

# Of Interest to Motorists

## PAINTED CURVE IS TO BE TRIED

ANN ARBOR, Mar. 5.—Rapid of traffic and safety of the Michigan transportation is the order of the day. Department of Public Safety, day, and the "motoring public" are lauding, told more than 600 high-roads good traveling facilities, way engineers of Michigan at Lieut. Lawrence A. Lyon, director their annual conference here re-

cently. Lieut. Lyon spoke on "Rural Traffic Control." "Traffic control in our rural district has not met with success thus far," he declared.

"This summer our department is to try a new experiment on U. S. trunk line No. 16, between Detroit and Lansing. It is planned to paint a red or yellow center line on all curves in the highway and State Police officers will be instructed to issue tickets to all motorists who fail to keep on the left of this line. In this way we hope to eliminate many of the serious accidents which have occurred on these curves. MAY EXTEND IT.

"If the new plan works out successfully we will extend the practice to other Federal and State highways.

Lieut. Lyon cited three angles of attack in the traffic problem. First, he said, the traffic situation might be remedied through legislation.

"Until this year our traffic rules were generally considered unfair and unreasonable, inasmuch as they limited the speed of cars to 30 miles per hour," he continued.

"Motorists thought higher speed was safe with the present traffic conditions. For the last three years our department has ignored the 30-mile limit because we, too, thought higher speeds were safe."

Last year, together with other police departments and organizations, we recommended to the Legislature a new traffic law, which conforms to the Hoover code. It was passed. The law says a motor vehicle shall be driven at a speed that will enable the driver to stop within the measured clear distance ahead," and that, I believe, constitutes a fair and reasonable regulation, which makes the speed limit of a vehicle conform with the condition of the surface, width and traffic on any highway.

STRICT REGULATIONS. "To offset any bad effects that might result from unlimited speeds, it was found necessary to make other regulations. We find that most accidents on highways are due to 'cutting traffic,' passing on hills or curves and improper lighting of cars. Therefore, strict regulations were made to prevent these accidents.

"To avoid congestion, it was found necessary to make regulations governing vehicles in making turns; governing right-of-way on highways and giving certain vehicles the right-of-way in emergencies. To make vehicles safe to be driven, the regulations require certain equipment, such as brakes, horns, mirrors, windshield cleaners and warning lights on certain types of cars. The present state law is fair to the motoring public and sufficient to properly regulate traffic.

"Law enforcement can be obtained chiefly through education of the motoring public. A campaign of safety education goes far toward bringing the public to realize the importance of safe driving.

2,000 KILLED. "Last year there were some 25,000 persons killed and about a million and a half injured by auto. There was a property loss estimated at \$7,000,000,000, yet we as a people take no special notice of it.

"Highways today are showing a great improvement in design and construction. Roadways are being built wider, bad curves are eliminated and grade crossings reduced in number, but there re-

mains other improvements to be made. When the highway engineer builds a road or bridge today he constructs it strong enough to bear up under the wear of heavy trucks and other traffic, but more than mere strength must be built into our highways today.

"Safety to the traveling public must be built by means of wider roadbeds, wider bridges and bridge approaches, wider shoulders at each side of the highways, and elimination of bad curves and grade crossings."

companies are operating on little better than a fraction of their cargo capacity. This situation will ultimately solve itself and the costs will be more economically distributed."

Mrs. Klen Korkman, 74, of New Underwood, S. D., was found and her skirts and hair cut off by an unknown man who told her that he was sent out by the government to "cut old ladies' hair and shorten their skirts."

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—John A. Wendorph, chairman planning commission: "In obtaining the services of an expert planner, the commission is making the first decided step toward progress. Through this method only can the village get the benefit of the best in planning for the future."

## PREDICTS HIGH PLANE SPEED

An airplane speed of 500 miles an hour, regular transoceanic service, and air liners with 8 and 10 motors is predicted for the near future by Commander Richard E. Byrd, U. S. N.

"The successful flights of 1927 have assured this," he writes in "Mirrors of the Year," and taught that an airplane motor can be counted upon for 50 hours of uninterrupted performance, and that a multi-engine plane was the most practical for this kind of a flight.

"That we shall have a tremendous increase in commercial flying is obvious. The cost of operation is still a problem, but it is solving itself as the traffic volume increases. Today, many

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February marked a new high point in a sales curve that started sharply upward last October. November shattered all previous records, October, November and December proved the greatest last quarter in Hupmobile's 20 years of manufacturing. January 1928 exceeded January 1927 by 32% in total volume of business.

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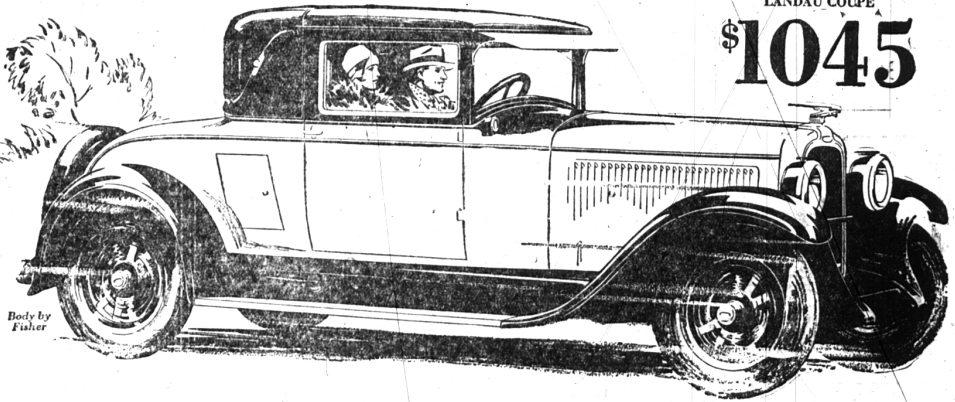


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