Count Shows 'Core' Traffic Quadrupled

The traffic count on the core of Broadway, from Washington Street to Church Street, has quadrupled in one year, according to 1968 figures recently released by the State Transportation Department.

The state's traffic figures in a two-way traffic count taken on the average of a series of counts taken during three one-week periods spaced throughout the year showed a count in 1967 of 3,900 against 1968 figure of 15,068.

No Explanation

Even with the realization of the Northway, traffic through the city has continued to show tremendous increases for which the state said they could give no explanation.

Howard Jacobson, a senior civil engineer with the department, also noted the last count taken from Spring St. to Lake Ave. was in 1964, when the figure was 9,300. In the four ensuing years, traffic over that area has doubled, last year showing 18,741.

Also Doubled

Still on Broadway, the count from West Circular St. to Spring St. has also nearly doubled in four years, from 8,100 in 1964 to 14,747 last year. The 1967 figure over this area was 14,000.

Off-Broadway and into the outer districts has also seen an increase of double, or better than double. From the Northway exit on Union Ave. east to the Saratoga Lake Bridge the count in 1964 was 3,450, while this year's count showed 8,101, or better than double.

Another Double Hike

From the corner of Lake and Broadway, east on Route 29 to the east city line, the traffic count in 1963 was 2,000 while in 1967 it increased to 3,900. In 1968, it was another better than double increase, jumping to 8,612.

Counts in Mechanicville on Route 4, from the start of the Route 67 overlap to the junction of Old Route 32 were 7,440; on 4 from Old Route 32 to the city's north line, 5,944 and on Route 67, from the end of the Route 9 overlap to the city's west line, 2,678.

TRACKDOWN

Toll-Free?

..I would like to know if TRACKDOWN would be able to find out when Saratoga will be on the same toll free service for telephone calls the same as the Tri-City Area. I have checked with the Public Service Commission (PSC) and also with the New York Telephone Co. and neither can give any idea as to when this will take place. We live on Route 9P and a short distance away at the Round Lake Trailer Park they have this service. We pay more for a private line than the Capitol District does and yet we do not have this convenience. Mechanicville and Clifton Park, which are a short distance away, are also on this plan. It would be wonderful to be able to call Troy, Schenectady and Albany even if our rates were a little higher. I do hope you will be able to track this down.

A.D.
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

..TRACKDOWN'S ANSWER — A spokesman for the PSC said the matter was in the hands of the New York Telephone Co. A survey taken in this area in 1962 and 1963 showed that the majority of people did not want to pay the rate for service to the Capitol Area.

According to business sources who have been seeking the inclusion of Saratoga Springs in the Tri-City area, any action on the matter is at least five years away.

DEAR TRACKDOWN — There's a serious traffic problem on Lake Ave. between Pinewood and Forest Sts. Each day traffic hazards occur when mothers park their cars on Lake Ave. to go to the doctor's office and enter into traffic carrying babies. Has the city looked into one side of the street parking in that area to remove some of the congestion?

P.S.
Saratoga Springs

TRACKDOWN'S ANSWER — Trackdown tracked down deputy public safety commissioner J.C. Bearden, who said: "One side of the street parking (alternate parking days) would only add to the congestion in the area by elongating the area of bumper-to-bumper parking, and would create an additional traffic hazard should mothers with their children have to all cross the street on the alternate parking days. We have records showing no accidents in that area, and, while it has been suggested that parking be prohibited on either side in that area (the East side recreation field faces Lake Ave. in the area described), this would cause even more inconvenience to mothers bringing their sick children to the doctor's office. We do not propose to make alternate parking on a major highway into the city."

DEAR TRACKDOWN — I am a watcher of Star Trek, and now that they don't have it any more on WRGB I am very upset. They have some other program that people of my education level don't like as much. Can you get Channel Six, WRGB-TV to put Spock and the Captain back on?

TV for
Saratoga Springs

TRACKDOWN'S ANSWER — We TRACKED DOWN the program director for WRGB, who reports that Star Trek will be put back into the station's program. It will run Tuesday nights at 7:30 beginning June 3.

DEAR TRACKDOWN—After delivering The Saratogian for five years and being away from home now for some time, I miss reading it. We are in sort of an isolated condition here. Even the Stars and Stripes (the armed forces newspaper) is hard to come by, and our major source of news is the mail. My wife sends me news from home in letters, but it's not like reading the paper. I seem to recall there is a break on subscriptions for servicemen. Is this the case?

AGI in the Jungles
Rural Saratoga Springs

TRACKDOWN'S ANSWER — Yes, there is. Several servicemen are now receiving our paper at reduced rates. It's $1 a month. Our Circulation Department would be happy to service you.

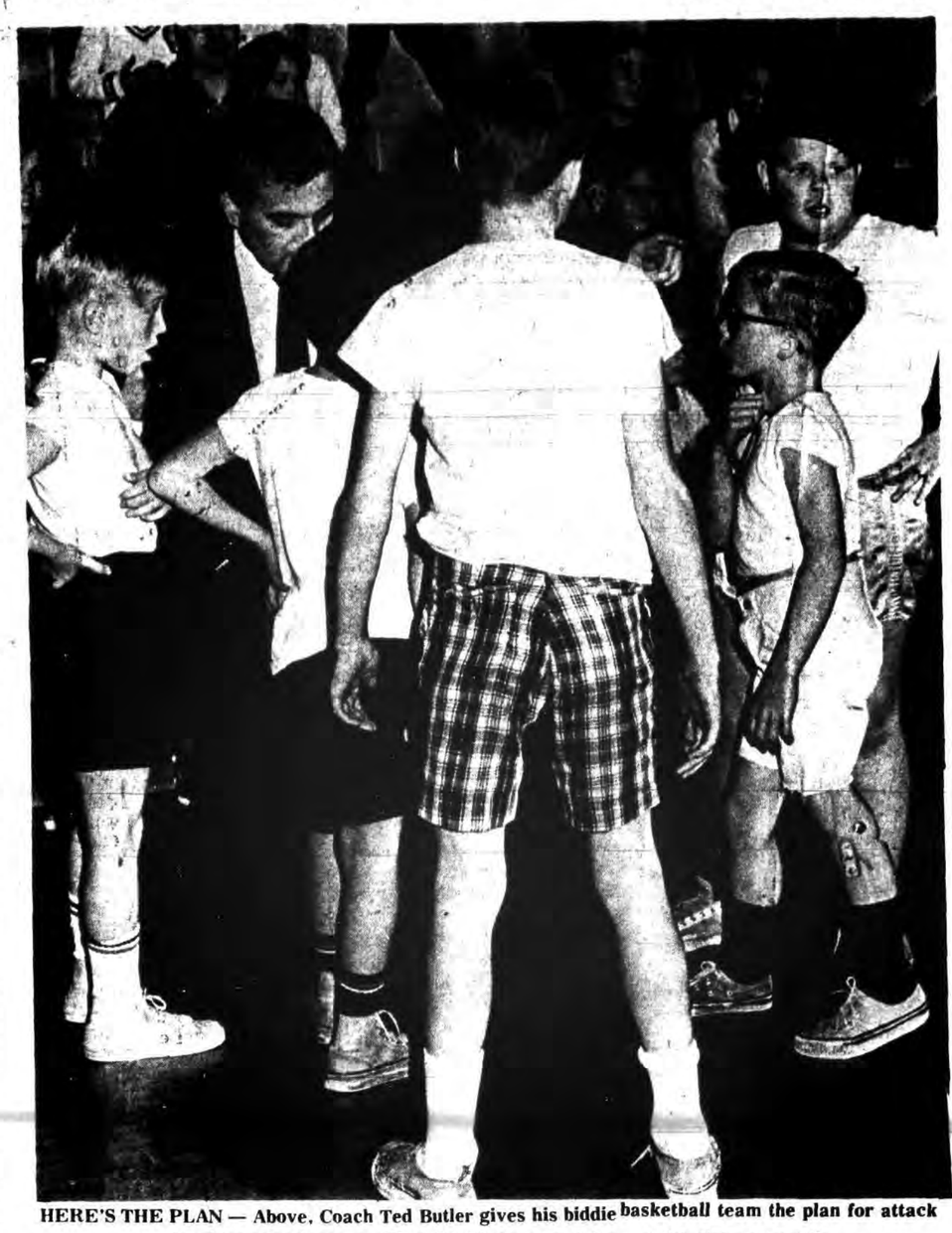
TRACKDOWN is a public service column which attempts to solve problems after reader efforts have failed. Send problems, questions and COPIES of supporting documents to: TRACKDOWN, The Saratogian, 20 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866. TRACKDOWN cannot accept phone calls, personal interviews or return material. No letters will be answered except through the column. Send your name, address, and phone number. Names will be used unless writer requests use of initials only.

Man Loses Hand

A 23-year-old Argyle man was reported in fair condition at Glens Falls Hospital after a hand grenade exploded and blew his right hand off early this morning.

Hospital authorities said Lawrence Curtis, of North Greenwich Road, is also being treated for a fracture of the left leg and fragmentation wounds of both legs.

State Police said the investigation is incomplete, but they believe the man is home on leave from the service and that the grenade was a "practice grenade."



HERE'S THE PLAN — Above, Coach Ted Butler gives his biddie basketball team the plan for attack to win a recent game. Mike Madden, second from right, listens intently.

'C' Also Means Courage

City Youth, 9, Overcomes Handicap

By RED WILDY

"The Big C" is a frightening phrase for many persons today, for it stands for "Cancer," but in the case of 9-year-old Mike Madden, it stands for "Courage." He knows the meaning of both.

The fourth grade student at St. Peter's Academy knows what a tough break in life is, but it hasn't deterred him in the least. His left leg was amputated at the hip when he was 7, following a bout with cancer, but he is one of the most respected members of the St. Peter's biddie basketball team these days. Sister Anne Beatrice is his teacher.

THE PLUCKY Irishman (full name's Michael Patrick Madden) has not only played in two games so far this season, and made two baskets for his team, but he is looking forward to trying out for the Little League baseball team and playing football, he said.

He also belongs to Den 6, Cub Pack 14, Boy Scouts of America, at the Caroline St. School, where he holds the rank of bear cub. Mrs. Jeanette Henningson is his den mother.

Ted Butler, the coach for Mike's basketball team, shows the youngster no favoritism, neither does anyone else. He doesn't need it. When you think of Mike, think of him the way he asks everyone to. "Just like any other kid."

LONG BEFORE he knew he would ever spend time in a hospital, Mike's disposition came to the fore, when he decided at the age of 5 to become a doctor, "Because I would like to be able to help others." His best subject in school is math, he says, and so far has proven that he can multiply a tough break by perserverance, thereby solving many problems.

It was about two years ago when Mike went into a hospital in Schenectady for the removal of a cyst from the heel of his left foot. The operation proved that more had to be done, and he was then taken to Memorial Hospital for cancer in New York City. When they told him what had to be done, Mike said he wasn't, "very happy, and a little worried."

But he went through the operation like the champion he is, and today rates high with his two

brothers and one sister, as well as his teammates, classmates and fellow scouts.

ON THE DAY he came home from the hospital nearly two years ago, Mike's mother, the former Sonia Schumann, of Long Island, recalls the boy setting the pattern which has governed his life ever since. That is, "just like any other kid." A neighbor called to tell her that her son was up a tree, for Mike's curiosity got the best of him, and he left the ground to do some exploring. When Mrs. Madden calmed the neighbor down, she asked her to check the boy to be sure he was all right. When the neighbor asked Mike if he could get down from the tree, his answer was typical. "Sure, I got up here, didn't I?"

Besides his father, Dave, who is a superintendent with a can company in Albany, Mike's family also includes an older brother, David, 12, a younger brother, Danny, 7 and his kid sister, Lisa, 4. David is in the sixth grade and Danny, the second at St. Peter's Academy. The three classify Mike as "terriffic."

Last summer Danny tried his bicycle without training wheels. With his artificial limb, Mike decided that if Danny could do it, so could he. He got on the bike, started down the road, and has been riding without assistance ever since.

MIKE LIKES to visit an uncle down on Long Island, with whom he goes out on the pier to fish. The last time there were nearly 20 fishermen on the pier when Mike caught three, and they caught none. That was three days after he came out of the hospital following the amputation.

On the lighter side, his mother, who is a licensed practical nurse, has taught him to play the piano. She studied at the Julliard School of Music in New York. He also likes to play chess and looks forward to the day when he can beat his older brother at the game.

Mike, who always has a smile and a kind word for the other guy, is considered a personality kid. It is evident that any handicap that exists is in the family's heart, not in the loss of his leg.

FOLLOWING the operation, Mike only asked a question any child would ask, "Will the leg grow back?" When told it would not, he made up his mind to learn to live without it. In so doing, he is not the only one who learned something. Mike Madden has taught everyone he comes in contact with that if there is something you want to do bad enough, go ahead and do it. Handicap is a word, not a predicament.

As his brothers and sister said, "Teriffic."

ADULT FILMS

Starting Sunday, at 7 p.m. and continuing every Sunday, the Capitol Theater, Ballston Spa, will present adult night. These pictures won't be strictly "art films." No one under 18 will be admitted. "Sand Pebbles" starring Steve McQueen, will be presented this week

State's Tax Level Said Hurting Industry

"The tax level is hurting the state in competitive economy. Our competitive economy has dropped tremendously. We are reaching the point where industry is being drawn from the state."

These were ahong the statements made by State Sen. W. Douglas Hudson yesterday as he participated in a luncheon meeting discussion with the National and State Affairs Committee and directors of the Saratoga Springs Chamber of Commerce at Holiday Inn.

Hudson's remarks on taxes and their relationship to the state's competitive position in regard to industry came in the course of comments on various aspects of the proposed state budget.

Noting that Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have no personal income tax, he said the state's personal income tax is a threat to our keeping highly skilled personnel.

To this, Edward P. Finch, General Foods Corp. plant manager here and a member of the Chamber State Affairs committee, added the point that industry is having trouble getting qualified personnel to come into the state. Due to the tax structure, Finch said, "we have to pay more than in any other state (where General Foods plants are located) and even then they don't want to come. Finch added that only the great recreational facilities of the area have helped to overcome this situation locally.

Hudson said he was "happy to state" that he was starting to get mail from industry.

The senator observed that he had received 2,000 letters and that they were largely from teachers, adding the phrase "probably the greatest lobby in the country."

While expressing concern over a cut in state aid to school districts being passed on the local districts, he expressed the view "there are some programs I am sure school boards can eliminate."

Fred G. Eaton, a committeee member, pointed out that if the legislature expects school boards to cut costs, it should stop mandating increases for teachers.

Hudson said he thought many people were of the mistaken impression that the governor proposed 5 per cent cut applied to the budget adopted last year. Instead, he said, the proposed five per cent cut was recommended after an increase of some 900 million had been added to the budget.

Relative to the committee's concern over the more than 4,100 new state jobs called for in the budget, as expressed by Chairman Leo P. Spagnolo, Hudson said he expected that the proposed cut would eliminate more than 4,000 state jobs.

In answer to a question from committee member Charles S. Dake regarding the suggested Little Hoover Commission, Hudson said senators and assemblymen actually are not given enough time to properly evaluate the budget, but said a proposal is being advanced to provide funds for senate and assembly staffs to study the budget items.

On other issues, Sen. Hudson said he:

Doubts the proposed off-track betting bill will see the light of day;

—Expects passage of legislation that would allow the State Transportation Department to widen South Broadway in Saratoga Springs as part of the arterial system.

—Feels bills to bring about meaningful medicaid cuts will be passed.

Spagnolo announced that the committee and directors would meet for a similar luncheon meeting next Friday with Assemblyman Fred W. Droms Jr.

ON STATE SUBJECTS — Sen. Douglas Hudson, left, and Leo P. Spagnolo, chairman of the National and State Affairs Committee of the Saratoga Springs Chamber of Commerce, go over agenda for yesterday's luncheon discussion at Holiday Inn.

He also announced that plans have been launched to arrange a joint meeting of congressional action committees of Saratoga Springs, Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Colonie, Glens Falls and Amsterdam chambers on March 14.

City Man, 24, Cited On 2 Traffic Counts

Henry L. Smith, 24, of 146 Washington St., pleaded innocent to a charge of driving while intoxicated and failure to keep right when he appeared before City Court Judge LeRoy T. Walbridge this morning.

Smith was arrested after the auto he was driving struck two parked cars on North Broadway shortly after 3 this morning.

His case was adjourned until March 14 and he was released in his own custody.

According to police, Smith was driving west on North Circular St. and made a left turn onto Broadway when his auto struck the parked car of Anne Clare, 632 North Broadway, driving it into another parked car owned by Charles A. Krupnick, of Annapolis, Md.

Patrolmen Thomas Reilly and Frank Seaman investigated.

James A. Ducket, 32, of 3 Waterbury St., told police he was driving south on Church St. at 6:25 a.m. today when his auto was struck by an unknown vehicle which proceeded on without stopping.

Patrolman Reilly is investigating for a hit-and-run driver.

Lenten Program At Presbyterian

A special Lenten program based on study and discussion of the book, "The Comfortable Pew," will be presented at The Presbyterian Church, starting on Sunday and continuing on the other Sundays of March.

The program will be given in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., and there will be a coffee break at 10:30 a.m. The sermon at the 11 a.m. service of worship will be related to the discussion theme.

LOTTERY WINNER — Mrs. Celia Wilson, RD 1, Kaydeross Ave., receives a $400 Lottery check from John Sollecito of the Albany District Tax Office. The winning ticket, drawn as a consolation winner in last month's drawing, was purchased at the S & M Market, 112 Congress St., owned by Vincent Sarro.