

The Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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EDITORIAL

PEDESTRIAN'S RIGHTS

Motorists in Pennsylvania now know positively that they have a special duty to perform toward the pedestrians who use the highways in the absence of sidewalks. The State Supreme Court last week upheld a jury verdict in which the parents of two children who were killed by a truck had been awarded damages.

In the decision of the court, Justice Edgar H. Barnes said:

"A person walking along the right portion of a paved roadway is not required to turn and look for approaching traffic nor is he required to step off the highway to permit the automobile to pass.

"Since it is not negligent to walk along the portion of a highway in the absence of sidewalks, it cannot be held that parents who permit their children to do so are at fault.

"To hold otherwise would be to declare that it is negligent conduct to adopt the accepted and usual means of pedestrian travel along rural highways. The rights of children to walk on the highways are no less than those of adults."

While it is probable that a large percentage of those persons who use the highways or sidewalks do not reach supreme court decisions, it is hoped that no undue advantage will be taken of a situation such as this. Even though the pedestrian may be quite familiar with the operation of a motor car, he is prone to forget what a very slight acceleration may do in the way of propelling these powerful vehicles forward. The driver facing an on-coming car in the opposite direction, as well as pedestrians, often has his hands full, especially if he is being pressed from the rear by some restive driver.

One good solution to the problem would be building of pavements in all rural sections where people find it necessary to use the highways when walking. It is one way in which public money could be spent to good advantage.

EFFECT OF FARE BOOST

The Interstate Commerce Commission has granted for an eighteen-month trial period the Eastern railroads' request for a boost in passenger coach fares from two to two and one-half cents a mile. Even the commission is not sure that the increase will be beneficial to the railroads. Many others have the same doubts.

It is quite evident that the financial conditions in which the roads find themselves had much to do with the commission's decision. There is no doubting that "times are tough" with the railroads, but there is much doubt that it is the result of fare schedules which attract rather than alienate public patronage.

To what extent potential coach passengers will use the automobile and the bus is not easy to determine. Some of them will do it without a doubt, partly out of resentment, partly out of the feeling that it is cheaper, especially where a group pool the costs.

As has been stated previously in these columns, it is the welfare of the railroads as well of the traveling public which inspires the proposal that the roads increase their business by making their transportation attractive not only in streamlined equipment and faster and more frequent service, but in price as well. That formula generally works well in other lines of business. It would be odd if it proved an exception in the railroad business.

SAGE OF EMPORIA UTTERS A WARNING

"The Republicans today, looking aghast at the monument of Roosevelt's congressional achievement, think that they will destroy it when they come to power. They are fooling themselves. The lesson of the depression is found in this New Deal program. The Democrats as a party would not have adopted it without Roosevelt's leadership and the Republicans as a party will not destroy it after Roosevelt is gone. The lesson has been learned. We may reject the whole New Deal program in the emotional outburst of an election. But afterward the program will still stand."—William Allen White in the Emporia Gazette. (Rep.)

QUICK ACTION ON PLEA

"Standing before the Indiana Republican convention as its keynote speaker, Representative Bruce Barton of New York told his party some of the things Republican politicians wake up in the night worrying about but which few will admit in broad daylight," writes Raymond Clapper in his syndicated columns. "Such facing of the situation is so rare among Republicans that Barton's utterance of the obvious becomes a courageous outburst of common sense. He told the Republicans it was 'blindness' to ignore the popular appeal of Roosevelt's popularity," and said: "The answer is easy. Those men and women who have been neglected in our American life believe that they have found a friend. For the first time in the lives of many of them, there is the sense of security which friendship gives. In a job or out of a job, in funds or on relief, they say: 'He cares. He is trying to do something about it.'"

An hour and 20 minutes later, the convention nominated for U. S. Senator Raymond Willis, Angola publisher, who described himself as a "dyed-in-the-wool conservative" and a 100% Old Dealer."

SAFETY IN TRAVEL

In almost every family, sooner or later, the conversation includes a discussion, debate or battle over the relative safety of the various methods of travel that are available to the elect in the year 1938.

We cannot give you the answer for the present season but the national accurate figures are available.

In 1936 the number of passengers killed for every billion passenger miles travelled was as follows:

Trains 1; Automobile 45; scheduled planes 101; non-scheduled planes 1,622.

In other words, the train was 45 times as safe as automobiles and 101 times as safe as the scheduled airplane in transportation service. According to the law of averages you could ride, in 1936, a billion miles on a train before death was due to reach you. Even on a scheduled plane you would have been entitled to nearly 10,000,000 miles of journey before the fatal trip.

Health and Beauty

The Slaughter of the Innocents

"What shall I write about this week?" inquired the writer of a group of doctors and nurses. "Write about the dangers of leaving eye within the reach of children," responded a physician.

The cases that are brought into this hospital, of little children who are the victims of eye are appalling. Some careless mother or servant leaves this deadly stuff within reach of small hands that seize upon it and immediately try to drink it.

Those who swallow some of it are burned and seared as though they had taken a dose of carbolic acid. To some of the victims death comes as a merciful release. We succeed in saving the lives of others, but at what a fearful cost. Concentrated eye burns and sears the mucous membranes of the lips, the mouth the gullet, the stomach, or any other membrane that it touches.

If the child does not die after swallowing a small portion of eye the mouth and esophagus (gullet) are raw and sore for months. The scar tissue draws up the gullet so that the child cannot swallow food.

For experiences such difficulty that instruments have to be pushed at frequent intervals down to dilate the tube that leads from the mouth into the stomach, in order to permit the passage of food. This process is most agonizing to the child and trying to the physician. He does not always succeed in relieving the condition. He never does if the burns are too extensive and deep."

Avoid the use of eye if possible. It certainly is very harmful to clothing, because it actually destroys the fabric. It should never be necessary to use it upon floors for gold dust will answer the same purpose. If you have little children, keep it off your premises. You will then take no chances of having a careless servant leaving it within reach of little hands that grasp every object they see.

The doctor said, "People are so terribly afraid of hydrophobia. That is not a common condition but the number of children that are sacrificed to eye are distressingly and amazingly numerous."

Please heed the warning.

Louisa's Letter

Dear Louisa:

I am a girl 17 years old. I am still at home with my Dad and mother. They are real good to me but I want to get a job some place. I think I would like clerking in a store or restaurant. Mother and Dad don't think I can take care of myself. So you tell me what you think about it. M. S. Bart, Ky.

ask him if he thinks he is keeping his promise by acting the way he does. LOUISA.

DO YOU KNOW

- 1. What is the status of Mexico's seizure of foreign oil properties? 2. How many strikes occurred in 1937? 3. Is American shipbuilding increasing? 4. Has China officially severed diplomatic relations with Japan? 5. Did any pitcher, before Johnny Vander Meer, pitch successive no-hit games? 6. How many nations paid the June installment on U.S. war loans? 7. Has France recently increased the size of her Army? 8. Does the United States train private industry in the manufacture of war materials? 9. Who recently married Lily Pons? 10. Who is the Secretary General of the League of Nations?

Answers

- 1. The legality of the seizure is before the Mexican Supreme Court. 2. 4,760—a record number. 3. Yes. 4. No. 5. No. 6. Finland alone of thirteen nations. 7. Yes; a standing army of 1,000,000 is planned for 1940. 8. Yes. 9. Orchestra conductor Andre Kostelanetz. 10. Joseph Avenol.

JULIAN

Mrs. Charles Donley returned on the Fourth of July from a motor trip to the west and northern part of our States and Windsor, Canada. She is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Kathryn Probst, son Donald and Miss Alice Daughenbaugh of Williamsport on the trip which included places of interest such as Sandusky and Toledo, Ohio, Detroit, Michigan, Canada and Niagara Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Summers and son Henry Charles of Entriken, spent Sunday and the Fourth with Mrs. Summers' father, Charles Donley.

LIGHTS WAY TO BED.

A freak lightning bolt shocked O. B. Smith out of bed and set fire to a table covering, which in turn lighted a candle. Smith picked up the candle to light his way to another room, where he slept the remainder of the night. This occurred at Smith's home in Kenyon, Ohio.

THE OFFICE CAT. A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men.

FROM BAD TO VERSE. (Ode to a girl in a boat) Trim lines afloat (the girl, I mean) Too broad of beam (I mean the boat) She's not too slow, her paint is clean, Her bottom's flat (the boat's, I mean) So take her out, you'll like her if You want a pretty little-skiff.

Good Advice, Anyway. The story is told of one of our more loud-mouthed citizens who, with a party of friends, was returning from Gettysburg the other night, when he ran out of gas just as he reached a lonely country gasoline station.

Not So Bad. This one reaches us from State College. It is said that one of the professors at times likes to delve into the history of the lesser things about him.

Not Ripe. A well known farmer is said to have brought some eggs to Bellefonte last week to sell. Stopping at a certain house he asked the woman if she wished to buy a dozen.

Bad Thing To Catch. Stranger (walking along country road)—Hey, son, I've just been bitten by your dog and I've heard that when a dog bites you whatever the dog has, you get it.

Teaching the Young. Teacher—"I have went . . . that's wrong, isn't it?" Johnny—"Yes, ma'am." Teacher—"Why is it wrong?" Johnny—"Because you haven't went yet."

Does Sound Reasonable. Dock—"What do they mean by 'superfluous' Bill?" Bill—"Aw, somethin' unnecessary. Like the 'Will yer?' in 'Will yer have a drink?'"

Gasoline Iron Explodes. When a gasoline iron she was using exploded, Miss Mary Simons, of Catawbas, R. D. 2, suffered severe burns, and only the presence of mind of members of the family saved her life.

Had Terrifying Experience. When Jean Downs, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Downs, of Bloomsburg, stepped on hay which was over a hole in the hay loft, she fell to the barnyard. A bull in the enclosure came up to and a sprained back in the fall.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM—A "Five Hundred" Club was organized, and it was divided into eight equal divisions. In the fourth division two-thirds of its members resigned for cause, and only one remained in that division. Now then, how many members were in the Club originally? (Answer elsewhere in this department).

P. W.—What is the chemical property of protein? Ans.—Nitrogen; or the nitrogenous material in vegetable or animal substances. S. G.—What President of the United States said: "I do not choose to run" when he was sought for re-election?

T. F.—Are any of the modern wild animals descendants of so-called "prehistoric" animals? Ans.—Science does not believe so. All prehistoric animals are extinct, and nothing has been found that serves as a definite link between modern animals and those of prehistoric times.

N. B.—Has any heavyweight made a quicker knockout than Joe Louis in his victory over Schmeling? Ans.—Dempsey set the record for the quickest heavyweight knockout when he halted Fred Fulton in fourteen seconds in 1918.

S. W. G.—What is the average and greatest depth of Texas oil wells? Ans.—According to a survey by the Texas Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Assn., Texas oil is produced from wells having an average depth of 4000 feet, with a maximum producing depth of 10,600 feet.

K. H. M.—What is the name of the woman judge in Tennessee who has done so much for delinquents? Ans.—Judge Camille Kelley of the Memphis Juvenile Court has an 85 per cent. record of success in rehabilitating youthful offenders. She is also noted for her work in domestic relations.

J. H.—Is there any law compelling a doctor to treat a person who is injured? Ans.—It is a question of ethics rather than of law. Chapter 2, Section 3, of the Principles of Medical Ethics states that "A physician should always respond to any request for his assistance in an emergency or whenever temperate public opinion expects the service."

FOR THE PEOPLE'S GOOD. For the issue which he re-stated on this spot seventy-five years ago will be the continuing issue before this Nation so long as we cling to the purpose for which it was founded—to preserve under the changing conditions of each generation a people's government for the people's good.

MEET IN UNITED LOYALTY. Lincoln spoke in solace for all who fought upon this field; and the years have laid their balm upon its wounds. Men who wore the Blue and men who wore the Gray are here together, a fragment spared by time.