

A TRAFFIC LAW THAT MAKES SENSE!

An Editorial

Recently we learned that William T. Smith, Senator from the 56th District and L. Richard Marshall, Assemblyman from Chemung County have introduced legislation which would clarify the obligations of motor vehicles and school buses on divided highways.

The law, (Sec. 1174 — Vehicle and Traffic) presently provides that all vehicles meeting or overtaking, from either direction, stopped school buses, must bring his vehicle to a complete halt.

Shortly after the legislation was first enacted in 1948, the Department of Motor Vehicles recommended an amendment which would except situations where the vehicle and the school bus were on the opposite side of a divided highway.

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has informally ruled that the law does not apply on divided highways if the mall consists of a substantial barrier. However, if the mall is of such a nature that pedestrians could cross it, vehicles must stop.

In each case, it is a question of fact, which must be determined in Court.

As a result of the existing law and interpretation, motor vehicle operators do not know where they should or should not stop for school buses as they travel a divided highway. Many innocent people are arrested caused considerable embarrassment, and expense because of the vagueness of the law.

The legislation prepared by Senator Smith and Assemblyman Marshall would clearly state that the vehicles traveling on a divided highway do not have to stop for school buses traveling in the opposite direction on the other side of divided highways.

In the interest of the safety of school children, the Smith-Marshall bill provides that no bus should discharge children so that they have to cross at least three lanes of traffic and a mall to reach their destination.

The changes should provide increased safety for school children and clarify the responsibilities of motorists.

Then too, you won't find yourself in the same predicament that we were in the first part of the week when we were driving on a four lane highway and met a school bus traveling in the opposite direction on the other side of the divided highway. As the school bus stopped — two cars that were passing us, kept on going — but the car in front of us came to a screeching halt! What did we do? We came to a dead stop — a few feet in back of the car ahead of us — and were darn glad that our car had good brakes and tires on it.

If you agree with us, how about dropping a line to State Senator Smith or State Assemblyman Marshall and let them know how you feel about it?

CONTESTED ELECTION IS A GOOD THING!

An Editorial

A contested election is the backbone of this great Democracy of ours. When we reach the point of indifference where we allow a mere handful of people select a slate of Officers, it would seem as if Democracy is fast ebbing away.

Thus we are glad to see that the Voters of Andover will at least be able to have a choice in electing 2 out of the 3 candidates for Village Trustee in the coming Village Election.

BE SURE and GET OUT and VOTE — for the CANDIDATE of YOUR CHOICE!

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 26, 1916

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Last Thursday evening about fifty members of the Eastern Star enjoyed a sleigh-ride and surprised Mr. and Mrs. John Wahl at their farm home. Good eats were provided by the company and amusements furnished for all throughout the entire evening.

Ellery M. Palmer, 77, died at his home in Fulmer Valley last week. A brother, William Fulmer of Andover survives.

John Wittcox has gone to the Soldiers Home at Bath for the winter.

L. C. Buck of Hornell passed the week-end with his sister, Mrs. Olin Pingrey.

Miss Esther Baker passed the week-end guest of Miss Mavis Powers of Belmont.

Glenn Cheesman was up from Hornell to pass Sunday with his father, J. D. Cheesman.

Miss Emily Barney was in Alfred Thursday in attendance at the funeral of her uncle, Eugene Sherman.

Miss Bernice Bardeen of Alfred passed Saturday and Sunday guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mead.

P. A. and John Dean were among the Andover people in attendance at Farmers Week at Alfred Thursday.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 19, 1926

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Hon. Jesse S. Phillips is president of the newly organized insurance company, National Bureau of Casualty and Underwriters Association in New York City.

Mrs. Harriet James has rented the Swink Hotel of Peter Huyck and took possession Monday, February 15th.

Organ Chimes are being installed at the Park Methodist Church in Hornell. They are the gift of Dr. G. Chapman Jones. Mr. Jones is well known in Andover, having supplied for a time at the M. E. Church here.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Short of Wellsville spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Thorne were in Rochester, guests of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. George Bennett and family from Thursday until Sunday.

Mrs. Gates Saunders left Friday for New York City to visit Miss Alice Hogan of that city.

Mrs. Hugh Brownell and daughters, Dalphine and Barbara left Saturday for Lakeland, Florida to join Mr. Brownell.

Mrs. C. E. Hann, has returned to her home in Andover, after caring for her daughter, Mrs. John Baldwin and little granddaughter, Elizabeth Evelyn, who arrived at the Baldwin home last week.

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 21, 1936

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Miss Irene Baker, 79, died Saturday, February 15th. Two brothers survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Mrs. A. C. Burdick, mother of Arthur Burdick of Alfred, died Thursday, February 20th.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph S. Baker were guests of Mrs. Carrie Slade the forepart of the week, being called here by the death of his sister, Miss Irene Baker.

Edward Cannon of the University of Buffalo passed the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Sarah Cannon.

Mrs. Geroge Munro of Buffalo is visiting her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cagle this week.

Mrs. Belle Corey of Wellsville passed Saturday and Sunday with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Nottingham.

Mrs. Porter Stephens, 64, died Sunday, February 16th. Her husband and two sisters survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Smith and daughter of Olean were in Andover Thursday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Porter Stephens.

Albany Report

by Robert D. Van Slyke, Research Analyst Citizens Public Expenditure Survey, Inc., of New York State

According to the National Education Association, New York State is spending over \$2.5 billion in current operations for the education of pupils in public schools. Current operations exclude the costs of construction and debt service, and reflects those sums that are spent on the education of the pupils. About \$1.3 billion of the total spending for current operations will come from state taxpayers as state "aid" and the rest will be paid by the taxed taxpayers in local taxes.

What the spending for current operations is reduced to \$ per pupil basis for a state by state comparison, the NEA statistics show that New York State is spending \$668 per pupil in average daily attendance, the highest such expenditure in the nation.

That \$668 is \$207 or 31.3 per cent more than the per pupil expenditure of the next highest state, New Jersey, which spends \$662. It is \$266 or 40 per cent higher than the \$603 per pupil expenditure in California which is seventh in the comparison of per pupil spending.

The Citizens Public Expenditure Survey asks:

Do students in the public schools in New York State receive an education that is better than the education received by students in the public schools in all the other states in proportion to the excess spending?

Is there a relationship between high spending and quality education? Does quality go up if spending goes up? Can the mere spending of money be equated with quality?

In New York State, per pupil spending varies widely from school district to school district. A report by the State Department of Audit and Control issued just a few months ago shows the per pupil spending for each school district in the state for the school year ending June 30, 1964.

The state average spending for current operations per enrolled pupil was \$678. The per pupil spending in the 1,099 school districts ranged from less than \$500 to more than \$1,300.

Do those school districts that spend the highest sum per pupil for current operations also offer the best education? In New York State, there is a way for taxpayers to find out.

According to a booklet published by the State School Boards Association, the results of Regents examinations are a valid measure of a school district's educational progress. Regents examinations are designed for pupils of average and above average ability and are required in the high schools of the State. The pamphlet from the School Boards Association states, "the purpose of Regents examinations is to provide the schools with one valid measure of pupil progress on a statewide basis and to establish a uniform standard of achievement for all schools in the State."

Newspapers in three large city school districts have used the results of Regents examinations to show how well students in area schools are doing on the Regents examinations as compared to each other and to the state average. The results of the Regents examinations were made available upon request from the schools and the State Education Department.

None of these comparisons, however, showed how much the school districts were spending per pupil. Such a comparison would indicate if there was any relationship between high spending and high rate of success on the statewide examinations.

A one-year comparison alone is not a reliable indication of how well a school system or school is doing in comparison to others. There are many unmeasurable factors that can influence the success or failure of pupils on Regents examinations in any one year. These factors include pupil motivation, environment, community values and personal handicaps.

These factors will vary from school district to school district and even from school to school in the same district.

A comprehensive comparison should show the results of Regents examinations for a number of years.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

In connection with March 4th Bloodbank I would appreciate it very much if you would mention the fact that Steve Baker was fortunate to have the use of 8 pints of blood last October when he was seriously ill in Kansas City. Any blood given in his name would be greatly appreciated by Steve and his family.

Thank you, Eileen Holt

Pit-r-Patter

By "Star Adia"

Boy, Oh Boy, did the Chrysler products win — and their drivers — for having the treatment they really got at the Daytona 500 when their "hammers" were "battered" for the big race.

When the "Checkered Flag" was thrown ending the race at the end of the 190th lap (475 miles) — due to rain, 7 out of the 1st ten places were taken by Chrysler products, with the other three places going to 3 Fords.

Out of the 13 Chrysler products entered in the race — all 13 qualified (3-'66 Dodge Chargers; 1 - '66 Dodge; 3 - '65 Dodges; 3 - '66 Plymouths; and 3 - '65 Plymouths) and out of the 35 Fords entered — 24 qualified. (This is according to one of the local stock car drivers that is a friend of ours and was there at the race).

Here is a brief re-cap of the results of the race: Richard Petty, No. 43, driving a '66 Plymouth came in 1st; Cale Yarborough, No. 27, with a '66 Ford, 2nd; David Pearson, No. 40, in a '66 Dodge Charger, 3rd; Fred Lorenzen, No. 28, with a '66 Ford, 4th; Sam McQuagg, No. 98, driving another '66 Dodge Charger, 5th; Jim Hurtubise, in a '65 Plymouth, 6th; Ned Jarrett, No. 11, in a '66 Ford, 7th; LeRoy Yarborough, in another '66 Dodge Charger, 8th; James Hylton, in a '65 Dodge, 9th; and Larry Frank from Greenville, S. C., in a '66 Plymouth was 10th.

Thus as you can readily see — 3 '66 Dodge Chargers\* out of 3 entered and 1 '65 Dodge out of 3 entered, ended up in the top 10; with 2 '66 Plymouths out of 3 entered and 1 '65 Plymouth out of 3 entered were also in the top 10; 2 '66 Fords out of 11 entered and ended up in the top ten, with none of the rest of the 24 assorted '64 or '65 Fords in the top 10.

Although the average speed of the winner was a blistering 160 miles per hour, almost 10 M.P.H., faster than the track record, it won't go down in the record books since the full 500 miles was not completed. After it started to rain, the caution flag was thrown at the end of the 190th lap (475 miles) — and the checkered flag was thrown with 198 laps completed (5 miles short of 500).

along with the per pupil spending for each year.

Taxpayers would then be able to see if increases in per pupil spending have resulted in a greater percentage of pupils passing the Regents examinations.

If over a period of years the rate of failures has remained constant or has even increased in comparison to other school districts or the state average, that is an indication that there is something "wrong."

A high failure rate or a failure rate that does not improve as more money is spent does not condemn a school system, but it does indicate that the students are not getting a good education, and the continuous spending of more money will not improve that education.

If such a situation exists, school personnel should not be offended if the public wants to know why but should welcome the interest in trying to find out what is "wrong." The education of the pupil is the most important issue involved and that is everybody's business.

In a state where the pupil spending for current operations ranges from under \$500 to over \$1,300, it is questionable whether the districts spending the most money per pupil are providing the best education. Unless such a relationship can be proven, then taxpayers should resist every attempt to increase per pupil spending at the state and local levels.