

To Cope with Shoplifting

Our reaction to the decision by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce to join with the police department in the battle against shoplifting is one of emphatic agreement!

The chamber's three-day educational program, Oct. 5-7, should prove immensely helpful in coping with this problem. In that program, store owners, managers and sales personnel will be informed of methods to detect and apprehend shoplifters.

We commend the chamber and the businessmen for their cooperation with the police. And, noting that many of the offenders are juveniles, we urge the interest and cooperation of parents.

POLICE DEPARTMENT statistics show that of the 222 juvenile cases handled since Jan. 1, 42 involved shoplifting. On one occasion a five-year-old boy and his brother, 8, were picked up for stealing.

Records also show that many of the offenders are girls, especially in the 13-16 age bracket. Most of them have money or charge plates, which factor indicates a problem that has roots deeper than of economic nature.

Police report that most of these young shoplifters appear to be average youngsters. They offer no concrete reason for stealing. Often the reply is simply, "I don't know why I took it."

The police summon parents to the sta-

tion when a youthful offender is caught, and the youth must then explain to the parents what has happened.

WHAT WE ALL must realize is that this is actually a problem of delinquency. We see here the real meaning of juvenile delinquency.

It is a natural desire to appropriate things; this is part of a child's nature. However, maturity tells us not to take things that belong to someone else. We create laws and mores for the acquisition of items we need and want.

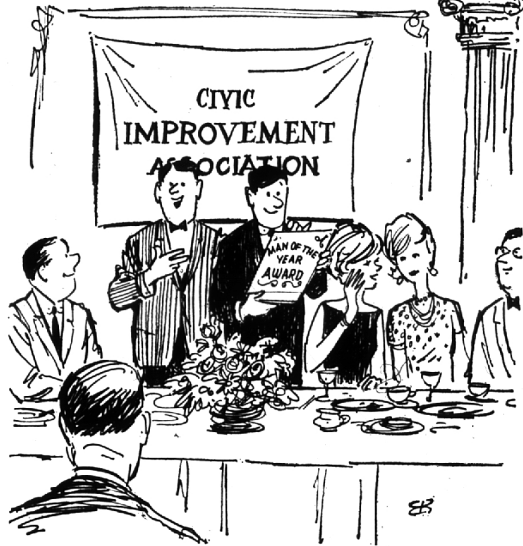
Mature individuals support these laws and mores.

But somewhere along the line—at the home, church or school level—these young shoplifters have failed to mature. They have not accepted the rule that you do not take what is not yours. So, they are properly termed "delinquent"—delayed in the maturity that they chronologically should have attained.

THE PROBLEM is a serious one. It calls for solutions born out of understanding. It requires the concern and cooperation of everyone to bring about solutions.

As we commend the chamber of commerce for accepting its share of responsibility in the matter, we urge parents and school officials and other community groups to also assist in the fight to end shoplifting in Birmingham by bringing every influence to bear that will aid in the maturation of our young folks.

If He'd Only Cut the Grass



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

States Views on Route Of I-696 in Southfield

To the Editor: This is a copy of a letter concerning the I-696 route location through Southfield which I sent on June 17 to Irving J. Rubin, executive assistant to the Highway Department, Detroit:

Here comes that letter I have been promising you for several years and which you encouraged me still to write earlier this month. The immediate occasion is the rendering of I-696 I saw at the 12th annual meeting of the Cambridge Village Association tonight. My letter covers the distance between Evergreen Road and Southfield Road.

Briefly, my suggestion is to run I-696 at the northern edge of the Southfield Civic Center property to the Lathrup Village boundary and thence southeasterly to connect up at approximately 10 1/2 Mile Road and Southfield Road, thence proceeding easterly along the vicinity of 10 1/2 Mile Road.

THIS PROPOSAL is not new, as you recall. I have mentioned it several times to you verbally. I advocated this route while serving on the Southfield City Planning Commission prior to the 1960 census of population.

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
October 2, 1914

All farmers on farm lines will get a new winter coat of paint at 10 o'clock in the morning. Manager Fred Chapin announces that one long ring will be given on all farm lines in a prolonged manner by the operator in charge and the weather report will be announced. It is not necessary nor desired that anyone answer the long ring at 10 a.m. Just take down your receiver and listen and profit thereby. Don't say a word.

A new and growing industry for Birmingham is now safely launched and deserves the patronage of all who smoke. John B. Nye's cigar factory is situated over H. G. Spencer's grocery store. For four weeks he has been manufacturing and cannot keep up with his orders. He will now bend all his energies on one brand, "The Nickel Inn," and this cigar is full, half Havana. John's ambition is to employ 100 people here inside of 90 days.

One more dark corner has been lighted in Birmingham as electricity comes to our fair city. A pole light has been placed at the corner of Chester and Maple avenue just this week. The village cannot be too well lighted. There are more corners needing the same improvement.

30 YEARS AGO
October 4, 1934

Opening classes were held in the Baldwin High School building last night in Birmingham's FERA adult education program. Approximately 100 persons are enrolled

And I recall suggesting it to Mayor Richard N. Cozger of Lathrup Village at an East-West Expressway Committee meeting attended by representatives of 10 southeast Oakland cities on March 3, 1960.

The route I am suggesting would leave the Southfield Civic Center intact, excepting the land required for right-of-way at its northern edge. This seems to me highly desirable, much more so than the alleged advantages of separating the governmental from the recreational uses of the Civic Center.

MUCH OF my work in the past 10 years has been in connection with planning center projects. Getting a road through the center does not appeal to the people who put their money on the line. I can see why it does not appeal to the Southfield city fathers (with apologies to Jean McDonnell).

I am sure you can work out the engineering requirements. These should not be more difficult than some of the curves in the city of Troy, for example.

ALBERT MOELMANN,
27415 Spring Arbor Dr.,
Southfield

Laud Firemen For Saving Boy's Life

To the Editor: There is probably no greater personal satisfaction for any fireman than to know that he has rendered the finest service possible to the community which he serves. Conversely, there is no greater appreciation expressed by parents whose children they save through their dedication, quick actions and know-how.

This is just one incident, but we are certain that similar situations are met by firemen and emergency ambulance squads who are called on emergencies every day.

My wife and I will forever be grateful to the two young men who so quickly responded to the emergency call. We expressed the feeling that if it were not for the quick heroic actions of James Moore and Tom Cox of the Bloomfield Hills Fire Department, our 15-month-old son Paul might not be alive today.

PAUL HAD developed extremely high temperatures from a throat infection which caused him to convulse and render breathing impossible.

If it were not for the resuscitator or pulmotor which restored Paul's breathing by the two firemen and the combined quick action of the Birmingham ambulance service, where the two young men again performed a marvelous service in their ability to quickly get Paul to Beaumont Hospital, things may not have turned out so well.

James Moore, with his wife and three children, live at 3609 Mark Street, Pontiac, and Tom Cox and his wife live at 626 S. Choccolay, Clawson.

In our investigation, it was discovered that both Tom and Jim are new at their jobs; however there is no question in that they served like veterans.

Our community can justly be proud knowing that we have such capable and dedicated men working and living in our community.

CHARLES AND JOAN BALOGH,
1027 Eastover Drive,
Bloomfield Hills

merical and industrial property in the city, as well as on policies written for local schools, churches, the Community House, Baldwin Public Library and other institutions.

Representatives from 20 South-east Oakland county municipalities met in Birmingham Friday afternoon to receive detailed explanations of the uniform traffic ticket and court policy. The meeting was in charge of Ralph W. Moseley, chief of the Birmingham police department. Pontiac Police Chief Charles Rhodes said the system sharply reduced traffic deaths and injuries in his city.

The Maple football team rolled over a green Dearborn outfit 27-0, last Friday night at Field in the season opener. Captain Bob Handy led his astonishing team to its first victory, using a passing attack in the first half and spirit and drive in the second half.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Politics is a strange animal, but no stranger, I suppose, than the people involved in it.

Party chairmen proclaim that they want grass roots support rather than that of special interest, but sometimes the message apparently doesn't trickle down to their underlings.

Political parties are run on the national level by a national committee; the committeemen are elected at state conventions.

State parties are run by a state central committee, which is composed of elected committeemen from each congressional district. These committeemen are also elected at state conventions by state delegates.

THEREFORE, THE BASIC structure of the party is determined by those who vote at state conventions. Now if one wanted grass roots support, you would certainly think that these state delegates would be selected in a more democratic way.

The state statute provides that these delegates shall be elected at county conventions. And delegates to the county convention are elected by those who turn out at the primary and vote for the last name on the list.

This on its face seems democratic enough, until you consider how the county convention delegates choose the state delegates.

BECAUSE OF the huge number of delegates the Republican Party of Oakland County sends to the state convention, it is cumbersome to have the delegates nominated and elected at the county convention.

So the party takes advantage of a new statute which allows each legislative district to nominate its share of delegates and this is more or less confirmed by the county delegates at their convention.

Now if the legislative districts nominated their delegates it would still be democratic, but here in our own 65th District a nonstatutory method was followed, which makes nomination similar to election in Russia. A choice of take it or not vote.

A **PRE-CAUCUS** nominating committee met. Who appointed this committee is a mystery since it is not provided for by statute. Secondly, this committee met at a secret meeting. It was not announced to the elected delegates.

This committee then came up with a slate and presented it to the legislative district caucus.

Now sometimes a nominating committee is used to narrow down the people to consider, but it at least should present a slate that offers some choice to the delegates.

Secondly, if a nominating committee is used, it is traditional that those on the committee not nominate themselves.

AS FAR AS ONE can tell, everyone who sat on the pre-nominating committee was nominated as a delegate, except the hostess, who was nominated as an alternate.

When an additional nomination was made on the floor of the legislative caucus, the nominating committee left the room, supposedly to discuss whether the nominated person should be added to the slate.

What they really discussed, I am told on good authority, was whether they should allow the delegates to vote on this additional nominee.

It is a mystery how a County is used as the example in the Republican Party of how a county should be organized.

If the party in the county is to resort to smoke-filled-room type of politics, its great appeal to the grass roots can be forgotten.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

The so-called racial disturbances are not that at all. They are merely excuses to engage in hoodlumism.

Bill Burgum, a Birmingham city commissioner and last year's mayor, made this observation recently. He pointed to the looting, especially of liquor stores, that takes place in every racial riot.

It seems that these fiascos are instigated not so much by those who would assure the rights of the oppressed but rather by those who seek to destroy and steal; by those who use the racial tag as a cover for their dirty work and to enlist the support of the unsuspecting.

Bill has passed on to this column an editorial headlined "The Season of Violence Must End" from the August issue of the "Nation's Cities," monthly publication of the American Municipal Association.

THIS ARTICLE deals with the theme that violence cannot be tolerated for its cause.

It quotes several important people in this respect. For example, LeRoy Collins, former governor of Florida and now the director of the new Community Relations Service: "Hoodlumism, regardless of who practices it or who sponsors it, is indefensible and intolerable in a free society."

"WHEN ANYONE, regardless of race or color or creed, takes the law into his own hands; whether in the name of liberty or freedom or free enterprise or anything else, he becomes an enemy of his community and of his country."

It actually destroys what he may pretend or even think he is protecting. Those who resort to violence feeling that they have struck a blow for freedom have in fact struck a blow for tyranny."

"For violence never solves human problems, it only creates more. Violence—disrespect for the law—can never be condoned and must be stopped."

THE EDITORIAL quotes Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia: "It is a form of anarchy to say that a person need not comply with a particular statute which he disagrees with. There is a government of laws, not of men, and our society cannot tolerate the philosophy that obedience to law rests upon the personal likes or dislikes of any individual citizen, whether he supports or opposes the statute in question."

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From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

The ingenuity of the food processors continues to intrigue us. We still approach the frozen food containers at the grocery store with a residue of wonder, remembering the days when most food preparation was done in the home rather than by the processors. And new marvels keep appearing on the scene. The modern housewife buys not only flavor, but convenience. And soon, we are told, it will be possible in many cases to consume what is inside the package without even removing the wrapper. The container will be flexible, clear, colorless—and either tasteless or suitably flavored. It will be used for packaging frozen foods, candy, cereals and perhaps even vitamin capsules. The edible package will be the last word—until something even more sensational comes along.

Resistance to the idea of using profits as an economic regulator is declining in Russia. Next thing you know, the fire sale will be okayed as an economic stimulant.

Campaigns are intensively educational, all right. Look how many ordinary people become political experts overnight.

President Johnson says he misses former President Truman, but Republicans don't feel that way. They find they're still just mild about Harry.

A Chinese official calls Johnson and Goldwater "jackals of the same lair." With such a talent for discussing the issues, he ought to be over here campaigning.

There's always something to come along and take the fun out of life. Here was our neighbor Joe the other day, all set up about the four-pound bass (well, just a shade under four pounds) he had managed with consummate skill to extract from the waters of Mud Lake. He no sooner paused for breath than someone asked, "Did you know about the kid that caught a big sting ray down in Florida?" That three Joe off his stride. Before he could get back to describing how the bass nearly got away among some lily pads, attention was focused on the sting ray episode. It turned out that a 15-year-old lad battled the monster for almost 10 hours before divers gaffed it and hauled it to the beach. It weighed 376 pounds. Three... hundred... seventy... pounds. Nineteen hours. Joe was kind of quiet the rest of the evening. Next week end he's going to play golf.

Maury Bill says the stolen base will be obsolete if the walk rule is not enforced. Other kinds of stealing probably will continue to flourish.

Stevenson endorses Robert Kennedy for the Senate as "the strongest available Democratic candidate"—which may be his way of saying he himself was not available.

The National Farmers Organization blocks livestock trucks to strengthen its holding action. That may influence people, but it's no way to win friends for NFO.

Eight per cent of American homes have dishwashers. This percentage is bound to grow as husbands demand more freedom.

