

IN THIS ISSUE:

Editorial
General News
Church News

Holidays, Schools-Traffic!

It's Labor Day and back-to-school time. Both will bring out more traffic; both call for greater attention to safe driving habits.

Citing the mounting death and injury toll as a warning to motorists to be doubly alert, the State Police report they will operate special, intensified patrols over the Labor Day week end.

"This will be the last long holiday week end of the summer," said State Police Commissioner Joseph A. Childs. "Given good weather, it is expected that during certain periods highways will be congested.

"We're not trying to frighten anyone into not going out on a drive. The highways were built for enjoyment but to enjoy them they must be safe.

"And the way to be safe is by careful and vigilant driving."

We echo these comments.

AS FOR the start of school, this always means more children on our streets and roads during peak traffic periods.

Consequently, there must be greater attention given to intersections and parked cars. Every driver must be aware of school hours and realize that children may be expected to dart into the street at any place and at any moment.

THERE IS much that can be done to make driving safer. In recent days, the major automobile manufacturers have announced that seat belts will be standard

equipment on all cars. This is a move in the right direction.

Gov. George Romney has requested legislation that would make money from state highway funds available for operation of the State Police and for other safety matters.

There are new safety laws, including the one governing freeway speed limits, that will become effective Sept. 6. Every driver should inform himself of these and be determined to obey them.

THE ECCENTRIC has reported in the last three issues on a practice called "Woodwarding"—racing and speeding on Woodward through Birmingham and neighboring cities.

This dangerous "sport" must be stopped. Parents, drivers and police must all cooperate in efforts to end this practice.

We believe the other communities should be as strict in enforcement of traffic laws as Birmingham is and levy penalties as strong as those given in Birmingham.

Perhaps thought should be given to even stiffer regulations.

SAFETY IS something that every driver should be conscious of at all times. Only careful and vigilant driving will help prevent many accidents.

The increase in traffic at holiday time and the rush of children to the streets when school starts call for even greater emphasis on safe driving habits.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Should Run Government Like Business Operation

To the Editor:

In response to your articles seeking state tax ideas, I would like to say the following:

This tax situation appears to be misunderstood. The citizens do not want any new taxes, but they do want taxes repealed.

I often wonder what kind of people we have representing us in office when they commonly display the fact that they know nothing about good sound business principles. It is true that there are exceptions to the many situations that have put our state and federal governments in the red, but why must it always continue in the same direction?

The government is no different than your newspaper business or a private individual running their homes. When you have money to spend, you spend it, and when long range programs are desired, you have adequate finances to carry them out, or cut them down to the extent of your finances.

IT IS very difficult for me to believe that the men in office are sincere in their efforts to run the government

like a business should be operated.

The government imposes very strict regulations on citizens for taxes, and these obligations must be taken care of, or else.

I believe the same laws should be imposed on lawmakers—produce to the satisfaction of the citizens, or lose the right to run for reelection; of course, we the citizens should handle these things properly at the polls. I thought I had done my part when my man got in as governor, but it looks like he has lost his ability to run an efficient shop with minimum expense.

AS FOR cutting expense in Michigan, it doesn't take long to walk through the state administration buildings in Lansing to see that hundreds of offices could be operated by a telephone answering service, thus cutting down a tremendous amount of telephone baby sitting.

The county road commissions have much to be desired in management, and everybody knows I still have to be convinced that lobbying has a useful and lucrative purpose for the few that benefit from it. When a politician arrives at a point when he

must be influenced by a lobbyist, then it's time he step down and let somebody handle the job that knows what he is doing, or at least give the people the satisfaction of voting on many issues.

WHEN YOUR business gets to the point that you are paying out more money than you are taking in, what do you do? You look for the drain-off and make corrections, like simplifying operations and doing away with featherbedding. The railroads have nothing on government operations.

Very simply, we want the government to live within its budget just like we citizens must. Being acquainted with all of the useless services in Lansing shouldn't make it a difficult job for anybody that knows what they are doing. If things keep up, it won't be long when our entire society will be 100 per cent socialized and as a result we lose our real freedom of speech and wants—that is, if you have any ambition at all. Let's live within our budget. Can it be any simpler?

HENRY W. PRICE
2781 Brady Lane
Bloomfield Hills

Parents Against Secret Groups, Senior Writes

To the Editor:

I am writing in regard to the problem of sororities and fraternities in the high schools. It seems that the parents of children who are not in a sorority or fraternity are complaining because the state law is not being enforced.

You will notice that this statement refers only to the parents and not to the children. In my high school I have never heard one person I know say even one word against them.

THIS IS NOT because I am a member because I don't belong to a sorority and I couldn't care less. What are these poor, sheltered little dears going to do when they get to college. I suppose if they don't get into a sorority or fraternity they will have their parents pass a law about those too.

They are going to have to face their own problems sometime and I think the sooner the better. Besides, there is more than one way to solve this problem.

INSTEAD OF HAVING no sororities or fraternities at all, why have lots.

This may sound silly, but several years ago they had a large number

Newcomer Thanks Us For Tax Poll

To the Editor:

Thank you for the opportunity of voicing my opinion in your tax poll.

I hope as the tax program moves through the legislature you will advise and cajole people in this area to write their legislators. You are to be commended for calling public attention to this extremely important concern—an intelligent program of taxation.

I PARTICULARLY appreciate your editorial, poll, etc., as I have just moved to Birmingham and am not fully aware of the tax problems and needs of Michigan.

Mrs. Wolf and I are enjoying and benefiting from reading The Eccentric.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
PHILIP WOLF
1708 Bradford
Birmingham

of them so that everyone was included. Sororities and fraternities do a lot of good which I've seen and I believe they're worth fighting for.

Sincerely,
Sally Senior

(MORE LETTERS on 3-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 29, 1913

Traversing Wayne, Monroe, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties at a cost approximating \$1,000,000 and crossing the St. Clair river at St. Clair, Mich., the first pipeline ever constructed in Michigan and the first pipeline to cross an international border is rapidly nearing completion, to connect the refineries of the Imperial Oil Co. of Sarnia, the Canadian subsidiary of the Standard Oil Co., with the Ohio oil fields.

Mr. Lynch the real estate dealer says that the Pontiac Light Co. coming here means much more to our growth than any one has any idea of. Many would be purchasers of homes in our village have inquired about the means of cooking and when told it was gasoline, wood or soft coal they never gave Birmingham another thought, for says they: "What will I do with my gas range?" This one thing will help the growth of Birmingham more than any other one thing.

The Bloomfield Hills Seminary (See HAPPENINGS, 3-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



I spent an evening with our circulation department last night. They had six people on the phone hoping to boost sales of this fine paper.

We've given the phoners charts to check off the reasons why a party might not be interested in subscribing, which helps us keep the paper up to date.

A year ago April when we completely reorganized the paper, the comments of subscribers and nonsubscribers helped us decide what to do.

Not all the comments received are, of course, usable for that matter printable.

A COUPLE PEOPLE said that they wouldn't subscribe because they "disliked Averill." Whether they meant Paul (Averill), the present publisher; or George (Averill), the former publisher; or Bill (Averill), the former managing editor, was not made known.

I felt that this was their prerogative until one non-subscriber said that he "hated Hank Hogan." I had the satisfaction of knowing that he had read the paper at least once to know that I appear weekly in this corner and really didn't feel that we lost anything by his not taking the paper because he apparently must be a gentleman of poor taste, anyway!

ANOTHER GAL told our caller that she would subscribe but her arms weren't long enough. She felt that because our papers were wider than most, she couldn't open it up.

We hear quite a few comments about the width of our paper. In reality it is the traditional width of papers. Other papers through the years have cut off a column which cut down the cost of newsprint, but they kept the same advertising rate for the smaller page. It gave them an indirect rate increase.

We have thought about making our page smaller because it would save us about \$7,000 a year in newsprint cost. However, it also would mean a substantial reduction in the amount of news we could offer our readers.

ANOTHER WOULD-BE subscriber told our caller that he had read the paper for 60 years but had discontinued his subscription because he didn't recognize any in the obituary columns anymore, let alone other sections.

All in all, however, the people in the area have been kind and understanding to our callers. We try not to bother people; but we make every effort to get them to read our paper, in return for the time spent to make those pages the best we can offer.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER



It's a small world. There you are walking through the lobby of the General Motors Building in Detroit when a man comes up to you and says:

"Don't I know you?"

Replying with your name and occupation brings only a look of doubt.

Then there's a flash of recognition and you say, "I went to Ball State . . ."

"That's it. You were on the paper there. I taught in industrial arts at the time and you used to ask me for news."

Bernard Joseph, former college professor, is now a communications expert with a Chicago publishing company. He was here working in a language training program with Chevrolet sales management people.

AFTER A BRIEF conversation, you go on up to the 11th floor to keep your luncheon engagement with Chuck Hagler and Ray Hayes.

Hagler is regional manager of public relations for GM. Hayes, his boss, is manager of plant city and regional activities, PR staff.

They take you to lunch at the Recess Club, where the conversation centers on fine eating and the many restaurants in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. They know them all.

HAYES CONFIDES that he is a former Birmingham resident, now living on Lake Angelus north of Pontiac. "When we left Birmingham, my wife insisted on one thing," he says: "we must maintain our subscription to The Birmingham Eccentric. We get it to this day."

"This is what I like to hear," is your reply. Then you mention that just the other day you were out at Lake Angelus for the Birmingham Rotary Club picnic, at the home of one of your members.

"OH, WHOSE home is that?" Hayes asks.

"Charlie Mortensen, manager of our Chamber of Commerce."

"Oh, yes, I know him well. Charlie's our village clerk."

It's a small world.

Adm. George W. Anderson goes from chief of naval operations to ambassador to Portugal. This is known as being kicked downstairs.

Americans save hundreds of millions of dollars worth of trading stamps. A few—those not lost in the back of desk drawers—are even redeemed.

Followers of Peron manifested themselves by putting in blank ballots in the Argentine elections. If you vote Peron blank in, they'll show they have blank minds.

President Kennedy plays golf for the first time in a couple of years. The office cynic says that's going pretty far to steal the Ike image.

Sports car racing fans riot in Garnett, Kan. It's a fair guess that some pretty high octane fuel—from bottles—was involved.

Cuban funds in the United States are frozen—and Castro is burned up.

Switch Memorial, Labor Days?

Our calendar reminds us that next Monday is Labor Day. We're a bit bothered by that fact.

It's not that we have anti-labor feelings, it's just the surprise that summer is within a couple of weeks of being over.

Why can't we have the calendar makers switch Memorial Day and Labor Day?

At the beginning of good summer weather everyone is joyous and happy and it seems inappropriate to celebrate anything as ominous as Memorial Day. This would seem like the ideal time for the working men to throw off the cares of winter and enjoy and properly celebrate the tremendous strides that have befallen them in the last couple of decades.

It would also be appropriate and fitting to celebrate Memorial Day at the end of the summer. With fall upon them and winter around the corner, the melancholy seasons are casting their spell of the waning year.

WITH LABOR Day facing us, most of us heartily give tribute to the great benefits derived from the organized labor movements.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

When a business audits itself, that is not an audit at all. The foregoing principle, though acknowledged by accountants everywhere, is apparently not recognized in the Federal Reserve System. This was revealed at a recent House banking committee investigation. An inquiry conducted into the mysterious disappearance of \$7,500,000 in U.S. government securities ended with no trace found. But the committee did discover that Federal Reserve Banks audit themselves. It is an internal scrutiny, so to speak, which is carried on by the system's own people. No one up to now has seriously questioned the wisdom in such a procedure. However, seven and a half million dollars in negotiable securities just dropping out of sight has had its consequences. The Federal Reserve Board is on the defensive and must explain the inefficiency of its audit procedures. The "Fed" as the nation's central and most important banking institution, should shore up its protection methods without delay. They must be rather weak to have let all that valuable property merely slip away. There is a federal agency ready to carry out independent audits of the Reserve banks if Congress would direct them: the General Accounting Office. Confidence would be restored all around were this to be done.

Someone identified as a network stenographer has been quoted as follows on the subject of next year's television offerings: "If you liked TV this year, there isn't a reason in the world why you won't like it next year. It'll be the same thing with different people, or different things with the same people, or the same things with the same people."

U.S. officials think that Red China will refrain from major aggression in Asia. It will continue, however, to be as offensive as possible.

One of these benefits is the long holiday week ends. If the dates fall just right, it is possible to have one in January (New Year's), May (Memorial), July (The Fourth), September (Labor), November (Thanksgiving) and December (Christmas).

Sept. 17 can become another one if the Senate passes a resolution to make that day a Federal holiday known as Constitution Day.

RATHER THAN having this as another long holiday so close to Labor Day, we might consider making either Washington's or Lincoln's birthday a national holiday—giving us a chance for a short vacation in February.

Another suggestion might be to scrap all holidays and have a 32-hour work week in their place. Thus, we could start every work week with Tuesday.

At any rate, another long holiday is here. Let's make it an enjoyable, but safe, one—and give thought to what we might do in the future.

The Belgian government quits over the language question. Things are easier here: we just have to worry about what's said, not what language it's said in.

A Goldwater supporter calls him "a progressive, and liberal, in the truest sense." Much more such support, and he may be read out of the Republican party.

Twenty-three per cent of all households in the country are without a car. They'll have to swing into line before long. There aren't many places left to walk.

Proper nutrition for animals has become a serious concern, veterinarians report. If food prices get much higher, there'll be concern for humans, too.

Thirty-three senators ask President Kennedy to limit foreign shoe imports. If he doesn't, they fear domestic manufacturers will soon be down at the heel.

The United States retaliates against the European Common Market's higher tariff on poultry. Now it's the Common Market's move. The whole business sounds like a high-level game of "Chicken."

Mississippi's Governor Barnett says voting is "a privilege, not a right." Depending, that is, on the color of the would-be Mississippi voter's skin.

A jet-powered car sets a speed mark of 407 miles per hour. One thing can be said about such travel: it gets you out of traffic fast.

Labor Day: When Working Is Fun



ESTABLISHED IN 1878

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

PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAPER

George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 BOWEN STREET Telephone Midwest 4-1100

