

BUYER'S REMORSE
12-17-2012 BY HARRY ZIRKELBACH

There are occupations described by the drudgery of the repetitive nature of the duties. This exists in almost everything the human does; beyond, in some tasks, moments of unbelievable terror interrupt the tedium, define the character of the performer. Security, flight, precision tasks, encompass this dual nature.

It is possible to be "sworn to protect" society, and never face peril. Still the threat is there, and all society remains thankful for those who accept the challenge.
For these individuals can never say, I have Buyer's Remorse.

This moment began and ended on a warm spring day. The initial action reflected the consensus of Management. It is impossible to drive for eight hours in any major city and not witness a violation of a traffic law passed to make vehicle movement safe to all.

In this city, near schools of the lower grades where pupils had to cross major intersections, flashing School Lights were installed, operational the hours before and after school. These lights were clearly visible.
Not operational continually, and unaccountably, frequently violated.

One such intersection was a block from the Police Sub-Station. The Officer working that afternoon shift, had just parked at the Flashing School Light intersection when a auto sailed past without stopping. The transgressor was pursued and stopped across the street from the Officers' Office.

Before the Officer could park and emerge from the lights-flashing Police cruiser ticket book in hand, the offending driver exited her car, walking to the Officer.

There was a great deal of conversation from the offender. In between, the Officer related that the car had not stopped at the School Signal light, pointing back toward the still blinking red.

The Officer was accustomed to explanations for this infraction, judged any excuse quickly. In this instance, every stated excuse was unacceptable. After obtaining the woman's drivers license, the ticket was prepared and returned with driver's license. The violator's wrath never interrupted.

She mentioned knowing every person of importance in the city, without avail.
Finally proclaimed, "Well I'll tell the Judge, who is sure be my friend,
that I stopped at the light".

To which the Officer replied, "Well, you'd be damned liar".

With that the offender leapt into the center of the street, waving and shouting to everyone and no one "The Officer swore at me". Traffic avoided her. She promised to continue this fight even as she and the Officer drove their separate ways.

The drivers' name was familiar to the Officer. He promptly reported the exchange with his Superior. Asked, "Are you certain that's exactly what happened?" and assured, the Officer was told there would be more to this tale soon enough.

Yep, he was ordered to report to Headquarters, where several Gold Stripe authorities had him repeat the event, several times.
Then he was thanked and excused without comment

Later when the issuing Officer asked his superior if the violator would have to pay the fine this ticket, the Officer was told, Yes and No. The ticket has been paid. She gave the ticket to some city authority who personally paid for the infraction, for by now, even the mayor wanted revenge.

She was that universally popular,
yet remained without Buyers Remorse.