

Sign on...There are an awful lot of people out there who want to make a living off of somebody else. We have the freeloaders who are sucking the welfare system dry and taking every thing they can get hold of, begging on street corners, and some, I suspect, stealing what they can, but they are not who I am talking about today.//One bunch is those who have vehicles that are not running, and instead of taking them to a wrecking yard, they abandon them on a neighborhood street, and leave it up to the residents to call the police, or otherwise get them hauled off at someone else's expense. In the last couple of months, we have had three on our block alone. A guy came along and asked a neighbor if he could take something off a car that was abandoned alongside my other neighbor's house. "Why not?", was his reply.//Then we have those who approach naive or unsuspecting homeowners with offers to repair a house, or fence or door, or some other fixture that might not even require repairing, and ask for an up-front payment, then either do a lousy job, or not come back at all. If you are not sure, turn them away, or ask to see business licences, or call the Better Business Bureau for some proof of validity.//Then we have the phone callers, you know- the ones who want you to send a certain amount of money to some Prince in Nigeria, and he will send you back a fortune.//I had a friend who fell for the infamous "we are calling about your grandson, who is in Mexico and got caught with Marijuana, and he needs

\$20,000 to get him out". "You mean Charlie? was her response. "Yeah, Charlie" he said. She arranged to have it sent, then they called back and said they needed another \$27,000 to fix it. She arranged to have her bank send it. This lady is a very nice, intelligent lady who just wan't thinking! I certainly would change banks if that happened to me-God Forbid! First, I'm sure my grandkids wouldn't that, and if they did, they might be ^{SPENDING} some time in a Mexican jail! I have a general Idea where my grandkids are, but, you never can tell.//Another scam that's going around is a call from someone claiming they are with the IRS and if you don't pay up or check with them they will prosecute you. I knew it was a scam, of course, but I called the number back anyway, and the man said a few words, then cut it off. I don't know if he figured I knew what he was up to or not. I called the EPD and they gave me the number for the IRS scam department, but it was so complicated, I just gave up on it.* The I RS or any other Government agency doesn't do business over the phone, so if you do get a call like that, and I have talked to several of my friends who have, just ignore it, or call the EPD and get a number to call about it.//School has started, so be careful when driving our local streets, because many of the kids haven't learned to respect vehicle travel.

Sign off.....