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WHAT CAUGHT MY EYE

By Ray Shank

As if it wasn't bad enough that adults are shooting themselves off with all kinds of firearms these days. Now the gun problem has spread to schools. Not just high schools and colleges. Public schools too, my friend!

A recent Associated Press story told about public school officials in cities across the U.S. being concerned about a surge in cases of pupils carrying guns in classrooms, corridors and schoolyards.

A survey showed that there had been 60 gun episodes in Los Angeles schools since September.

Fifteen handguns were confiscated from pupils in Atlanta schools last year. A 12-year-old boy, angered when schoolmates chided him for disobeying a traffic light, got a pistol from home and opened fire in the schoolyard. Fortunately, he didn't hit anyone.

School officials in Topeka, Kan. took a gun from a 14-year-old girl who said she needed it for protection.

There were 15 school gun cases in Detroit and four in Seattle last year.

Some of the kids say they carry the guns as "a status symbol".

At some Los Angeles schools, only one entrance is opened and a security officer is stationed there. Guards at some New York schools make occasional "pat down" searches to see if pupils are carrying guns.

Cripes, we got bawled out for bringing water pistols to school when I was a kid.

What's this world coming to????

That St. Petersburg, Fla. fellow I wrote about last week who was supposed to divorce his dying wife because he

couldn't afford to keep up the expense of keeping her in a nursing home won't have to divorce her after all. It seems a fellow in London, England by the name of Paddy Byrne read about the terrible predicament Howard Thomas was in. Byrne, it seems, was an inmate of a Nazi war camp back around 32 years ago. It was then that he received a Red Cross parcel postmarked St. Petersburg with cookies and candy. He never forgot the gratitude of St. Petersburg people and, upon reading the said article about Thomas and his dying wife decided to donate a bank trust fund for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas. Mr. Thomas will now be able to pay his wife's \$2,000 nursing home bill and he and his wife may be able to carry on for a while yet. She's on her death bed with multiple sclerosis.

Talk about luck! A Windsor hairdresser had just recently won a trip for two to the Bahamas in a draw. Instead of quitting there, she decided to press her luck and go to the race track. Since she wasn't much of a betting lady, cont'd page 4

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