

# Mother's advice: leave school, learn a trade

ON THAT fateful morning years ago when Mother decided she needed help to raise her family of five children, she turned to her only son and said, "You will have to leave school and go to work."

His chin dropped. He had been head of his class in high school and was looking ahead to some good times. But he realized that his mother's wishes came first.

Before he could comment, Mother said, "I want you to learn a trade. I don't care which one it is, but learning a trade will be important."

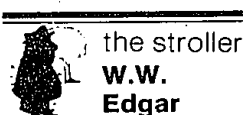
She waited for a bit of reaction, then said, "Learning a trade is like going to school. And remember, going to school is learning a trade, but the main thing is that what you have in your head no one can steal from you."

FORTUNATELY, THE Atlas Cement Co., a few miles away, had openings for young fellows desirous of learning a trade. And The Stroller went to work on a four-year program to become a machinist.

It was the second time he actually had learned a trade. The first time came when his father took him to the poolroom that was part of our little lunch counter and told him he would have to learn to shoot pool so he could help with the customers who wanted to play the game.

Strangely, he didn't hand The Stroller a cue. Instead he told him that he should roll the balls down the table and get to learn how they twisted and turned. It seemed simple, but balls on a pool table have a funny way of twisting.

Then Father gave him this advice: "You will have to learn all the angles." That was one of the greatest bits of advice he ever received. For in no



the stroller  
**W.W.  
Edgar**

business or trade can you get along until you have learned all the angles.

For most of the past year, some time was spent every day just rolling the balls up and down the table. This eventually paid off. For when he was only 12 years old, The Stroller had won the Lehigh Valley Junior championship.

It paid to learn a trade.

IT WAS THE same when he was taught how to open oysters. In those days, you didn't stab them. You had to hit them and open the shell. It was quite a trick, but The Stroller learned it.

The Father passed away, and Mother was left with her five children and a lot of problems.

They reached a head when she told The Stroller he would have to leave school and learn a trade. He did just that and became the night "boss" in a machine shop of the large Bethlehem Steel Co. The trade had paid off well.

It wasn't long until he found out that life's highway has many twists and turns. When work slackened in the machine shop, Lady Luck took him in to our small-town newspaper. He was fascinated by the work on the old flatbed press.

So he got started in a new line, and that took him to the journalism trade which he has followed for more than 60 years.

It helped to prove that learning a trade is important. It is something that not many of the young fellows of today realize.

The warning to them should be what The Stroller's father warned him:

"You've got to learn the angles."

## State auctions 14 land parcels

Fourteen parcels of excess state highway property in Muskegon, Oakland and Wayne counties will be offered for sale at public auction May 16 in Southfield. The auction will begin at 2 p.m. in the lower level of the city's Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen.

A brochure containing sketches, descriptions and locations of the parcels may be obtained from MDOT's Right of Way Office, 25020 Kenosha, Oak Park, MI 48237.

## Getting it right

Due to a source error, the votes of several area state representatives were incorrectly reported in a recent story on the moderate Republican conference.

Reps. Lyn Bankes of Livonia, David Honigman of West Bloomfield and Judith Miller of Birmingham voted against a measure that would have called for a federal constitutional convention to consider a balanced budget amendment. That measure lost, 51-55.

All three voted in favor of a resolution urging Congress to adopt a balanced budget amendment, omitting the call for a con-ven. It passed 97-10.



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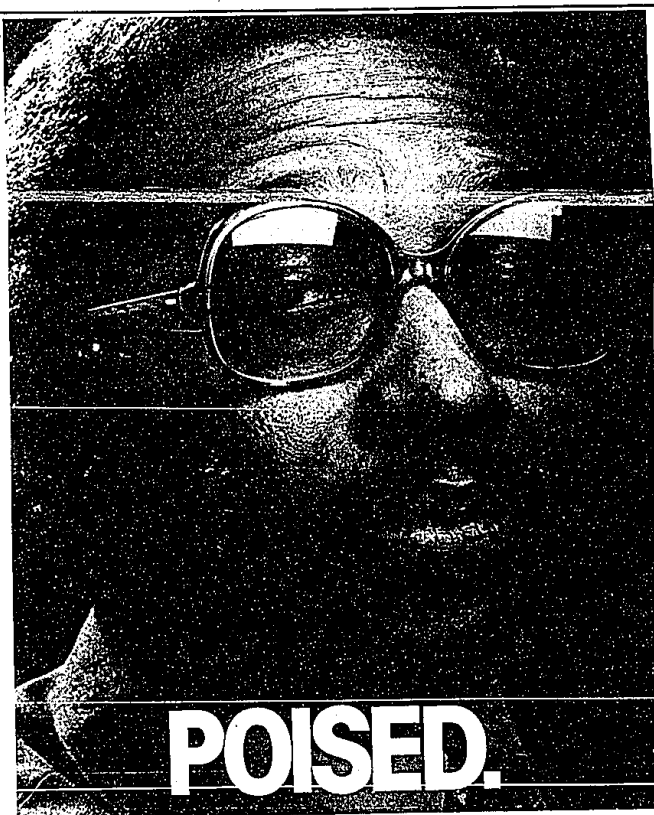
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**POISED.**

That one word certainly describes Floyd Best, a coach operator out of the Oakland terminal. In fact, during his almost six years of service at SEMTA, being poised has been just part of the job.

How poised is he? One day while driving his route he noticed a child about to wander out into the street unescorted. Floyd quickly checked traffic, then pulled his bus across both lanes to stop all oncoming vehicles. The child was safe. A frantic mother, finally realizing her child was missing, arrived on the scene with grateful appreciation. And Floyd drove away "feeling real good about preventing a potential tragedy."

Poised. That's Floyd Best. But he also brings other outstanding qualities to the job — just like all SEMTA people who make SEMTA the bus system that works. They're simply doing their best to be the best. As for Floyd, it just means doing it with poise.

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