

ROUTE 17 — JUST A STEP-CHILD?

An Editorial

Last week we casually made an observation with a few comments on the sad state of affairs as far as this end of Route 17 is concerned and especially, most of the stretch between the Allegany County border East to Addison. In fact, when considering the beautiful four lane stretches from Corning almost all the way to New York City, it would seem as if we have the section of Route 17 that is being treated as nothing but an unwanted step-child.

This little blurb evoked enough comment and interest so that we thought it might be worthy of much more thought and consideration and have delved a little deeper into the subject.

In visiting with several drivers of the fairer sex, we found that most of them were almost petrified with just the thought of having to drive over the worst sections toward Greenwood, into Jasper, and the final stretch into Addison. A couple of them even told us that they would rather drive all the way around by Bath and then back down Route 15 rather than use this section of Route 17.

We have driven and ridden in a truck many, many, times over this section and can truthfully say that we have spent as much of the time in the air as we have on the seat of the truck going over bumps and (plow furrows). In addition to this, every time another truck or car is met travelling in the other direction, it is necessary to get off on the shoulder of the road in order to pass with any reasonable degree of safety.

In our search of possible reasons why this section is in such a bad state of repair, we found that a great deal of the money that is collected in highway user tax revenue is being diverted for other expenditures than for roads which it was originally designed to be spent on.

According to our source of information, the diversion of highway user tax revenue has been a major problem in New York State for more than 30 years, and the practice will go on plaguing our highway system until the state adopts a Constitutional amendment to guarantee that highway user tax revenues will not be used for non-highway purposes.

These moneys should be spent only for the direct cost of administering, developing, constructing and maintaining the state's highway system, but in this state they have been siphoned off to suit the convenience of the moment. Since 1932 over a billion dollars of such revenues have been diverted by the state. In the fiscal year 1963-64, for instance, over \$107 million was used for general expenditures.

This diversion has starved New York State's highways and has cost business and the consumer untold billions of dollars. It has given rise to such abuses as unnecessary tolls and toll traps on Interstate highways and the perpetuation of toll authorities. It has permitted needless injury and death in traffic accidents on roads that could have, and should have been improved. And it will go on spawning these abuses and taking this toll, unless, and until, it is halted.

The motorists of this state have repeatedly asked that legislation be adopted to eliminate the practice of diversion. However, they have not been listened to. In 1955, on the only occasion when motorists were permitted to directly express their will on this issue, they voted decisively against a gas tax increase without constitutional assurance against this ruinous practice.

We call upon all candidates for the New York State Legislature in the forthcoming election to commit themselves to work for legislation that will amend the Constitution and permit the public to vote at the polls on the proposal to guarantee that highway user tax revenue will be used exclusively for highway purposes.



50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 28, 1914

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Hornell Fair is on this week and 154 tickets to Hornell were purchased at the Erie Station, Wednesday morning.

L. G. Coleman returned Sunday from Chicago and Two Rivers, Ill., where he has been for the past two months in the interest of the Keer Turbine Plant of Wellsville. Miss Maggie Leonard, Miss Carrie Leonard and Mrs. Huff left Monday for their home in Elgin, Ill., after visiting relatives in the Elm Valley Area.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McDonough returned Saturday from Rexville where they were called by the death of their son-in-law, James Kelley.

Miss Ellen Lynch returned to Lackawanna today to resume her position as instructor in the high school after spending the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Lynch.

40 YEARS AGO

Aug. 15, 1924

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

William A. Pardon, 60, died at his farm home August 3, 1924. His wife and four daughters survive.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dolan are the parents of a daughter born Sunday, August 10th.

Thomas McTigue of Brooklyn is visiting his sister, Mrs. Anna DeLaney.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Livermore were in Nile Wednesday in attendance at the wedding of her niece, Miss Gertrude Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bennett of Rochester passed the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bennett.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Baldwin and daughter are visiting relatives in Dunkirk, Cal. City and Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Walsh and family are in Elmira where Mr. Walsh is a delegate to the State Convention of Rural Letter Carriers.

Miss Katherine Gallagher left Monday for Depew where she will have charge of the office of the Albert Goddi Bedlin Inc., Silk Mill.

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 10, 1934

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

A. B. Richardson, former Erie Station Agent in Andover, died suddenly at his home in Fort Worth, Texas, August 9th.

Dr. Robert Common re-opened the Common Dental Parlors this Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wickwire are the parents of a daughter, born Friday, August 3rd.

day from a visit with her Aunt, Mrs. William Howden of Pikeville.

Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Gilfillan and her mother, Mrs. Anna McDonough left Sunday by motor for a visit with relatives in New York City.

William and Floyd Lever, Jr., of Boston are visiting Andover friends this week.

Supt. and Mrs. W. G. Pope and guests, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sinden of Bridgeport, Conn., visited Mr. and Mrs. Scott Prest at Bath Tuesday.

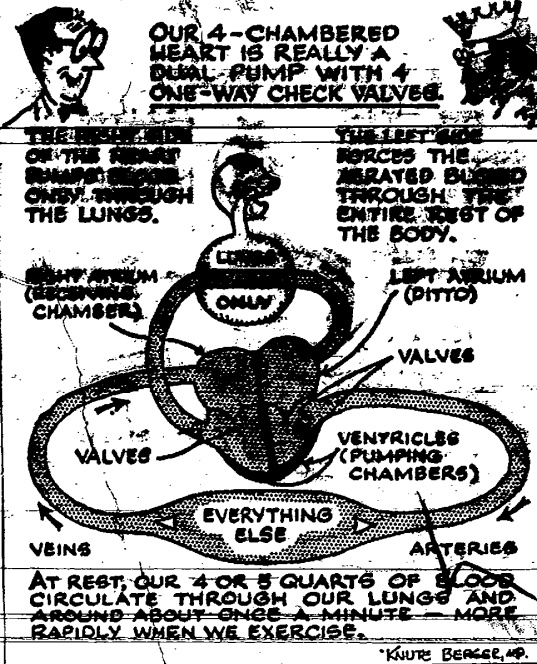
Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Haist left Thursday for a visit with relatives and friends in Buffalo and Canada.

Boost Your Home Town!

Doctor Quiddity

A Public Service Health Message

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



Erie County Fair Final Three Days

Biggest events in the 125-year history of the Erie County Fair are slated for the final three days of the gigantic exposition now in progress at the Hamburg Fair grounds.

Friday afternoon at 2 the \$175,000. Agricultural and Grange Building will be dedicated in special ceremonies. Principal speakers will be Herschen Newson, National Grange Master and William E. Bensley of Springville and Ithaca, President of the New York State Farm Bureau.

Grandstand spectacles Saturday include a 30-lap sweepstake big car race sanctioned by the United Racing Club with time trials beginning at 1:00 p. m. Race Director Lou Heller has promised a star-studded field of pilots headed by Red Riegle of Red Lion, Pa., current URC Champion. Heller said the cream of Eastern drivers will compete for the \$3,200. purse, largest purse offered a URC event. Three 8-lap elimination heats, a 10-lap consolation and the big 30-lap feature comprise the card.

Heller is also promising excitement Saturday night with a 100-car demolition derby with drivers competing for hundreds of dollars in prizes. The night show is also the final performance of Castle's International Circus, a three-ring animal and aerial show appearing every afternoon and evening at the Grandstand Attraction.

Thursday night Joie Chitwood's Auto Thrill Show is a one-night

event. The show features a 25-foot space-like rocket that will blast a '64 sedan through the mouth of it, at tremendous speed, to a receiving platform 80 feet away.

Friday will be highlighted by the 4-H Baby Beef Auction at 4:00 p. m., in front of the Grandstand. The evening program salutes the work of Erie County Volunteer Firemen with a gigantic competitive parade at 7. Hundreds of marching units, bands, drill teams and drum corps will pass in colorful review.

Fairgoers are being thrilled by the exotic poultry and flower shows, a myriad of competitive exhibits from farm and home, the mile-long midway of the James E. Strates Shows, the horse show in the track infield, bazaar and food fair, the newly-refurnished buildings for recreation and historical exhibits, Mother Goose Land for Kiddies, water ballets at the Beauty Pool, and host of attractions for young and old alike. The Fair closes Saturday. Youngsters up to 16 years of age are free to the grounds at any time.

Boost Your Home Town!

"Red's" Racetrack Rambles

Hello there Racing Fans—and Jockeys! It seems as if the weatherman is dead set against auto-racing as the main item on the card was RAIN — RAIN — and MORE RAIN!

At Angelica Friday night there was no question in anyone's minds about the races being rained off as anyone would have needed a boat to have even gotten over there.

Thus this week will be a make-up for the week of the 27th. Checks being honored at the gate. The following week will be the Championship races, with the Dean Layfield Memorial Trophy Race the week after that.

Saturday, it looked a little better for the Olean Speedway, since it cleared off earlier in the day and stayed that way until around 6 p. m. We drove down a little early for a change and found the track to be in good shape with the Track Personnel driving the track in with their own autos.

However, by the time we went back uptown and had a bite to eat, a steady drizzle set in which dashed all hopes of running. While we were waiting around, "Moe" Kessler called in to see if they were going to run and said he was planning on coming down. Thus if he carries out the same plans this coming week we should see a battle royal between "Little Joe" and "Mighty Moe".

Sportsman's Raceway at Ulysses, was forced to cancel their racing program last Saturday night because of the wet weather.

This will bring up the final "Figure 8 Demolition Derby" for the season next Saturday evening. On Sept. 5th the Canyon Skydivers will be back for more parachute jumps.

New Funeral Law In Effect

A new law, based on the recommendation of Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, requiring funeral directors and undertaking establishments to furnish written itemized statements at the time funeral arrangements are made (showing the cost of individual services and merchandise to be furnished) went into effect on July 1. The new law eliminates the "unit pricing" practice of some undertakers who in the past have sold "packaged funerals" which were billed as a "casket and complete funeral service", the Attorney General said.

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