

## Why a Teen Consultant?

As part of a continuing program of community service and as an indication of our interest in the young people of this area, The Birmingham Eccentric has once again hired a teen consultant.

This young man—Richard Swaney, a Seaholm senior held in esteem by his classmates as well as his teachers—will assist us in covering and interpreting news concerning our teen-agers.

Two of his major responsibilities will be to select a Teen of the Week from the schools in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area and to set up a periodic teen symposium.

**PURPOSE OF THE** first is to report on the goals, beliefs and actions of some teens that might offer guidance and inspiration for others; to cite examples worthy of being followed on the path to adulthood.

Teen symposia were established by this newspaper last spring as an open forum to give teens an opportunity to express themselves on matters of interest and concern to them. Here was an opportunity for teens to be heard in the community, to have a direct hand in managing their own affairs. They could determine the usefulness of their lives.

**OUR CONSULTANT** last spring conducted a poll among the students in area schools which brought out their wishes

for a teen center and their ideas on how one should be operated.

This subject was discussed at each of The Eccentric-sponsored symposia. The teens were given a chance to crystallize their thinking and to let the community know just what they were interested in accomplishing.

We hope that the symposia to be conducted this fall will be as fruitful as their predecessors. We realize that much can be achieved through them.

**IF OUR TEEN-agers** are to be a vital force in our community, they must have the opportunity to express their wants, to discuss their problems and to offer some of the leadership and action that will be needed to solve them.

They must be able to run their own affairs with a minimum of adult supervision and guidance.

The Birmingham Eccentric is pleased to obtain the services of our teen consultant, to offer assistance to teen-agers in determining their role as responsible, useful citizens and to report, as nearly as possible in their own words, the thinking and the actions of our young people.

As they strive to create an image of themselves as honorable and productive members of society, we are ready to help them portray this image to the community.

## Let's Play It Safe

Perhaps you noticed that the neighborhood seemed a little quieter last Thursday. There was good reason for it: the kids were back in school.

More than 22,000 Birmingham-Bloomfield area students returned to classes. Each week day they will be traveling to and from the schools.

This means more children on our streets during peak traffic periods. Consequently, motorists should be on guard more than ever.

Greater attention must be given to intersections and parked cars, watching for that unexpected dash across the street. We urge every driver to be aware of school hours and to remember that a child pedestrian is, by nature and inexperience, often oblivious to the perils of today's heavily motorized streets and roads.

**CERTAINLY,** the speed limits must be observed. There is no safe excuse for exceeding the limit in school zones. And it will pay to drive a little slower than normal in the nonschool areas, too.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

By sending copies of the best Ranger moon photographs to the leaders of almost every nation on earth, President Johnson achieves several worthwhile things. At the very least, this gesture dramatically symbolizes our country's intention and practice of sharing with others the fruits of scientific research in space. This is in emphatic contrast to the miserably Soviet release of space data. The photographs also will underscore the extent to which the U.S. space program has now taken the lead. The propaganda value of this will be considerable. Most important, President Johnson has chosen this occasion to restate this country's position that the community of nations should keep "the peaceful realms of space off limits to the designs of aggressors..." The importance of that, as man enters the space age, cannot be over-emphasized.

Another romantic occupation, lighthouse keeping, is on the way out. The Coast Guard, which has jurisdiction over all lighthouses, says that only 36 civilian lighthouse keepers are left. As these retire they will be replaced by Coast-guardians. These now operate 250 of the 287 manned lighthouses—a number, incidentally, reduced from the 400 in existence 10 years ago. The need for lighthouses along our shores is lessened by the more than 40,000 navigational aids, such as buoys, fog signals, radio beacons and loran stations. Thus the disappearance of the lighthouse keeper's job is another instance of the inroads made by technology.

The farm population declines steadily, but 1964 corn and wheat estimates are up about 10 million bushels from last month's forecast. If more people leave the farm, production will go up out of sight.

Reporters back from Cuba say Castro's still a popular hero. And those with whom he's not so popular don't make a point of mentioning it.

President Johnson sends pictures of the moon to heads of 110 nations. And soon he'll send pictures of himself to anyone who'll take one.

In England a "shapely redhead" wearing a topless evening dress caused a stir at the theater. It must be that redheads are a bit unusual in England.

Our society is so well ordered, these days, that it is easy to fall into the habit of assuming that organizations can do everything. The basket for the poor has been supplanted by the Community Fund and welfare agencies and so forth. In general, this is a good thing, since organizations can do many things beyond individual reach. It is still true, however, that individuals can take action and not simply say, in effect, "Let George do it." The point is illustrated by a little story about a New York song-and-dance man who is driving a cab while "at liberty." Paul Raynard has been gathering clothes from his fares for eventual shipment to distressed families in the Appalachian area. When winter comes, the world will be a little better for such families because of what this modest young man has taken upon himself to do.

Dickson says Goldwater now is on the main track. Thus Barry's all set for a whistle-stop campaign.

There'll be more inside space in many new car models, but little change in the drivers' heads—which will be as empty as ever.

## Save 4 Cents by Driving 8 Miles



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Matterhorn Is Scaled By B'ham Mountaineer

To the Editor:

I have been travelling throughout Europe for the last five weeks visiting, taking pictures and for business purposes. Knowing that many residents of Birmingham are well-travelled, I felt that an item that has some interest could be well appreciated.

The last seven days I spent in Zermatt, Switzerland, to train for the ascent of the Matterhorn (14,792 feet). I have climbed the Matterhorn, which has made me very happy and has been my life's ambition. It was in the preparation of the ascent that I found to be interesting and quite revealing to climbers and mountaineers alike.

The people who climb the Matterhorn are of all nationalities, which include Americans, English, German, Swiss, Norwegian, French, etc. They all meet at the base of the Matterhorn preparing for the climb the following morning at the Matterhorn-Hutte, sometimes called the Belvedere Hotel.

USUALLY A CABLE car takes them from Zermatt (elev. 1465 m.) to a place called Schwarzeneg (elev. 2582 m.). From here, with a ruck sack on your back you walk for two hours plus to the Belvedere Hotel (elev. 3200 m.) where you must arrive preferably before the sun sets.

Facilities at the hotel are primitive but clean. There is no running water and snow used for cooking. There is no electricity (See MATTERHORN, 2-B)

Being stationed only a few miles from Augusta, Ga., the scene of the annual Master's Golf Tournament, I am a member in good standing of Arnie's Army (Palmer), and like to follow the action wherever the champ is concerned. Although he did not win the Open, we members of his "legion" that are stationed at Fort Gordon road with excitement of his playing in this match.

### Lauds Coverage Of World Open

To the Editor:

I write this letter in appreciation of a job well done by your sports staff as far as the coverage of the Curling World Open, recently held in Birmingham, is concerned. The pictures were terrific, and the stories even better.

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I speak for many fans of Arnie, as well as, I am sure, the majority of Augustans, when I thank Birmingham for being the courteous, warm, and friendly community I remember it as being, where the pros "took over" for the duration of the Open.

SP4 GEORGE DWELLEY, Fort Gordon, Ga.

## Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

September 18, 1914

T. C. Williams had a very thrilling runaway on West Maple Avenue Sunday. Witnesses say that Mr. Williams gave his steed a gentle flick with the whip then all the stunts in the three ringed circus vanished in comparison. The trusty nag "walked" right out of the harness, and one-stepped down the street, leaving the occupants sitting calmly in the buggy. No one was hurt, but just a trifle surprised.

Plans for limiting the holding of but one library card to a family is being discussed by the board of the Baldwin Public Library, according to a member of the board. The member said that it has been found that in one instance, there are five library cards in one family. This means that a new book from Baldwin could be kept in the family for at least five weeks. This is unfair, according to the member, and the board hopes to do something about it.

Down at the state fair grounds very lately, Postmaster Mitchell went in the captive balloon said to go up 1,000 feet tied down with a string. On making a safe return, an enthusiastic farmer friend of Mitchell's slapped him on the back. (See HAPPENINGS, 3-B)

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Offers 6 Recommendations To Cut Down on Speeding

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter sent to Michigan Gov. George W. Romney.

Dear Governor Romney: Fortunately most of us survived another Labor Day week end. Twenty-one Michiganders did not. Some 500 other Americans did not.

There is far too much talk about the shocking increase in traffic deaths in Michigan and far too little being done about it. The writer has opened his mouth on this subject before and will continue to do so until some discernible action is taken, something more down-to-earth than urging drivers to turn on their headlights in the daytime.

THERE ARE some highway safety experts who deny that speeding is the major cause of traffic fatalities. I flatly reject their stand. I am not concerned whether speeding alone or speeding mixed with alcohol is to blame—it should be obvious to anyone who reads the newspaper accounts that driving too fast for conditions is the prime cause of most fatal accidents.

This letter will concern itself only with speeding although the writer recognizes that many

other factors must be considered in dealing with the problem of highway safety.

Here are six recommendations:

1. Repeat the 65 mph speed limit law.

This is one of the most ill-advised pieces of legislation ever passed in Michigan. The maximum allowable speed on non-16 mile (Big Beaver) where the posted speed is 30 mph. The limit on unimproved roads should be 50.

2. Abolish posted speeds of 55, 45, 35 and 25 mph. Starting with the present limit of 70 mph on expressways and throughways, all reductions should be in 10-mile increments from 70 down to 30. It is far easier for drivers to recognize the figures 50 - 60 - 50 - 40 - 30 - 20 than 65 - 55 - 45 - 35 - 25. A total of six limits is certainly preferable to eleven.

3. Lower nighttime speeds. For all daytime limits the nighttime limit should be 10 miles less. The present 70 mph allowable nighttime speed on expressways and throughways means that some drivers are traveling at or in excess of 75 mph. This is obviously inviting trouble.

4. Establish reasonable speed limits.

There are many stretches where posted limits are unreasonably low or dangerously high. An example is the new five-lane stretch of Southfield south of 13 Mile where the posted speed is 40 mph. This is absurd and only encourages disregard for speed laws.

5. Tighter Enforcement. This may well be partly a problem of more state troopers, but it is even more a problem of failure of present law enforcement officers to do their job. If drivers were convinced that the state laws were being tightly enforced, cars would not be passing one on I-96 and I-75 at 80 and 90 mph.

6. Tougher penalties. The point system does not seem to be the answer to speeding. A minimum fine of \$100 and loss of driver's license for six months for the second offense might produce some surprising results.

WILLIAM LYMAN 5395 Hickory Bend Bloomfield Hills

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Maybe it is because it is an election year, or maybe I have been downright ornery in the last couple of weeks, but my mail shows that some of my readers take issue on some of the columns.

For instance, yesterday I received a letter addressed to "Comrad Hogan" which called me Socialistic and a few other political clichés.

It was signed by a gentleman who works over at the Post Office.

I AM SURE he didn't fight the recent federal pay raise, and that he is working for a federal pension, as well as contributing to Social Security.

And, I would guess that, if he bought a home, he did it with an F.H.A. insured mortgage.

But, I am a Socialist?

To counter this letter I received several claiming I was a "mosaic conservative" because of my stand on rearmament.

Either my policy varies from week to week or my faithful readers read things into the column. But then, I shouldn't complain because they have to read the column to criticize it.

I do try to answer most of the letters, but sometimes I have to wait until I cool down a little.

AN ASSOCIATE of mine suggested that I save some time in answering letters by preparing a form letter for those who differ with my opinion. It would go something like this:

"Dear Sir: I think you should know that some crackpot has been using your stationery and signing your name to letters. Very truly yours,"

I have received many other letters, including one thanking me for not running for public office, signed by my children, and one from a little old lady up north thanking us at the Eccentric for having such big papers during the newspaper strike.

IT SEEMS it was a cold August up north and what with starting fires in the fireplace and wrapping garbage, you need a big paper.

I thanked her and told her that it would have been embarrassing if we had gotten smaller during the strike. Well, so much for letters. Labor Day is past, and it is time to go back to work.

## City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Everyone must have rules to live by; not rules that are hard and fast, but guidelines that give direction and meaning.

This is particularly true for children. They must have certain signs to help them choose which paths to follow to adulthood.

A reader of this column who calls herself "Interested Mother of Six" sends along a "code of ethics" which she typed up for her children to post in their rooms with the beginning of the school term.

"Your Future Is Limited Only by Yourself" is the heading for her code, which follows:

Cherish self-discipline, education, individual responsibility and the spirit of voluntary work for the private good.

Whatever YOU want—it's up to YOU!

Where there's a will, there's a way. Good things don't come easily, they have to be sought and developed. Accomplishments are made through determination and hard work.

Your accomplishments are reflected by your attitudes. Success equals Morals, Manners, Work and Prayer.

Think!

Be confident.

Genius is the capacity to learn!

For good study habits:

Plan a regular time to study.

Be sure you understand the assignment.

Keep a "Things I have to do" list.

Allow plenty of time. (Haste makes waste.)

When your mind begins to wander, stop and rest.

Return later with a goal.

Do your own work.

Do your hardest work first. Get it out of the way.

Have good attitudes!

Have a regular place to study.

Have a good dictionary nearby, and use it!

Learn to take class notes.

Underline the important words.

Make a mental picture of it.

Think!

Take part in class discussions.

Discipline your mind and study habits. (Lack of good study habits indicates plain inattention and laziness.)

Use of your subjects cannot be well-learned by just "swallowing"; they have to be well thought on, or "chewed".

As you memorize facts, try to understand the principles involved (to avoid having to suffer from mental indigestion).

There is no greater reward or self-satisfaction attained than in achieving your goal.

Progress—seek new challenges to conquer!

Nothing great can be accomplished without determination and hard work!

The "Interested Mother of Six," who believes that "our future is our youth," goes on to say:

"As for the basic criteria of achievement and citizenship," it might indeed be well for all of us adults to also deliberate."

So all right, let's deliberate. And let's adopt a code of ethics for ourselves and for our youngsters.

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