

EDITORIALS

ON YOUTH

It's the main subject of conversation nowadays in Syracuse. It's also the main subject of conversation in many another town and city across the land. Neither is it strange to the month nor to the degree. We have in mind the reckless driving practices of the teen-age youth and some of the wanton antics associated with youth and driving.

Stories of speeding and misbehavior in driving have been brought to our attention steadily over the past month, and at an increasing rate. The pumpkin episode along our city streets last Friday night all but brought the accumulating grievances to a bursting point much as did the pumpkins upon making contact with the concrete.

We have no brief to bear with those who violate traffic regulations—adult or youth—in fact, the sight of a motorist careening about a corner or playing hide and seek with a nearby tree or parked car or even pedestrians for that matter, causes our hair to bristle and our blood temperature to soar all too quickly.

On the other hand, we recognize that youth are essentially just that—youth. They are basically as their forefathers yesterday, their parents today, and their grandchildren tomorrow. It isn't too difficult for the parents of today to recall some of the devilish pranks and doings common with youth of yesterday. For the sake of keeping the record straight, they did a lot of devilish things too.

The youth of today are little different than the youth of yesterday. Basically, they are the personification of all that which youth stands for in our interpretation—ambition, eagerness, undue energy, experimental, daring, brave and hardy. Each is an admirable trait and each trait has a marked latitude in which it can most efficiently operate. That's about the same as saying that we all envy and endeavor to possess these same characteristics IF they are not carried to extremes.

Those who damn the youth and proclaim that they are leading this country to hell are shortsighted and have extremely poor memories. Quite the contrary, our youth will make our country and not break it; they will progress, not regress, and the same youth we denounce and look upon with grave concern will be our co-workers and leaders within a few short years.

In the matter of offering some aid in the solution to our youth problem in Syracuse, and more especially the accompanying evils of driving an auto, we address our remarks to the respective groups involved:

To the YOUTH: You've got quite a bit of spare time on your hands. You're young and full of ideas of all sorts. And, you've got a car. It doesn't make much difference whether you've got the family car for five minutes or for the day—the temptations hovering about a steering wheel easily exceed the length of this column. The desire to find out how much pickup the eight cylinders will produce; how fast will it go in 60 seconds from dead stop; at what speed will it take a five degree sloping corner; what's its best speed on the straightaway; and "watch me pull up to a quick stop at this stop sign and scare the driver on the other road." Then too, we recognize that boys are drawn to a car like a magnet, and girls are little different. This fact adds a come-on for the boys to display their newly simonized cars to their girl friends as well as the "superman" abilities of the car in manner in which we have just stated. It also allows youth to travel to nearby towns and "take advantage" or "get away with murder" along strange thoroughfares.

Yes, we think we know most of the answers, and admittedly, we know most of the answers thru experience. We like to think though that our experiences were gained by means of some degree of moderation. At least, we feel they were. And that's exactly our point: Go ahead and drive. Go ahead and have a good time, but whatever your plan of action or doing, do it with moderation and within reason.

Excessive speeding—you gain nothing, you risk everything—your neck. Fifty and 55 miles an hour will get you there just as quickly as 60 and 70. Try it sometime. You'll be surprised. If not, go ahead and drive 60 and 70 and what do you do after you get there? Yes, we know that one too—you either set and wait or rack your brain to figure out some devilish prank to consume the time.

You say you want to test your brakes? That's a specialized task and it takes some expensive equipment to determine the effectiveness of a car's brakes. Testing brakes by employing a quick "sporting" stop merely quickens a visit to a genuine brake testing firm.

To hear us old fuddy duds talk, you'd think a fellow couldn't have any fun anymore, you say. Not at all. Go ahead and have fun, and truly enjoy yourself, but let's practice a little moderation and appreciation for people, property and laws while we are at it. By and large, the laws were made for your protection. And if you wish, you may consider each law a transgression on our liberties. Don't be a party to curtailing the liberties you now have.

Events of Yesterday

FIVE YEARS AGO

OCT. 15, 1948.

Mrs. Dale Grimes, Mrs. Loren Eyer, Mrs. Calvin Beck and Mrs. Roy Wilkinson spent Tuesday in South Bend.

Mrs. Raymond Newcomer underwent a major operation in the Goshen hospital.

Mrs. Dewey Faulkner spent Monday and Tuesday with relatives in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Joe Bushong underwent a major operation in Memorial hospital in South Bend.

A son, Douglas Warren, was born Oct. 8, to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Coy.

A daughter, Janice Marie, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Auer Oct. 11.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Van Hemer of Goshen, have purchased the Turkey Creek homestead of Cha Harris and have moved there.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bushong and Mrs. Ora Bushong will spend the week end in Muncie with Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wingart.

The first heavy frost of the season came Wednesday night. Ice on windshields was reported by early rising motorists.

Dr. and Mrs. O. C. Stoelting spent a week in Owatonna, Minn., in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Wm. Bigler and family.

Mrs. Dorothy Harris left Monday to visit relatives in Omaha, Neb.

TEN YEARS AGO

OCT. 15, 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Xanders left Wednesday for a two weeks visit with their son, William and family at Omaha, Neb.

Aviation Cadet C. W. Bitzer was recently moved from Hutchinson, Kansas to Corpus Christi, Texas.

T-Sgt. Daniel Culler is now on duty with the army overseas.

Lt. and Mrs. Chas. Purdum, Jr. who have been visiting their parents, have returned to Camp Hale, Colo.

The Strugglers went Chinese when Margaret Miles and Joe Rapp entertained the Struggle Club, Oct. 9.

BUT DIDN'T IT KILL THE CAT?

Women, perhaps wrongly, perhaps rightly, are often accused of having what might be termed a disproportionately large curiousity.

Far be it from us to criticize the truth of this statement. However, if we were to wholly agree with it, we might find ourselves in an equally uncomfortable position, for we, too, possess a rather strange fascination for finding out about many things.

We think, taken cautiously, that curiosities is a fine thing. All education is based on it. Our government is based on it. Yes, even our religions are somewhat dependent on curiosities of the normal human being.

We have, on rare occasion, encountered someone whose curiosities is less than normal—sometimes, we think, completely insufficient. As in the case of many extremes this "other" extreme of curiosities, we think, is worse than being "too" curious.

Our friends who poke fun at the so-called weaker sex might profit by meeting one of these curiously-lacking individuals. Then they might wonder if their criticism was really directed at a weakness, after all.

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