

Lack of Money Is the Problem

Homers Case, Bloomfield Township supervisor, has called upon the Roads and Bridges Committee of the County Board of Supervisors to support legislation to increase the share of county road funds for the improvement and maintenance of local roads.

As in everything in government today, this is a problem of not enough money to give the service the people demand.

We have in Oakland County federal roads, state highways, county primary roads and secondary or local roads.

THE FEDERAL and state roads are easy to identify and are maintained by state and federal funds.

The primary roads are the more important local roads that haven't been given state or federal numbers, such as Fifteen Mile Road, Lahser Road, Adams Road, etc., which are selected by the County Road Commission.

All other roads in the area fall into the secondary or local classification, including subdivision roads.

Each year the state collects gasoline and weight taxes from automobiles and trucks, and puts them in a big pool to be divided among the state highway system, cities who maintain their own roads and county road commissions, who maintain rural or township roads.

THE COUNTIES have been getting 35 per cent of this pool. With this allocation they must maintain both primary and secondary roads.

By legislation the state divides this 35 per cent among the 83 counties of the state on the basis of 25 per cent for local or secondary roads and 75 per cent for primary roads.

They have a complicated formula on how much each of the 83 counties is entitled to, of both the 25 per cent for local roads and the 75 per cent for primary roads, but it is related both to the number of miles of roadway in the counties and the non-city population.

NOW COMES the rub. If legislation is enacted giving a larger share of the percentage to local roads, as Mr. Case suggests, and the amount of revenue remains relatively constant, it means less money for the maintenance of primary roads.

Most township residents feel that the local roads are not maintained the way they should be. But, if there is a heavy winter, after the snow is cleared from the streets the local road fund is quite anemic.

IF WE PUT more funds in the local fund, it means the pot-holes will be left unattended on the primary roads instead of the secondary roads.

It's really a question of what the public wants.

What Mr. Case wants for his township is better roads, but he is caught and so is the road commission in the old dilemma of a limited income.

Probably the real answer is more taxes or less griping, unless someone can show how we can more effectively spend the funds we already collect.

The Battle of the Ages



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

In recent weeks home warding teenagers have made the front page of our fair paper because of the manner in which they operate their automobiles on one of our more heavily trafficked roadways.

Our city editor, Larry Eves, is credited with the expression "Woodwarding" which has been picked up by the Detroit dailies and converted from a local problem into a national crime.

A FEW teenagers in every generation have made headlines while the vast majority of them sit home and take the consequences.

THE FINE ART of mailboxing includes a fast car, a lonely mailbox, one cherry bomb (a powerful freeracker), a match and two fast hands.

AGAIN, THIS is only being done by a small percentage of teen-agers and the rest of them will have to take the rap. But the teen-ager who picked us, should have known that you can't fight the press.

Where Are Huck and Tom?

Too many students in the public library! Amazing as this may sound, student use of the public library has become a problem.

Trouble is — both here in Birmingham and on the national scene — too many students and too few materials.

As Librarian Jeanne Lloyd of Baldwin Public Library puts it:

"The library situation today is almost like the overpopulation in underdeveloped countries, with too many people and too little food."

BRIEFLY, THE situation is this: A teacher assigns an entire class to research a subject. The students flock to the library, the first to arrive find what they need; the rest are not so successful.

AT Baldwin, 40 per cent of the books borrowed during school months are charged out between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Thirty per cent of all reference questions asked in the winter of 1962-63 came from youths of high school age.

EXPERTS GIVE four main reasons for this modern-day library problem: The population explosion, emphasis on individual study and research, emphasis on excellence and need for continuing education.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Quiet ballplayers are as apt to make the Hall of Fame as flamboyant ones. Nellie Fox, the Chicago White Sox second baseman, is what is known as a "wallplayer's" ballplayer, meaning that the professionals often see merit in a man when the crowd may overlook. A big leaguer since 1947, Fox has made more than 2,500 base hits. Of all the major leaguers on record only 39 had previously reached this mark, and only four were second basemen. Eddie Collins, Rogers Hornsby, Nap Lajoie and Charlie Gehringer are now all in the Hall of Fame, a good omen for Fox. And of these Gehringer was most like Fox, unsensational but sure, a hitter of singles rather than home runs. Of today's players who can name Mantle, Mays, Kaline, Musial, Spahn and Wynn. And prophecy along this line should include Fox.

The burgeoning of America on wheels is not merely a matter of simple arithmetic: more cars, more travel. The traffic problem is a lot more complicated than that. There are not only more cars, but we are using them more. One indication of this is to be found in this year's vacation figures. It is estimated that by the end of 1963 almost 100 million Americans will have taken

vacations away from home. Of these, more than 75 per cent will have used cars as the means of transportation. The trend appears to be toward vacations longer in terms of both duration and distance. The average American, it is said, spends six to eight days away from home. One out of 10 vacationing families travels more than 1,000 miles from home. The cumulative impact of all this—the pressure on roads, and on traffic control machinery—is tremendous.

That group of 125 boys and girls who raised mock Dickens in a big home on Long Island certainly must have had a lot of what they call fun. They broke 1,634 windows, a large and beautiful and most valuable chandelier and just to sort of even up the fractions, they threw some mattresses, rugs and miscellaneous furniture on the nearby beach. Funny thing, too—the rich man who owned the house and the ditto man who had temporarily leased it for his daughter's party, didn't require the youthful marauders to pay for the damage they did. What an example to offer the nation's youth!

Some GOP political experts are writing off Rockefeller's chances for the nomination. Others are writing off Goldwater's chances of election.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Resents School Board Sign or Fail Ultimatum

To the Editor:

My ninth grade daughter has brought me a request from the Birmingham Board of Education to sign a statement.

THE EXPERTS say: Have plenty of materials and implement more effective controls for their use. Establish effective communication between librarians, teachers and administrators.

IF THE BOARD had evidence, or even suspicion, that either of us had violated the law they would be bound to act. I know, however, that the board has no such evidence in our case.

Car Brings Sadness to Whole Family

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in the hope that some person may read this and realize the sadness they have brought into this household.

Car Brings Sadness to Whole Family

MRS. JOHN POKORNY 4111 Middlebury Bloomfield Township

Yesteryear Happenings

EDWARD SMITH JR. held the lucky ticket at the 1st drawing at the Family theatre last Monday night and got \$7.00 in currency.

AS A RESULT, although I prefer not to sign the form because I consider it both inane and an invasion of privacy, a refusal to sign hazards a year's work. The potential loss is too great.

EDWARD X. TUTTLE JR. 30801 Northgate Drive Southfield

STRICTLY FRESH

Some say that good advice is often spoken through false teeth.

IF YOU think the words "night" and "evening" have the same meaning.

30 YEARS AGO Sept. 28, 1933

With the goal set at \$9,500, the Community House rose call which is to supplant the annual spring drive not held this year because of the banking holiday, will begin Monday, Oct. 7, and continue for one week. It was announced yesterday by Mrs. L. N. Lyle, president of the Community House Association. Members of three Birmingham service clubs — Rotary, Exchange and Lions — will be

50 YEARS AGO Sept. 26, 1913

Who has any doubts about the great future of Birmingham, should take a walk down Maple avenue east, and see the three fine dwellings now under construction there.

Chas. Chinader was struck by north bound fast mail on the Grand Trunk at 5:15 Monday evening and died within a few minutes of the accident. He had just gone to work that morning after being off duty for several days on account of an injured hand. He was 26 years of age and married and leaves besides his wife, one child, who live in the north part of town.

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THE GOLDEN YEARS

Here are some useful guide lines for you to follow. Get on over to the Social Security office at once. It may take weeks for your claim to be processed. It may take longer if you have been living about your age. You may also have to furnish proof of your marriage.

PREPARE FOR an emotional shock about a week after retirement when nobody has phoned from the company to ask your advice on something... when nobody has phoned for anything. And while you're preparing you might as well tell the phone company to put in a four-party line. You aren't going to be getting many calls hereafter. Neither is your wife when her friends learn you are at home.

MAKE A WILL, if you haven't. Make it with the help of a lawyer. Make it with a view that you may move to another state, which may have different laws on wills. Make it with the intention that you and Mama are going to spend most of what you have on your retirement.

Examine your life insurance policies and the various plans for converting into something more suitable for retirement. If you can, something that will require no periodic payments. Check your group health insurance policy.

File two copies of your birth certificate and your marriage certificate with your valued papers. Start writing letters to your children. It'll check them, since they've had no letters from home except from Mama in the last 26 years. But they'll like the idea, and it will be the start of the "re-education" of your offspring who, in the end, will be your greatest joy in retirement. Once-a-week letters would be about right. Let the children know you are going to be all right in retirement.

IF YOU MEAN you want those Catholics to win? people used to ask me. I didn't even know what was meant by "the Catholics." It let alone what was so terrible about them—and I still don't know the latter.

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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER
George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

City Beat
By KEN WEAVER

Football fever has caught up with me again. I love the sport—to watch it, play it, talk it. I caught the fever as a kid in South Bend, Ind.—the home of the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

PUTTING MY head down and billing my way through the opposition gave me many a thrill. The harder someone tried to pull me down, the greater satisfaction I got out of dragging him on.

Finally, one of the bigger fellows elected to carry the ball. He came pounding my way and knocked me flat on my back.

AS A KID I had a dream. I would tell this dream to myself. In high school, college and pro ball I was a one-man team—I could run, pass, kick, block and tackle. The story might vary with each telling, but I was the hero of the game.

Probably the most memorable moment for me is Terry Brennan's kick-off return for a touchdown in the Notre Dame-Army game of 1947. N.D. won, 27-13.

SO, THIS fall will find me in front of the TV set at every opportunity—with my wife's consent, of course. I will enjoy the games, but there will be one continuous win.