Bus Line Hires First Woman

BY BOB MYCUE

The parade of city transportation, down through the years, has included mule-drawn cars, trolley cars, and busses. Apparently, in the past, no one has trusted a woman with operating on their beauty sleep, at 5:30 a.m., Miss Nafziger will be reporting for duty.

The question of whether she is equal in ability or superior to the men drivers will inevitably arise. Brother Trusts Her.

Her older brother once paid her a very high compliment. "Sis," he said, "you drive just like a man."

Owners Agree To Clear Rat Breeding Lots

Two men who were charged by residents in the 1300 block of North Colton Avenue with maintaining a nuisance were placed under $100 fine.
Bus Line Hires First Woman

Brother Pays Tribute: 'Drives Like a Man'

BY BOB MYCUE

The parade of trolley transportation for the past 10 years, has included mule-drawn cars, trolley cars and buses.

Apprently, in the past, no one has hired a woman with operating the Bloomington-Normal City Lines.

She is the first woman on the local company's payroll.

Miss Nafziger, who lives at 1314 W. Washington St., is completing her familiarization with the five city routes. After this she will be placed on the "extra board" and could eventually move up to a regular run.

The local bus line also is contemplating hiring a second woman driver. Another National City Lines subsidiary, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has had a lady pilot since World War II.

"She has made quite a record for herself," Kenneth Wright, transportation superintendent for the Bloomington-Normal City Lines, said.

Mr. Wright got the idea that women might be the solution to the problem after an advertisement in the paper for male drivers had gone unanswered for months. He finally changed the ad last week to read that women could also apply.

Several Applicants

"Already I've had several female applicants," he said. At least one other woman is checking out the preliminary phases of bus driving, besides Miss Nafziger.

The normal size of the local bus line driver pool has been about 30. This has been faced to the limit by the loss of two men (a driver and maintenance man), when the National Guardsmen left, and the suspending of several drivers, Mr. Wright said.

As the trail blazers for her sex, Miss Nafziger has found that most bus passengers have a friendly attitude toward a woman driver.

"Of course, some of the people get a little irritated when I'm behind schedule on a run," she said. Besides the nervous strain of driving in traffic hour after hour, one of the reasons why women might find the routine hard is the early reporting time for the day shift.

When other girls are just beginning their beauty sleep, at 5-30 a.m., Miss Nafziger will be reporting for duty.

The question of whether she is equal in ability or superior to the men drivers will have to wait.

Brother Trusts Her

Her older brother once paid her a very high compliment.

"Sis," he said, "you drive just like a man."

Regarding the historical significance of her new employment, veteran streetcar motormen believe she is the first lady operator in city transportation.

R. C. DeMange, Bloomington attorney, hon. of one of the controlling interest in the trolley lines before Illinois Power & Light took over, shared this belief.

Mr. DeMange's memory goes all the way back to the 1890's, when mule cars were running between Bloomington and Normal.

"I don't think we ever had any woman streetcar operators," he said.

Lt. Appenbrink Hurt in Korea

Marine 2nd Lt. David W. Appenbrink, whose wife lives at 306 N. Fell Ave., Normal, has been wounded in action in Korea, the Defense Department announced Saturday.

It was understood he has been transferred to a hospital in Japan. He suffered fractures in both legs when hit by shrapnel.

To Judge Soap Carving

Dr. F. Louis Hoover, director of the Division of Art Education at Illinois State University, will serve on the jury of awards for the National Soap Sculpture contest in New York City June 3 to 5.

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