

Help From City Needed To Install Traffic Lights

What's to be done about the 15 U.S. 27 when people get in and out of the pit at the Avon Shopping Center has been a question have

asked since the first stores opened last year. Recently Earl Jackson, manager of the J. C. Penney Co. store wrote to Governor Ruben Askew requesting that

"something be done" about the traffic situation on U.S. 27. Jackson received a reply from an assistant, Harvey Cotton Jr. stating that the DOT (Department of

Transportation) did a study on Jan. 21-22, 1976 at the height of the tourist season (Grant's not open) and the traffic could didn't justify a signal. Furthermore the city refused to participate in the cost of a signal and did not agree to maintain or furnish power for it.

The letter continued that the city must agree to pay 40 percent of the installation cost of a signal, must agree to maintain the signal and must agree to furnish electric power before the DOT can initiate installment of a signal.

However, John Gust has the opinion that something must be done about U.S. 27 sooner or later, preferably before somebody gets killed at the shopping square entrances or exits on U.S. 27.

Gust speaks from the experience of four trips daily to the shopping center for the last three or four weeks as he takes

his wife to work and picks her up.

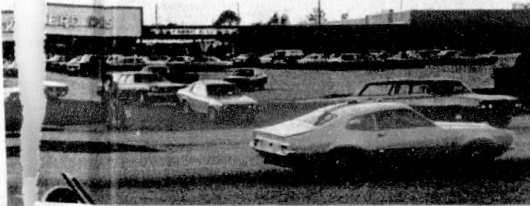
He told of the 55 mile per hour speed limit in front of the shopping center both north and south bound traffic and stated it could be slowed down.

Gust felt strongly enough

about the growing traffic problem that he and his sons, Scott and Gary in three hours last Friday afternoon, on a makeshift table at the store center, had over 500 people sign a petition that something be done about the traffic problem on U.S. 27.

On Wednesday, Gust plans to give the petition and signatures to Mayor Marshall Davis, who in turn will present the matter to the Avon Park City Council.

In the meantime more rubber is being left on U.S. 27 as motorists and truckers hit the brakes, hard, to slow down for someone in front of them — particularly in the northbound traffic lanes.



A MINOR traffic congestion with seven cars trying to leave the Avon Shopping Center. During rush hours on Friday and Saturday the traffic

congestion is much worse according to nearby service station workers. Sunphoto by Lew Miller.

At Reorganizational Meeting

3 Councilmen Take Oath

Following the spring in of Larry Albritton, David Barefield and Kelly Phillips as city councilmen at the 9 a.m. council meeting at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 3, the three new councilmen were told, "now that you have been sworn in you may later be 'sworn out'."

In the organizational meeting of the new council, Bert Britt was unanimously elected president of the Avon Park City Council for a one year term and on taking a president's chair Britt stated, "I hope can do as good a job as the two previous council presidents."

Second term councilman Larry Albritton was elected as council vice-president. Before the appointment of the city attorney, Jim Hancock (city attorney for eight years) told the council it was their job to make the city a better place to live and it has been fine to share in this. After Hancock had left the council room he was appointed as the city attorney. Upon Hancock's return to the council room he was told to get the barbecue ready and the date for his

barbecue for the council had to be changed because of a wedding. In a statement following the council meeting Robert Britt said "that for the

coming year he would like to see the following accomplished: The beautification of the Mall continued; more sidewalks built, especially where

children walk to school; continued applications for federal grants and trying to attract small industries to increase job opportunities in Avon Park."



AVON PARK CITY councilmen took the oath of office Monday morning as administered by City Clerk Malcolm

Craws. From the left: Larry Albritton, second term; Kelly Phillips and David Barefield (both first term) With

Councilman Milton Howard seated. Sunphoto by Lew Miller.

Avon Park Precinct One

Effected Most By Redistricting

The county is for some re-districting of voting precinct lines, which will eventually mean redistricting of the entire county, using the areas covered by individual commissioners.

Election Supervisor Jimmy Whitehouse told the county commissioners they morning that the Federal Census Bureau is wanting all counties to change their voting precinct

lines, so that the boundaries run along sight lines visible from the ground. As it stands, many of the precinct lines are formed by sectional lines marked on county maps.

With the lines as they are now, Whitehouse said, "When a man comes into the office and wants to know what precinct he's in, I can look at the aerial maps and tell him, even if he's out in the middle of nowhere."

He explained that the reason the census bureau wants the sight lines is that the census takers determine the county's population by counting the number of residents in each voting precinct.

Therefore, when the 1980 census is taken, the pollsters can tell by looking at visible boundaries such as waterways and roads, exactly what precinct they are in.

Said County Attorney Robert Dunty, "All the counties in the state were screaming about the last census. This will be a pain, but we will get a better census out of it."

Whitehouse said the state is giving the county until Feb. 1 to submit the revised precinct lines.

The redistricting of the commissioners' areas will follow the

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Persons Applying Pesticides Must Be Certified—Classes In Avon Park

"The Federal Government has mandated that anyone who applies restricted pesticides must be certified to do so by Oct. 21, 1977," said Highlands County Agriculture Extension Director, Tim Hurn. He pointed out that all agricultural producers in the county will need certification, especially those who apply restricted pesticides. He announced a fifteen training program for certification.

Certification will be necessary for the owner of a private ownership, incorporation, etc., who supervises the use of restricted pesticides in their area. Under the law, Florida

has three classifications of persons who will be certified to apply restricted pesticides. They are: Private applicator, commercial applicator, and public applicator.

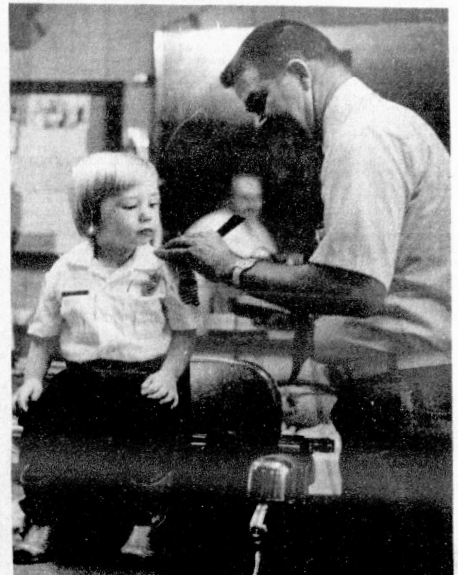
The private applicator means a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of any pesticide which is classified for restricted use for purposes of producing any agricultural commodity on property owned, rented or controlled by him or his employer or if applying without compensation other than trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities on the property of another person, subject to the rules and

regulations adopted under authority granted by this law. Commercial applicator includes commercial spray companies, custom applicators, contractors, etc., who use or supervises the use of any pesticide for any purpose or on any property other than as provided by the definition of "private applicator."

The public applicator refers to any individual who applies pesticides as an employee of a state agency, municipal corporation, public utility or other governmental agency. The private applicator can obtain certification by home study. A home study manual, a set of questions and application for certification

can be obtained by contacting Doyle Conner, Florida Department of Agriculture, Mayo Bldg., Tallahassee, FL 32304. Or one can attend a training program conducted by the Highlands County Extension Service, who will certify that you have received the training and Commissioner of Agriculture Conner will issue your applicator permit. There is a \$3 registration fee for materials and supplies. There will be a county pesticide certification training for private applicators held for residents of the northern end of Highlands County held at the Avon Park Courthouse Annex Building on S. Lake Ave. in

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GETTING HIS FIRST haircut, 20 months old Thomas Mason Crafty Jr. apparently is interested in what's going on or maybe coming off as Larry Albritton shortened and thinned his hair. Thomas' father is a Senior Airman in Air Traffic

Control at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma. His grandmother made his policeman's uniform from grandfather's (Capt. Frank Crafty) old shirt and trousers, complete with patches and badge.

Top Commission Problems In '76

Battle With Air Force - Trash

The Highlands County Commissioners spent 1976 waging war against the Air Force and a higher budget, which they apparently won, and on the mandatory trash pick-up program, which is still undecided.

The feud with the Air Force was part of a continuing saga which began in 1973, over who would pay to replace the rotting wooden bridge on SR 64 leading into the Avon Park Bombing Range.

However, the war mushroomed in 1976 as the availability of the range for recreational use by county citizens became an emotional issue.

At the first commission meeting in 1976, C. J. Buddy Wise told other commissioners that in the closing days of hunting season, officials at the range, "Claimed the hunters were setting fires and just ran everybody out of there."

The board agreed that the government-owned tract should be opened for recreation when not occupied by the military, and sent letters to the county's national legislators and the range commander, Lt. Col. Donald Griffing.

A month later, four Air Force colonels came to the commission meeting, explaining their side of the issue. Griffing outlined the various uses of the range, and told commissioners how funds for the bridge must be appropriated.

The commission in the meantime received several letters from the national representatives, indicating they were doing all they could to resolve the

matter. L. A. "Skip" Bafalis wrote that the government should be able to pay half the cost of the bridge replacement.

At the end of February commissioners toured the bombing range and discussed the problems with Griffing, who said the Air Force probably would be able to fund half the bridge replacement, and that the range would issue a bulletin as to when it would be open for hunting and camping.

In June, Bafalis wrote the board that the military should be able to pay for 75 percent of the bridge replacement, and later in the summer, it was confirmed the county would only have to pay one-quarter of the \$125,000 cost.

Just when all appeared to go tranquil with the Air Force, another issue roared the commissioners' ire; the Air Force was requiring that all "hunting buggies" be licensed and inspected and operated by a licensed driver. Furthermore, they were to be confined to existing roads.

At year's end, the preliminary engineering work was being done for the bridge replacement and the Road and Bridge Department had completed stop-gap repairs designed to make the controversial bridge over Bonnet Creek hold together just a little while longer.

A Question of Garbage Early in January, the county's Landfill Committee, formed in 1973 to find a solution to the solid waste disposal problem, reluctantly concluded that the only way the central landfill concept

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New officials of Highlands County were sworn into office Tuesday afternoon by Judge Clifton Kelly. From the left are: Supervisor of Elections

Jimmy Whitehouse, School Superintendent Dr. Dan Davis, Tax Collector J. T. Landress, Property Appraiser Billy Martin, Sheriff Joe

Sheppard, Clerk of the Court and County Judge Mr. New to office are Dav Sheppard. Sunphoto 1

Light Sentence

The marring of Avon Park's Mall over the Christmas weekend was, to say the least, disgraceful and disgusting. What were these two boys trying to prove by doing this? Were they trying to see if they could get away with it? Or could it be that they thought if they did this that it would put them in the "spotlight" with their schoolmates?

Whatever the reason, surely the punishment of working it off after school for a month's time is not punishment enough.

Reportedly, eight hundred dollars worth of damage was done to the Mall, to be "repaid" by working approximately fifteen hours a week for a period of four weeks. If one figures this out on an hourly basis, it would figure out to be a rate of approximately \$6.50 per hour, a very nice hourly wage for anyone. It would seem that this is a very lenient punishment for this sort of thing. Not only are they getting off easy, but there will have to be someone paid to supervise this repair work to the Mall, at the taxpayers' expense. Is this justice?

The people at Avon Park should be polled to find out how they feel, as taxpayers, about the destruction of their mall, and just what they think the punishment of these boys should be.

Maybe the punishment should also

include the parents having to pay for the damages, along with boys working at something constructive in the town, not necessarily working on the Mall.

This method has been proven effective in other areas to be quite successful, as parents also feel obligated for the responsibility of their children's actions.

In some areas where this method is being exercised the rate of teenage crime has been cut 50 to 70 per cent. Could it be that this route of punishment might be a good idea?

Granted, one parent was heard to say that he'd beat his but when he got him home, and another that he would be returned to the used car lot. This is a step in the right direction, but is it punishment enough?

It would seem that a more severe and longer punishment, including working on Saturdays, would be appropriate.

Is it possible that the boys will only be placed in a position to be in the "spotlight" by working on the Mall, and being placed on a pedestal in the eyes of their friends?

Is this what the taxpayers want as punishment for this crime? Or do we want more severe action taken for the repair of the Mall?

Christs' Birthday

Dear Editor:

A matter of great concern was brought to my attention on Christmas Day, which may affect every person not only in Avon Park but worldwide. While traveling along our usually busy streets on Friday evening preceding Christmas I observed that every place of business was closed. Again on the following day, Christmas, a similar sight met my eyes.

All were celebrating the birthday of the Christ Child, and how fitting that they were also celebrating the day upon which He rested after six days of busy creative work. This day He blessed and sanctified, or set apart for sacred use as a day of worship, and named it the Sabbath.

Never during all the years of the existence of this world has He ceased from calling apart all of mankind to worship Him and to receive the instruction for the time ahead as He did for our first parents, Adam and Eve, on

that seventh day. In Isaiah 45:22 He says "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God and there is none else". In the following chapter of the Bible in verse 8 He says "I am God and there is none like me."

Wonder of wonders, on the following Sabbath, New Years Day, the world saw a similar experience: The Christ Child has given another year in which to prepare for His coming to this earth to gather those who have accepted of His full plan of salvation, and to take them to heaven.

As mentioned in Revelation 1:1, it is the whole world to come to the Remnant Church of Revelation 18:4, it being the only church named in the Bible, for all the walks of life? The last three chapters of the Bible mention the end results of all humanity.

I am alarmed and shall take heed and study. Are you? John Sommer

A Hidden Word

Dear Editor:

In these days "a hidden word" which was abhorred, shuddered at and shunned by decent people has come to the fore by the news media, newspapers, magazines and television shows. This hidden word is "homo-sexuality."

I remember there was a time when individuals who indulged in this awesome practice were outcasts in their communities. The Holy Bible in King James translations, says, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with woman kind." "It is an abomination." Leviticus 18:22.

The dictionary defines abomination as repugnant, hateful, detestable, loathsome, very unpleasant, disagreeable, very bad, poor, inferior, abhorrent, horrible, revolting, foul and vile. The Living Bible says, "Homo-sexuality is absolutely forbidden, for it is an enormous sin." That means that it is a cardinal sin, the accumulation of many sins, immense, far larger than normal size and

an abnormally great sin.

God hates and condemns all sins, but he hates and condemns homo-sexuality more severely than all the other human wrongs, evils and sins.

It defiles and pollutes the land and brings desolation and destruction to the inhabitants of the land, like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Through wars and migrations the whole world is plagued by this human immoral disease. It has entered almost every place where male humans are integrated. Such as camps, camp-grounds and compounds.

I remember during the first World War in the prisoner of war compound at Helopolis, Cairo, Egypt how the rival groups fought and rioted against themselves because of homo-sexuality.

Barracks, prisons, jails, schools, dormitories, colleges and universities and I am sorry to write even monasteries are plagued with this immoral and most forbidden sin.

In these changing times great and high principles of life which build and keep the dignity of man, Bible ethics, Biblical moralities, Biblical principles, precepts and Biblical virtues, Godliness, purity, holiness, goodness, righteousness and similar virtues do never change.

Modern so-called morality is not morality. It is immorality, it is infidelity. So, all you who are supposed to be the so-called leaders in America; Lawyers, judges, news media, journalists, writers, Newspapers, magazines and television networks, NBC, CBS and others, which televise trashy shows like "A judge marrying a man to a man," do not deal lightly with this abhorrent vice, which desecrates the human dignity and superiority and brings defilement to the land and destruction to the nation. God hates and condemns homo-sexuality! Leviticus 18:22.

Bedroe M. Sharian

Learn To Use Pesticides

Avon Park on Monday nights Jan. 10 to Feb. 7. Residents of the southern part of the county can attend sessions at the Lake Placid Courthouse annex building from Jan. 11 to Feb. 15. In case of conflict on any night the session can be taught at the other school location, as the same lessons will be given at each location.

"Let's face it—this is important to you," stated

Hurner, "If you apply restricted pesticides, you need to continually update yourself on the safe and proper use of pesticides."

The current goal of agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to have virtually all pesticides on the "restricted" status. Even if you are a commercial applicator or don't use pesticides it would be to your

advantage to take the private applicator training.

The purpose of this program is to train pesticide users in the safe and proper use of pesticides. The "do-gooders" are always ready to strike at agriculture but they don't understand that it is our environment also. For further information call 385-5198 or stop by the Extension Office at the Ag Center.

Redistricting

realignment of the precincts, since a precinct must be wholly in a commissioner's district.

"District No. 1 will have the most substantial changes," said Whitehouse, stating that the southern border of the precinct be moved from Cornwell St.

"It will be a lot easier for people to get to SR 64 they live on, as much side of Cornwell."

or major shift discussed was around the area, which was adding a few additional No. 5.

Whitehouse said, "The state wanted me to come in here today and recommend the new precinct lines and let you approve them, so I could send them back right away, but I don't think we should work it that way."

The commissioners and Whitehouse agreed to send the state a list of proposed line changes, and see if the state found them satisfactory. If they receive the nod, the commissioners will then decide whether they should be made official.

"They wouldn't let us use fence lines," said Whitehouse, "They felt they could be removed at any time by the owners. It



DWARFED BY THE big Transtar International parked in front of the Avon Square Shopping Center stores, John

Gust (center) gets help on a petition to do something about the traffic problem on U.S. 27 from store managers Harry

Johnson (left) of Eckerd Drugs and Henry Dennis of Winn Dixie. Sunphoto by Lew Miller.

Battle With Air Force- Trash Pick-Up

could be economically feasible, was if everybody in the county dumped their trash at the site. Unfortunately, that meant a mandatory trash pick-up for all county residences.

The central landfill concept was decided upon only after it was concluded that incinerators and recycling operations would be unfeasible for Highlands County at this time.

At the end of February county commissioners accepted the final report of the Landfill Committee, which called for a central dump, mandatory pick-ups at least once a week at all county

residences to be made by three franchised collectors, franchised landfill scavengers, and other considerations.

The week after the report was published, the first barrage of citizen opposition hit the commission. Residents appeared at the meeting claiming the mandatory pickup was not needed, too expensive, and unfair to the elderly, poor, and winter residents, who would have to pay for a year's pick-up even though they were only here a few months.

The commissioners replied that mandatory pick-up was both necessary and desirable, as it would solve solid waste disposal problems, and help eliminate illegal dumping as a fringe benefit.

By July, County Attorney Robert Duntz had drawn up the rough draft of

the proposed ordinance.

However, in late August, the opponents were overjoyed when Skipper reported that the pickup could not go into effect before October 1977, one year later than was originally designed.

Skipper said that they had delayed action on the ordinance too long and could not get the annual service charge included on the county tax bills sent out in November.

The issue has been quietly lying in peace since. The Budget. Although each of the commissioners expressed extreme apprehension about the 1976-77 budget, when the summer months rolled around they sat down and pared off approximately \$600,000 from the submitted budget requests.

When the chopping was done, county residents discovered that there would be no tax increase levied by the county for the coming year. Property-owners received bills assessing \$5.39 for every \$1,000 worth of property, the same as was sent out in 1975.

Other notable events in the county commission's year:

In April, the board approved a \$150,000 donation to the South Florida Junior College Auditorium Fund, reasoning that the chance for a large county auditorium of which the state pays two-thirds, was "not one we're likely to see again."

— Held a special meeting in May to discuss the county's own bureaucracy, and instructed all employees to be more cordial to county residents with whom they deal.

— Adopted an ordinance, at the urging of Sheriff O. L. Raulerson, which requires all carnival shows coming into

School Board

Set Public

Hearing On

E.S.A.A. Grant

in compliance with federal law, a public hearing will be held Monday at 1:30 p.m. in the George Douglas Administrative Building, 68 School St., in Sebring, to advise the public as to the needs and conditions of the E.S.A.A. Federal Grant application by Highlands County schools.

E.S.A.A. stands for Emergency School Aid Act and has provided almost \$200,000 to Highlands County schools during the 1976-77 year. Two key programs were initiated by the funds: the Time Out Rooms and Teacher Home Visitation. The application for 1977 will request funds for continuation of the programs.

A districtwide advisory committee provides guidance to the overall E.S.A.A. project and consists of parents, teachers and students from throughout Highlands County.

Serving on the committee for 1977 are Clarence Phillips, Jr., Ethel Elie, Dixie Scott, Sam Nix Jr., Ernest F. Sims, Mrs. Clara Bosh, Mrs. John Mack Jackson, Mrs. R. Padgett, Mr. Phil May, Mrs. Blaine Dertman, Dennis John Burley, Erin Lane Garne, Ken Atkins, Melvin Duntz, Willie Brown and Diana Tror.

"We hope the community will take part at the hearing Jan. 10 and ask questions and make suggestions to us," said I. Dan A. Davis, superintendent.

bond, and show proof of liability insurance.

— Purchased a plot from the Coca-Cola Co. for \$100,000.

— At the end of September, transformed an 11-acre old-time recreation complex into a county park to investigate recreation possibilities.

— Were instrumental in getting the Department of Transportation to install a traffic control device at the Bair's Den intersection south of Lake Placid.

— The board voted to give the Highway Patrol bar space, give the census bureau space, pave the school board's parking lot for free, and adopt laws prohibiting barbed wire in residential areas and requiring driveways to be plowed.

— Carroll Lyles hired away from the state to advise the county's financial system.

— The board voted to participate in the expansion of Max Long softball complex.

The commissioners are still fighting the "offic county population estimate, which bet the local head count at 41,007, down from 1975's 42,787.

— A plot for his Nest Estates, on Lake Istokopoga recorded, and county departments agreed it would be very difficult at a house up in the subdivision.

— The commissioners decided they did not want to participate in the "Pioneer Day Festival because of liability risks.

The commission also ruled against a county-wide fire protection program, as it would be financially unfeasible for a county as large as Highlands.

Avon Park Sun

Established in 1919 at Avon Park, Fla.



A New York Times Company

Published Each Thursday in Avon Park, 33825
Office: 203 West Main Street
Phone: 453-4355 453-4358

Edward Carter, Vice President and Peter Howard Stahl, Controller
Robert Cooke, Advertising Manager

Second class postage paid at the Post Office at Avon Park, Fla. under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In Highlands County Outside Highlands County Canada

1 Year	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$12.75
6 Months	\$3.50	\$4.75	\$ 6.75
3 Months	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$ 4.00

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The views expressed on this page except under the heading of editorial are those of the writers expressing their own and not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Avon Park Sun staff.

Avon Park Residence Looted

Over \$200 worth of jewelry was stolen when burglars entered the Avon Park home of Roland Evans over the

weekend.

Evans told sheriff's deputies that when he returned home Monday evening, he discovered the front door had been pried open with a metal bar, which was later found in the house.

The thieves had gone through every room in the house, but had not vandalized the residence. Some food from the kitchen had been taken, and several half-eaten items were found throughout the house.

In addition to the jewelry, the thieves took a clock-radio, a pair of man's boots, and a girl's jacket. Total loss was set at \$200.

The board warned the election supervisor not to restrict any area so that a present commissioner would wind up outside his own district.

Whitehouse in return, cautioned the commission, "By the time this thing is over, it's going to wind up costing us thousands of dollars, because we're going to be notifying a awful lot of people that we're changing their district."

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