

Schoolbus riders mostly good, Elsie says

She was no angel herself

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer
Sometimes the noise behind the driver's seat is bad, but Elsie Smith thinks it depends on what kind of a day she's having. If she's not feeling well to start with, the noises of boisterous school children merely aggravate her mood.

Mrs. Smith is a school bus driver for Georgetown's Travelways and this is her ninth year driving children to class. Three times a day, she rumbles out of her long driveway in Norval. Mornings, she takes youngsters to Glen Williams, Centennial and George Kennedy public schools. At noon, she takes Pineview and Kennedy's kindergarten pupils home. And, in the afternoon, she takes Pineview, St. Francis of Assisi, Centennial and Kennedy students home. The routes take her about three hours a day.

With staggered hours for school day beginnings and dismissals, Mrs. Smith is able to deliver children to and from several local schools.

"Some of them are mouthy, but they're mostly good," Mrs. Smith said. "I was no angel, so I can't complain. Kids are kids."

PULL OVER
It's only rarely she has to yell, she said. If children are misbehaving, she pulls the bus over to the side of the road and stops.

"We don't have enough seats at the front," Mrs. Smith laughed. She puts

her naughty charges close to where she's driving to keep a better eye on them, giving them occasional glances in her mirror.

If a student causes trouble, principals take over. If things don't improve, the student is taken off the bus route and has to fend for himself getting to school and back.

"Sometimes if you're buddy-buddy with them and develop a relationship, they walk all over you," Mrs. Smith said. Nevertheless, at the end of each year, despite scoldings and front row seats, the children bring candy, flowers and little presents for their bus driver.

The rules on the bus forbid smoking, shouting,

walking around and throwing things, Mrs. Smith said. However, students are allowed to talk to each other.

"We hear a lot of stories about home we can't repeat," Mrs. Smith laughed. "The kids come up with a lot about what happens at home."

SAME DRIVER
Raised in Norval near the Public School now called the community centre, Mrs. Smith used to take the bus herself to get to high school in Georgetown. Now, her two teenage children take the bus to the same high school, riding with the same driver who used to take their mom to school.

"Once you get to the

third generation, then you quit, my driver trainer said," Mrs. Smith laughed.

Once a kindergarten pupil fell fast asleep on Mrs. Smith's bus. While the rest of the schoolchildren raced off to class, this little tyke cuddled as cozily as he could on the vinyl bus seat and slept away the afternoon.

When Mrs. Smith came out at 3 p.m. to get ready for her afternoon run, the little boy came crying and rubbing the sleep out of his eyes to the bus door.

"Thank God he didn't

wake up before," Mrs. Smith said. "I learned my lesson. I check my load at the end of each route."

THREE YEARS
Trained by Travelways, Mrs. Smith had only driven an automatic Plymouth before taking over the controls of the school bus. Her Class B licence has to be renewed every three years.

"After you forget the length of the vehicle it's easy," she said. "No different from driving your car."

Throughout her nine-year career, she has never

had an accident, but says winter ice and fog make for difficult driving conditions.

"You think you know the road, but in the fog you learn that you really don't," Mrs. Smith said.

Last January a bad snowstorm stranded her on the Ninth Line with a busload of children. The board of education closed schools early in an effort to avoid the storm, but while the children were being driven home, the storm broke.

With the help of a police

Continued on page B6



Checking the oil is just one of the safety checks school bus driver Elsie Smith must make every morning and afternoon before beginning her routes. She also checks the bus tires, batteries and lights, to be sure everything is in good working condition. If anything goes wrong on the road, Mrs. Smith can radio in for a mechanic and an extra bus. (Herald photo by Ani Federian)

Zellers
CORRECTION
★ ★ ★
In the Zellers flyer "CHRISTMAS SPARKLERS SALE", December 16-18 — on Page 12 the description and price for the "LLOYD'S DELUXE and "LLOYD'S" COMPACT STEREO SYSTEMS should be transposed.
We regret any inconvenience this might have caused our customers.

SENIOR CITIZENS' Tour of The Christmas Lights
Wednesday, December 15th
7:00 p.m.
Carolling • Refreshments • Door Prizes

BUS PICK-UP
Kin Court
Armstrong Residence
Sargent Residence
Legion Hall
Moore Park Plaza - 7:15
Centennial Building
Delora Smoke Shop - 7:15
Silvercrest Towers
Preston's Store 7:15 p.m.

To Reserve A Seat Or For More Information - Call Evenings
Bob Malcolmson - 877-2972

Please Turn On Your Lights Between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

SPONSORS:
Georgetown Kinettes
St. Andrew's United Church
Mac's Mill, Mountbatten
Delora Smoke Shop
Travelways School Transit
Ten Harlan Donuts
Georgetown Fruit Market
Young's Pharmacy
Vanderburgh Florists
Pine Valley Farms
A & P Store
L.G.A. Market
Dairy Queen
Central Cab
Miracle Mart
Crested Hill
Mr. Dowd

At The...
EXCHANGE TAVERN
37 King Street 877-3541
Georgetown (Across from GO Station)
IN THE STATION HOUSE LOUNGE:
TWO HANDS ON A BELLY
Fri., Sat.,
Dec. 17th & 18th
DAILY SPECIALS — HOT & COLD LUNCHES
OPEN: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES
GEORGETOWN 3
Another World, Another Time...
In the Age of Wonder.
1
STARTING FRIDAY
THE DARK CRYSTAL
FRIGHTENING SCENES! PARENTAL GUIDANCE
Theatres: B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
Evenings at 7:05, 9:15
Sat., Sun. mat at 2 p.m.

2
RICHARD PRYOR
JACKIE GLEASON
THE TOY
STARTS FRIDAY!
PARENTAL GUIDANCE
SWEARING
Theatres: B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
Put it on your family's Christmas list!
Evenings at 7:10, 9:20
Sat., Sun. mat at 2 p.m.

A Musical Storybook Fantasy Come To Life
3
Heidi's Song
STARTING FRIDAY
Reduced admission for adults accompanying children
5 DAYS ONLY Evenings at 7:10, 9:00
Sat., Sun. mat at 2 p.m.

CANADIAN ODEON THEATRES
GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE THE HAPPY CHRISTMAS GIFT
STARTING DEC. 22nd
SALLY FIELD
IN "KISS ME GOODBYE"

Our Gift To You
This Christmas

WIN UP TO \$3000.00 IN DOWNTOWN DOLLARS

Where friendly service and big selection come together
DOWNTOWN Georgetown

DOWNTOWN DOLLAR
Redeemable merchandise at any B.I.A. DOWNTOWN STORE
Offer expires December 31, 1982

Each week ending December 4th, 11th and 18th, twenty names will be drawn at random. Each will be awarded fifty "downtown dollars" to be spent at any downtown business. Winners will be notified by telephone and published in the Herald. Drop in to any business and fill out a ballot. No purchase necessary.