

The Nation's Highway Problem

The November issue of the magazine Fortune contains a comprehensive survey of the nation's highway system which discloses that much of the most important mileage is now wearing out all at once, that putting the roads back in shape will cost some \$30 billion to \$60 billion over the next 10 or 20 years, but the only alternative is a "crushingly costly obsolete system."

This year the United States is spending a record-breaking \$1.7 billion in new highways, and thereby bringing its road network up to 1933 requirements. But to bring the system up-to-date, road building must run well beyond that amount for years to come. But where is the money coming from?

This year, Fortune explains, total receipts are running about \$3.5 billion from state and federal gasoline taxes, registration fees, and excise taxes on new cars, parts and tires. Expenditures on roads and streets will come to about \$3.2 billion—of which only about \$1.7 billion will go for new construction, \$1.5 billion for maintenance and administration. "To cover the greatly expanded construction program present traffic requires, the U.S. is certainly going to see more toll highways; gasoline taxes must inevitably go higher in many states."

Some \$35 billion have been invested in our present system of streets and roads, and Fortune thus explains what has become of the money:

"The normal life of a first-class highway surface is regarded as 20 to 30 years. Much of the most important mileage in the U.S. system was laid down in the twenties, and much of that is now wearing out all at once.

"After 1931 spending on the highways fell off abruptly. (Except for a period of make-work road-building in the mid-thirties, comparatively little was spent on the roads until 1947). "Meantime, use of the highways expanded vastly. Since 1930 the number of vehicles on the road has increased by nearly 65 percent. (Trucking traffic has increased still more steeply; even since the war, trucking ton-mileage has almost doubled). "Cruising speeds of the lowest-priced cars have been increased from 45 or 50 m.p.h. to 65 or 70. The road, by and large, has never caught up with the extra power that Detroit built into the car during the highly competitive years of the depression."

In modernizing our highways, engineers are not asking for a network of super-highways all over the country. The Bureau of Public Roads proposes some 11,000 miles of divided four-lane highways, mostly near or in major cities. Over the other 27,000 miles of the system, traffic does not warrant more than two good lanes. This means the rebuilding and enlargement of existing roads to bring visibility essential for safe passage, curvatures, gradients, lane widths, rail crossings and bridge capacity up to traffic requirements.

This will mean the conversion of a lot of two-lane mileage into four lanes, and the relocation of short segments; widening of lanes from the old 9-foot standard to 11 and 12 feet; the widening of shoulders, and providing more turning out places and resurfacing of long distances. None of these operations should be confused with maintenance, that is surface patching, shoulder stabilization, scraping, oiling and rolling of unpaved roads, etc., which now cost \$1 billion a year.

Fortune concludes: "One-seventh of U.S. business lives off the highway, and all U.S. business sells to that seventh. Road conditions enter into all business costs through their effect on freight charges, and mobility of labor and customers. The bill for good roads will run into billions—but they will be relatively cheap billions, considering what is at stake."

Drainage and Sewage Programs for the City

Salem's drainage problem may be licked next year for some time to come. The word "may" is used advisedly, since many factors will determine whether or not the city can go ahead with plans aimed at protecting sections from water overflow.

Mayor Elstrom has hinted at a program that will put improvements, such as drainage and sewage, on a planned, year-by-year development basis. This type of approach is the only logical one to meet the problem which faces Salem. Oregon's capital has put off, or been forced to put off, for one reason or another, steps to correct the drainage and sewage situation. A sewage disposal plant, for instance, was earmarked years ago with federal funds, but the war came along and killed the project.

The other aspect of the problem has been that steps which have been taken in the past have not been adequate in view of the tremendous growth here. Three years ago some drainage steps were taken in north Salem. A comparison of that section of the city three years ago and today gives an idea of how out-of-date three-year-old plans can be in the face of rapid expansion.

So the only logical way to approach the problem is the way the city manager and mayor have outlined. That takes a long-range view of the drainage and sewage problems. The sensible procedures would seem to be a year-by-year program with tentative allocation of possible funds. That procedure has been followed by the new city administration in facing problems like airport development and the others which call for long-range programs.

If the drainage program is to be successful, a special bond issue for it will have to be submitted to the voters in the May election to provide adequate finances. By then, the interceptor sewer should be completed. The line will empty into the river until the sewage disposal plant is built. Present plans call for the sewage disposal plant to be constructed as soon as the interceptor sewer line is completed. Funds have already been provided, in a recent election, for the plant itself.

So indications at this time point toward a big forward step next year in meeting the aggravating and long-standing drainage and sewage problem in the city.

Literature Tricked by Fate

Wetaskiwin, Alta., Oct. 29 (AP)—The board of trade apologized today that literature it prepared in advance for use during fire prevention week was lost in a fire.

BY BECK

Such Is Life



THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

Why Belong to a Church?

BY REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT
Pastor, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

A friend of mine had often mentioned that he wanted to become a member of the church. But not once did I ever see him in church.

So the last time he talked about it, I asked him why, if he wanted to become a member of the church, he didn't attend church occasionally.

He seemed very much surprised. "It would be a little irregular, wouldn't it?" he asked. Before I could answer, he continued, "I thought joining a church was something like joining a lodge. You cannot attend a lodge until you have been initiated."

So I found out that this man had stayed away from church because he thought one had to belong before he could attend the services.

I know of no body of Christians that requires the showing of a membership card or the whispering of a password as a requirement of entrance to any of its services.

While participation in certain sacraments is reserved for communicants, a hearty welcome is extended to all to be present at any and all services. The desire for membership may be greatly enhanced by attending services of worship. Becoming a member of the church will then be accomplished in accordance with the requirements of that church.

If one without membership may attend the services and be

uplifted and inspired by them, why should it be important to become a member?

A foreigner may live in the United States for a considerable time without becoming a citizen. But if he loves the country, he will eventually want to identify himself with it, and assume responsibility as well as enjoy privileges. Apart from the fact that, for instance, Baptism makes one a member of something far beyond and above a local and visible organization, becoming a member of a church lends strength to the group.

The cables on the Golden Gate bridge would be useless if the individual strands in their composition were each acting alone, but bound together as they are in great cables, not only is the bridge kept safe under all stresses and strains, but the little strands themselves are saved from destruction.

All people in a community, whether members of a church or not, should attend services of worship. It would not do them any harm, but is almost sure to do them good.

In the meantime, remember, the clergy will be delighted to be given the opportunity to welcome you to the church services without a membership card or a password.

Peeping Toms Still Bother Godiva

Coventry, Eng. (AP)—They've had to put a fence around Lady Godiva's statue. It's to keep the Peeping Toms away.

A statue showing the lady clad only in her tresses and sitting side a horse, was unveiled last Saturday by Mrs. Lewis Douglas, wife of the U. S. ambassador.

Almost at once crowds wanting a closer look began trampling over the surrounding turf.

City officials put up a three foot high barricade yesterday to save the grass.

Godiva rode forth in the nude, legend says, some 900 years ago to shame her husband, the lord of the town, into giving tax relief to the people. The townspeople went indoors to let the lady pass unseen. But one man looked and was struck blind. His errand ways gave birth to the term Peeping Tom. "The statue is proving an unexpected attraction," said one city official.

SIPS FOR SUPPER

Touchy Farmers

BY DON UPJOHN

A column in the current issue of the Silverton Appeal-Tribune reports that "many rural residents are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a complacent attitude during the hunting season. Hunters with dogs in numerous instances are reportedly tramping over private property without permission, stampeding

livestock and frightening poultry. Two instances reported last week told of farmwives hearing whizzing over head while at work gathering walnuts and filberts in their orchards." This difficulty might be satisfactorily adjusted if the farmers would be considerate enough to take their vacations and go to the coast during the hunting season. That way they would keep from getting shot and the hunters wouldn't have to fuss around about not tramping over gardens or shooting the poultry. No doubt if the farmers would agree to such a plan arrangements might be made with the hunters to take time out from hunting to do the chores and everybody would have fun—except the livestock.

It's the Climate Again
Monmouth — Harvey Young has a peach tree which harvests its fruit in late October. He picked seven boxes from the tree this year, completing the work Monday. Some of them still are a bit green. Asked what the name of the variety it is, he said it is a seedling. Twelve years ago he dug a pit in which to deposit peach pits and like refuse. From this pit sprang the peach plant which, now a tree, produced the seven boxes this year. At that, he says he pulled off many in the late summer because they hung too heavy to develop well. Harvey says this October peach comes nearest to possessing the characteristics of the Muir.

Love and Locksmiths Again
Albuquerque, N. M. (AP)—Walter B. Rogers and his bride-to-be bought their marriage license yesterday afternoon and asked Justice of Peace Oscar Walton to marry them at once. Walton led them and the witnesses into County Clerk Ramona Montoya's private office. He shut the door to keep out noise. When the ceremony was over, Walton discovered the door was locked. Neither the county clerk nor her

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Steel Companies Are Divided Over Footing Pension Plans

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—Here are some of the things that are taking place backstage in the steel strike discussions:

1. Inside the steel companies—The major companies are divided regarding the contributory of non-contributory pension plan. Inland Steel already has a good pension plan, while Jones and Laughlin, together with Bethlehem, favor a pension plan whereby labor does not contribute; for the following reasons:
Only 10 percent of the workers continue in their employ until they reach the age of 65. When they leave before that age under a worker-contribution plan, they take their contributions with them, which entails complicated bookkeeping. But when they do not contribute, the amount set aside for them by the company stays in the fund and mounts up. Thus the company, over the years, contributes less and less money.

Flatly opposed to Bethlehem, Jones and Laughlin, and Inland, is the giant of the industry, U.S. Steel, which sets the competitive pace.
Despite all arguments, U.S. Steel has held out against a company-contributed pension plan—chiefly as a matter of principle. It claims that labor should not get something for nothing, that labor should contribute at least a small part of the pension.

Possibly this view is influenced by the fact that directors of U.S. Steel include heads of other companies—Walter Gifford, of American Tel. and Tel.; Sewell Avery, of Montgomery Ward and U.S. Gypsum; James Black, of Pacific Gas and Electric—which might be affected by any pension precedent set for the steel industry.

2. Inside the White House—Presidential advisers have discussed with Truman the idea of invoking the Taft-Hartley act, but he is opposed for this reason:
The United Steel Workers already have suspended a strike for 77 days at his request—practically the equivalent to the 80-day suspension possible under the Taft-Hartley act. If the president now invoked the T-H act, it is feared labor might refuse to obey the injunction. And if half a million men refused to obey their government, the nation would face not only a breakdown of democracy, but reverberating a munition would be handed to Moscow for use in every country in the world.

Furthermore, the president's fact-finding board's recommendations have been accepted by the union, though rejected by management. That is why other White House friends, including Mayor David Lawrence of Pittsburgh, Jack Arvey of Chicago and Chairman Boyle of the democratic national committee have been urging Truman to put the bee squarely on the steel companies.

Note 1—Phil Murray, testifying before the president's fact-finding board, invited the steel executives to appear before congress with him and urge passage of a better old-age-pension bill. They refused. Despite this, if congress had remained in session and tackled the entire problem of old-age pensions for all old people, not merely those who belong to unions, a pattern might have been worked out for the nation.

Note 2—Though U.S. Steel refused to go for noncontributory pensions now, it was the same U.S. Steel company which gave a noncontributory welfare fund to John L. Lewis and the coal miners in 1947. This precedent given to Lewis sets a goal which Phil Murray and other union leaders now have to equal.

PENTAGON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ironic twist of fate: The navy is now bitter at Adm. Louis Denfeld even though he went all-out for them before congress. Other admirals felt his blast was too late, that he had played footsie with the army and air force in the privacy of the joint chiefs of staff.

Navy lobbyists pulled wires to get Adm. William H. Blandy appointed in Denfeld's shoes as chief of naval operations.

Adm. Forrest Sherman isn't popular with his co-admirals. They figure he was the first to drill a hole in the dike that led to unification. What happened was that Sherman was appointed by Secretary Forrestal to sit down with Gen. Lauris Norstad of the air force and work out unification. Result was the milk-and-water unification bill of 1947, now considerably strengthened. Brother admirals never forgave Sherman for this.

Admiral Sherman was top war planner on Admiral Nimitz's staff in the Pacific, is a brilliant strategist, fought for airplane carriers when other admirals were still fighting for battleships.

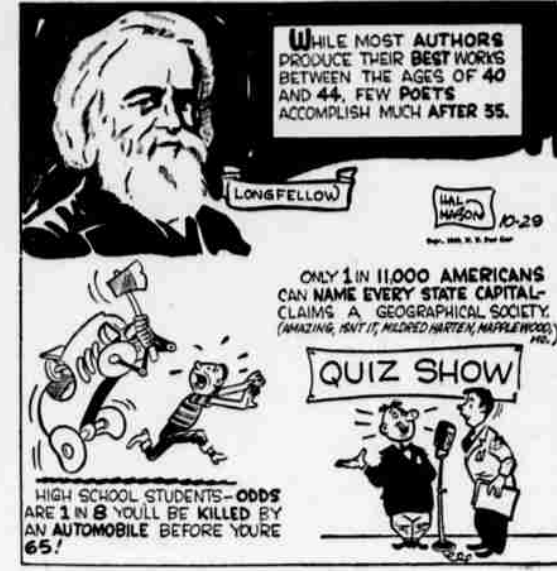
While the navy's friends in congress are pleading for peace, the navy is still waging an un-



Drew Pearson

BY GUILD

Wizard of Odds



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Too Old—and Sophisticated At 12 Years, So She's Retired

By HAL BOYLE

New York, (AP)—After giving the best years of her life to radio, Peggy Bruder has to give up her microphone job because of old age.

"I don't feel too old to go on, but I guess they know best," she said mournfully.

Peggy is 12.

"An old woman," she said. "I realize that."

For three years Peggy has been a star panelist on WOR's network program, "Juvenile Jury." On the program five experts from four to twelve years hear the problems of other children and suggest how to solve them.

"What those five-year-olds come up with, you wouldn't believe," said Peggy, a blue-eyed girl with long blonde curls.

"It gets to the point where the problems don't seem serious—only comical. We try to make the audience laugh if we can think of a clever answer."

And that is the key to her temporarily forced retirement. For a child trying to be clever is rarely as funny as a child who is spontaneous. Or as Jack Barry, program moderator, put it: "We depend for laughs and pace on the off-the-cuff answers of the kids. At 12 a child begins to get a little sophisticated."

Sunday Peggy will make her final broadcast. After that she has nothing to look forward to but adolescence, high school, college, an acting career, matrimony, motherhood and children, middle age, grandmotherhood, some more old age—and then the final curtain.

That's all there is left when you're already 12.

Miss Bruder, who is a star student in the 8th grade, isn't too dismayed at the road ahead.

"Radio really has been wonderful to me," she said, just to prove she held no hard feelings because the show must now go on without her. "It's taught me to face an audience and to ad lib. I no longer have stage fright."

"Now I want to go on and be a dramatic actress. I love it, and I've been studying for it. I think I'd rather be in the movies—every girl looks forward to that. But right now I believe television is the right thing to be in."

"Sometimes I do my homework watching television." Her mother said, "Dear, we have to take life as it comes."

"Yes," said Peggy, smoothing her green frock. "but I know what I want. My heart is set on being an actress. I'll just settle down and be a wife"—she looked despondent at that dreary thought—"if I can't be an actress."

She won't face the future exactly penniless.

"I've been getting a \$50 government bond each week," she said. "I put them all in the bank. I've got a pretty big bank account."

And then she said how much she'd miss the excitement of her radio job.

It's awful to be old and sophisticated—all at once.

Pretty Surroundings for Eating

Philadelphia (AP)—A Philadelphia restaurant has removed its suggestion box for customers after a two-day trial.

The reason:
Of 35 notes deposited in the box the first day, 34 suggested prettier waitresses. On the second day, 38 of 40 made the same recommendation.

Not one suggestion mentioned the food being served.

NO SECLUSION FOR HER

Bossie, With Built-in Television Lives Life of a Contented Cow

Pullman, Wash., Oct. 29 (AP)—Don't talk about goldfish to Peep-hole Bossie, a local cow with built-in video. Compared with her, fish in a bowl live a life of seclusion.

For two years people have been snooping through a hole in her stomach to see what goes on inside a cow. Only in the winter does this veterinary school specimen get any privacy. In the cold months she wears a rubber plug in her side to keep the drafts out.

Dr. Ernest C. Stone, chairman of the department of veterinary physiology and pharmacology at Washington State college, put the eight by three inch peephole in the cow's rumen (stomach number one) two years ago so his students could get a first-hand view of a cow's inner life.

Despite her public interior, Bossie, age eight, is a normal, contented cow. Dr. Stone said. She eats well, and last spring gave birth to a very healthy calf. Her life expectancy is the same as that of any well-cared-for bovine, he said.

When it's warm she doesn't need any cover for the cavity, but in the winter it is plugged up to keep her warm. She usually sheds the plug about April, depending on the weather.

Some 200 students have had a squint at Bossie's insides as they studied the rumen of a cow, what gasses and other products are formed in this first of the many digestive processes of the four-stomach animal.

The hole is located high on her side, in the hollow of the flank behind the ribs.

She also serves in the research of Dr. Paul Klavann, assistant professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology, who is studying the effects of drugs on the rumen.

Dr. Stone admitted Bossie is not the only cow with a window in her stomach. A couple of other veterinary schools also use this "live specimen" method of teaching students about the digestive processes of a cow, he said.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

See Signs of Spiritual Revival in Many Lands

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Russia soldiers at Helmstedt, in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany, refused to let a truckload of Bibles proceed to Berlin.

"That's propaganda material," explained the Red officer in charge.

And, of course, he was quite right about the "propaganda" angle. The Bible is the greatest piece of promotion ever developed.

That is precisely why the communists, who are battling religion as the dope of the masses, are anxious to prevent distribution of the most widely read volume. Hitlerian nazism maintained the same attitude.

So the Russian officer of Helmstedt was correctly following orders, and presumably his own conscience as well, if he is a loyal communist.

Still I have a notion he was wasting his energy. I don't believe you can kill religion that way any more than old King Canute could make the tide recede at his command.

As a matter of fact, religion is doing all right for itself.

There are many signs of moral and spiritual revival in various parts of our war-shocked world. This column called attention the other day to the indications that religious revival may be boiling up in England.

There is a widespread feeling in Britain that the country won't overcome its economic troubles or regain its old status as a world power until there has been a spiritual awakening. There also has been a post-war resurgence of religion in Holland and other continental countries.

Then recently this column reported a conversation which I had in New York with Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, wife of China's nationalist generalissimo. We were discussing China's rehabilitation and she said:

"That can be achieved only through moral and spiritual growth."

"You believe that moral and spiritual change will come to China?" I asked, and she replied:

"Yes. It is coming."

But we don't have to go to Europe or Asia to find this ferment working. We see it right here in the western hemisphere.

One of my AP colleagues, John L. Springer, sought an ex-



DeWitt MacKenzie