades one to six inclusive, \$115 for grades seven, eight and nine, and \$125 for grades 10, 11 and 12. Superintendent Charles W. Crandell suggested that for junior high schools be cut to \$100.

Control of the Birmingham Pioneers, former opera welfare farm organization, passed into the hands of city officials Tuesday night at a meeting in the Municipal Building where the law was passed and animosity flared. The Pioneers were organized of their own initiative last spring from the ranks of men listed on the city's welfare rolls.

Formal presentation of the Weighing Brothers Trophy, symbolic of golf supremacy for the year among Birmingham's three men's service clubs, was made to the Exchange Club at the Community House Monday night. The Exchange won possession of the trophy this year—the first time it has been awarded—by virtue of their victory over the Rotary and Lions Clubs in a three-match tournament.

15 YEARS AGO
Aug. 19, 1948

Building construction in Birmingham continued its fast pace during the month of July when 51 permits were issued. E. S. Clark, (See HAPPENINGS, 3-B)

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

It would never do for me to pilot a plane—I would fly off in a different direction at every whim.

Those big openings between clouds would prove too tempting—I would dart through them to see what lies below, and soon would be way off course.

I suppose I must wait until the individual flying apparatus is perfected before I can undertake such explorations.

Until then, I must content myself with such flights as a recent jet trip to Seattle.

We flew at altitudes of 28,000 to 31,000 feet. At one point, we could see parts of Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska all at one time.

FLYING AT such altitudes offers two areas of study—the clouds and the land.

The clouds were quite fascinating. For the most part, they appeared as blankets of billowy wool.

Early in the flight, we passed some clouds that looked as if they were flat on the underside; they were fluffy and white on top.

West of Billings, Mont., a rainbow came into view, its colors stretching out below the clouds. The thought persisted: How far can you get from the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?

Our jet skirted around and above one huge cloud that reared up into the sky like a soft, white mountain.

AS FOR the land, in the Great Plains area it had the characteristics of a well-planned quilt. The fields were laid out in orderly fashion, the highways cutting through them like ribbons and the rivers winding their way along like snakes.

The color of the ground changed from brown and green to a dirty grey, to a charcoal black in some of the foothills and back to brown and green in the mountain country.

FROM 31,000 feet, the mountains look like little hills. In fact, the scene appears much like a scale model relief map, in three dimensions.

Probably the most spectacular sight of all is that of snow-capped mountains jutting through the clouds.

Near Seattle, we could see four snow-caps all at one time, in the Cascade range. And in the summer, that's a cooling sight.

THIS LONG-distance jet flight answered a question for me:

Yes, I should like very much to orbit the earth—to get an even better perspective of our world.

It was only natural in the beginning for men to walk, then to travel in boats, then on the backs of animals, then in carts drawn by animals, then in trains, automobiles and planes.

It is inevitable, I would say, that the spaceship will be our next means of travel.

Wonder if I could be trusted to pilot one?

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