

# Editorial Page

## Want to Live Longer? . . .

Here's one method: become buddies with that person figgeting in the back seat of your car—or right there beside you, for that matter.

Two heads are better than one when they're behind the wheel of a car. That's what the National Safety Council thinks, too. The so-called back seat driver may hold the solution to the traffic accident problem.

We're in favor of motorists combining their driving knowledge and skill with the help other passengers in the car can give. The term "back seat driver" has a bad connotation. The motorist who's been subjected to nagging "advice" from the rear understandably takes a dim view of interference with his driving. But with the proper spirit on both sides, back seat drivers can be a real help.

How?  
1. Let your wife, for example, who used to sit with nothing to do on a trip, be your co-pilot. Her observations—a car sneaking out from a side street, a quick turn in the road ahead—can take a big load off your mind.

2. Studies show that the irritated driver is more accident prone. The wife can help hubby cool off when he's upset over slow-moving cars or heavy traffic.

3. Giving other persons in your car something to keep them from getting bored makes the trip go faster for both of you—and keeps friction at a minimum.

In addition to her lookout duties, the back seat driver can handle many other details to make motoring more relaxing.

Successful business men well know the value of delegating authority. Yet, behind the wheel of a car an executive will try to handle the whole job of driving—sometimes with disastrous results.

Giving responsibilities eases your job of driving. It may save a life—yours, or the life of the back seat driver who used to get on your nerves.

## Prof. Henry S. Commanger . . .

told students of journalism at the University of Michigan not long ago that American newspapers are sensational, provincial and anti-intellectual. He said their editorial policies are almost always "namby-pamby."

It isn't surprising to find Prof. Commanger complaining about newspapers. His leftist theories of public ownership and his political ideals just don't happen to agree with those of many editors. But what is surprising is that in one breath he calls newspaper editorial policies "namby-pamby" and in the next he complains they continually preach "to our young against public enterprise."

Undoubtedly he'd be much happier if the press would assume a "namby-pamby" attitude and make no protest against public ownership projects which are sustained by taxpayers and which compete against taxpaying private enterprise. Fundamentally, the trouble with the newspapers is that their editorial thinking doesn't agree with the Commanger left wing philosophies.

One of his difficulties is that Commanger isn't arguing with just the newspapers; he's at issue with the American people. Not long ago, he said the people were hysterical over communism because they protested what he considered a harmless speech by a Russian-born woman, before students of a Washington, D. C., high school. He wrote in a published article, "She said nothing any normal person could find objectionable." Further, that nowhere in her talk was there "a single disparagement of anything American." Yet this was the speech in which the speaker said, according to the National Review, "I never appreciated the life in Russia until I live here (America). Here you have to work hard to live, use all your courage not to die."

That woman was entitled to her opinion, but the fact that Prof. Commanger feels such obvious propaganda for the Communist cause is a proper presentation in an American school is an eloquent picture of his thinking.

What's New With **OUR NEIGHBORS**

**BIRMINGHAM** — A five-man committee has been selected by the city to study better utilization of all Birmingham municipal parking areas, as well as to see what could be done to encourage proper commercial development of the downtown area.

His appointment followed commissioners' brief comments Monday night that business development had not anywhere near approached expectations as a result of the \$800,000 worth of money the city has spent on its four parking lots.

A letter submitted to the commission by local real estate man, Fred C. Pews, reads in part as follows:

"In the absence of any considerable industrial area, Birmingham needs a sound commercial tax base to supplement the considerable residential assessed valuation — else residents will soon rebel against excessive home taxation.

"If potential downtown merchants are diverted to the areas outside the city limits because of parking limitations, then Birmingham's downtown areas will slowly wither away and the city is expected to lose too many of its city workers."

—The Birmingham Eclectic.

**PLYMOUTH** — Most Plymouth area people will be paying higher taxes again this year, according to figures released this week from the Wayne County Bureau of Taxation.

Equalization is the factor added to local assessments by the tax bureau which they feel will bring every governmental unit and school district on par with the others. The State Tax Commission is still withholding its decision on an equalization tax factor the school and county taxes are based.

Last year the state added about 10 percent to all Wayne County valuations. If the same is done this year, which is expected, the school districts' equalized valuation will run between \$80 and \$85 million.

The City of Plymouth will get the heaviest increase because of a complete re-assessment job performed by the Wayne Bureau of Taxation. Although the City Commission didn't object to the re-assessment because they felt many assessments were placed too high, the county still had the reassessment figures on which to base its equalized figures.

The county equalized figure set for the city this year is about 20 percent higher than last year. Last year the county placed an approximate \$19 1/2 million value on the city. This year they announced it would be \$23,403,710. When the city is equalized to that, the total city valuation, as equalized, will be between 26 and 27 million dollars, the city manager said.

—The Plymouth Mail.

**SOUTHFIELD** — Negotiations between the City of Southfield and the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission to obtain a loan of \$187,000 was approved by the city council in special session last week.

The city, at this time, has a few thousand dollars on hand and the payroll is being met out of township funds. In immediate need of cash for operations, the city has notified the areas largest taxpayer, Northland Center, that advanced payment of taxes in the amount of \$30,000 would be welcomed.

It is estimated that, if the city is to meet its bills, approximately \$135,000 will be needed during the interim period, April 28 through June 30.

Sales and intangibles money in the amount of about \$20,000, accruing through May and June, will be due the city in August.

The proposed \$187,000 loan, if cleared on expected schedule by MMFC will be available in early June.

—The Southfield News.

**LIVONIA** — Looking a law suit in the face, the four Livonia Councilmen last week blocked a request for a "storm retention basin" to permit new home construction at Merriman and Schermerhorn streets.

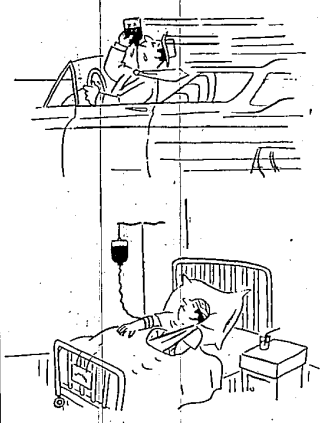
The council split 4-3 on the issue. Approval in principal was given to the storm retention basin by the council in January providing certain conditions by the builders were met. These conditions have now been met but strong public protest to such a basin in the interim period has apparently swung the council "block" against granting such a project.

The council action taken was that the builders could erect houses if they provided their own permanent storm sewers but that basins would not be permitted.

The builders contend that they have spent a great deal of money preparing for basins and will fight the matter in court.

—The Livonian.

## The Road Toll by Jerry Marcus



The Traveler's Safety Service

A drink at the wheel makes an expensive cocktail.

## MICHIGAN MIRROR by Elmer White

### State Income Tax A Big Issue For 1959 Legislative Sessions

A STATE INCOME TAX is being pushed by economists and government leaders.

The new levy is expected to be the key point of the search for more money during the 1959 legislative session, hard on the heels of a heated election year.

Income tax, long thought to be the fairest levy possible, remained as a theory for Michigan until the legislative study committee came up with a tentative report a week ago.

"Even as a flat rate tax, it is the most equitable and progressing levy," said the report.

Experts working with the committee said that the heaviest tax burden now falls on low-income groups, while the income tax is spread with equal impact over all income groups.

Other sections of the report, however, said that low-income groups, which now pay a disproportionate share of the state's revenue, benefit most from the services the state offers.

The report pointed to welfare and other items aimed directly for the benefit of the indigent.

In Michigan, the constitution requires uniform taxation rather than allowing a graduated tax schedule, similar to that used in computing the brackets of the federal income tax.

The way around that, lawmakers of the committee said, is to levy a uniform tax by rate and provide exemption, either \$500 a year like the Federal government or \$1,000 a year, like some states.

Republicans, cognizant of the state's financial crisis, appreciate extra money for the legislative budget because they anticipate a longer session in 1959 to handle tax problems.

The income tax has drawn their ire, but not necessarily political support for key figures in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

The timing of the legislative study took them off the hook in an election year.

Several years ago, an income tax proposal came before the legislature with a \$10,000 exemption and reductions of the sales tax on food, but failed to get out of committee.

The only outspoken advocate of

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
By Dr. GEORGE S. BENSON  
DIRECTOR - NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
SERVING ALABAMA

**STAN MUSIAL AND PROGRESS**

It would be interesting to know what the crowd reaction would be if the official scorer at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, home of the St. Louis Cardinals, recorded Stan Musial's batting average at .287. Every baseball fan knows that Musial's average today is near .500 per cent. However, if the crowd spread or averaged out the nine men in the lineup for a recent Cardinals-Milwaukee game, the average for each player would be .287 — including Musial.

That would mean the roster would take more than 200 percentage points from the other leading Cardinals batters — and spread them out among the less capable. Every player on the St. Louis roster would be equal — so far as the averages were concerned — and would the fans stand for this? They take pride in his high batting average. They go out to the stadium to watch this outstanding hitter crack the home-ride.

Ability Pays Off

Musial gets paid on the basis of his batting and his other outstanding abilities. His salary naturally is much larger than that of any other Cardinal player. If the official scorer did take away part of Musial's batting percentage and spread it out among the other players, and the Cardinals management established an "average" salary for all players, regardless of ability, determination, spirit and personal industry, the profession of baseball would lose its zest for most of the players and, I imagine, the fans, too.

It is the rule or philosophy of "equality" when applied to personal ability — among a group of people — sooner or later has a smothering effect on initiative, and ultimately it breaks down the normal dynamic impulses and capabilities which are inherent among free people in a competitive society. It weakens the productive rate of any group; it hobbles back progress.

Useful Functions

Organized labor unions were created to perform useful services in our American economic system. Collective bargaining by a group of employees with their employer is one of these basically useful services. Constant work toward the improvement of the employees working conditions and income is another. However, some labor unions have fallen into the hands of Communists whose primary objective is to foment constant strife between employer and employee; and some labor unions have been dominated for years by leaders dedicated to achieving a Socialist America.

The policies and practices of some of the non-Communist, non-Socialist labor leaders have not always been wise. One of the fundamental flaws in much of the organized labor movement today, in my opinion, is the insistence in many unions that everybody is "equal" in ability on a given job. Some unions are on record for instance, as opposed to wage incentives. In an industrial plant, to them, there can be no Stan Musials or Ted Williams, no major leaguers batting and running the bases, and showing a competitive spirit.

An Unwise Policy

One Collective Bargaining report says that incentive pay "creates friction between workers," that it is based "on the notion that workers will not perform an honest day's work unless they are bribed by the promise of 'extra' money." Incentive pay is based on no such notion. Every activity involving

(Continued on Page 6B)

## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 18, 1933)

Things Turn Bright  
Farmington City's financial situation turned suddenly from dark and trouble to a rosy hue within the past week. As a result, issuance of city scrip has been avoided and the city now has over \$2,500 for use in paying salaries and bills.

A further happy circumstance is that the Farmington School District No. 5 will receive \$100 in cash with which it can pay off some of its obligations.

The money was finally freed after lengthy conferences between Mayor Warner, City Treasurer L. C. Thyner and officials of the Oakland County Treasurer's office.

Northwestern Highway  
Action to test the legality of building Northwestern Highway through Southfield Township and a portion of Farmington Township is now possible as a result of a series of meetings now being held by property owners of the assessment district.

The legal question is whether enough signatures have been obtained on petitions calling for construction of the highway.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 20, 1948)

School Modifications  
Modifications in building plans for all three school units to be built in the Farmington Township School District will be necessary, it was announced this week. The lowest bid price runs about \$35,000 over the amount of money available for the construction of the new Noble-William Grace area school, the Board School addition and the new school unit to be built at the Farmington City site.

The Board of Education authorized the school architect to contact the two lowest bidders and see if modifications can be made that will conform with the budget allowance.

FIVE YEARS AGO (May 21, 1953)

School Operations  
A millage tax levy question for school operational funds will be put to a vote of the people at the June 8 school election. Under the terms of the proposed proposition, 4.3 mills would be levied in 1953-54 and 2.5 from 1954 to 1956, inclusive.

The kind of program asked for by the people will require this additional money, school officials commented. The need for this additional amount of money is based on the county equalized valuation figure for the district of \$21,168,674 as set by the Tax Allocation Board this week.

At a meeting of the Citizens School Committee almost unanimous approval of placing this millage question to a vote of the people was given. It was the committee's expressed belief that this additional operating money would be needed to provide a good educational program in the Farmington public school system.

Parking Lot  
A land survey and engineering has been completed on the proposed public parking lot to be located just south of the stores on Grand River and east of Farmington Road, City Manager James Tennant announced this week.

Tennant stated that plans are now being made to contact the owners of the property regarding sale to the city. The manager stated that condemnation proceedings may be necessary if an agreement cannot be reached.

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23623 Farmington Road Farmington, Michigan Telephone Greenleaf 4-6225

Established in 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week at the City of Farmington and entered at the Post Office in Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as second-class matter under Act of March 3, 1879.

RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher  
J. DEE ELLIS, Manager  
MICHAEL J. KILEY, Editor  
GEORGE E. EVANS, Advertising Manager  
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**NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION** REGULAR MEMBER

**NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES** MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, 2341 Lansing, Michigan

**WEEKLY NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE, INC.** 1125 Broadway Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich. 49401

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Snails are found on land, in ponds, even in the ocean. Most have shells. Land snails with shells are called slugs. Most eat vegetable matter, but the sea snail drills into oyster shells and feeds on them. Snails are considered a delicacy in some countries. In France they are raised for table in the gardens. Britannica Jr., the encyclopedia for home and school.