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POLICE REPORT BIG DECREASE IN ACCIDENTS

Monthly Statement Shows Only 12 Traffic Crashes In November

FIVE TIPSY DRIVERS

Despite the icy condition of roads during November accidents in the village show a marked decrease over those of the preceding month, according to a report made public today by Chief Orra J. Tuttle.

Only 12 accidents were reported during November while those for the preceding month show 26. Speeding cases still top the list of traffic offenders with 66 persons hailed into court on this count against 81 of the preceding month. Five persons were arrested for reckless driving and six on drunk driving charges.

A total of 102 persons were arrested for violation of parking rules during the month. Novembers' report shows but $159.46 collected by the violation bureau against $339.45 of October, however.

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ting the speeding case drop," Mayor Crooker said, "and Mr. Wilson will be tried for speeding 55 miles an hour. Our commission drew up a report of arrests for speeding made during the time that Chief Stephens has headed our police department.

"This report shows that no arrests were made for speeding less than 45 miles an hour. There were 22 cases of speeding 55 miles an hour and over and the average fine was $13.64 for the offense. There were 59 cases of speeding 50 miles an hour, 10 for driving while drunk, eight for reckless driving, four for 48 miles an hour and seven for 45 miles an hour.

"Fifteen million cars travel over Woodward avenue annually and we have only one other highway, Ridge Road. The claim that we have been operating a speed trap is refuted by the facts. Mr. Harpst, of the Detroit Automobile Club said recently that he felt that Pleasant Ridge was most lenient in its handling of speeding motorists. I would also like to add," he said, "that the prosecutors have never made a complaint to any Pleasant Ridge officer to any speeding on Woodward avenue."

Hearings Today

Wilson was charged with speeding 55 miles and hour in Woodward avenue in Pleasant Ridge while he was returning to Pontiac from Detroit. With him in his machine were Orr, and two assistant prosecutors. Curt W. Augustine and Thomas Gillotte. During an argument in the Pleasant Ridge police booth, Wilson was struck by Stephens, he said.

Both men were arraigned and their attorneys obtained adjournments. At a special meeting of the Pleasant Ridge Village Commission Nov. 20, the members gave Stephens a vote of confidence and agreed to finance his defense.

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read, in part, "such signs as are frequently found on business streets projecting five or even 10 feet over the sidewalks soon defeat their own end by obscuring one another, besides destroying whatever beauty the business facade may have, and constituting a potential danger to pedestrians."

(Concluded 3 from Page 1)

ous rumble rather mutinous. You know the sound. Like an interurban train slowing down as it comes around the bend. Never mind what bend.

"And what's more," he added, "this year you'll be giving me $1 and two cents more than last year."

There was a sudden rush of sound, dire sound. It threatened. Like a bag-pipe player taking that first vicious breath before he swings into "Th' De'el's Awa'" (Scotch for, "The Devil's Away").

But O. M., "Sure as Death" knows his figures. So do we, now.

"Wait a minute," he roared. "What do you think this county is? An eleemosynary organization?" No one answered—or knew the answer.

"Well, then," he said very quietly, "here's the list. Read it and 'kick in' with the dough." We read:

"State, $4.80; county, $8; township, $3; school, $18.96; highway improvement, $1; township drain at large, 54 cents; township covert road at large, 80 cents."

"And if," concluded 'O. M.', 'Sure As Death, "if you don't pay by Feb. 1, there will be a four per cent penalty added for late payments." Then he left us. What did he say to you?

VIOLATE GAME LAW, FINED BY JUDGE BUCK

DeWitt Buzzard of Waterford Township and Fred Weiss of Bloomfield Township were sentenced Friday to pay $20 or spend 10 days in jail by Justice Floyd S. Buck for violating a state game law.

Buzzard and Weiss were arrested last Thursday by Deputy Game Warden Robert McClure for failure to tag traps.

Villagers and the Village

By THE WANDERER

Fred S. Ross, of Willetts street, a resident of Birmingham for many years, told this Wanderer the other day that the village treasury might be saved a few pennies, if arrangements were made to cut out the use of half the Woodward avenue street lights after a certain time each evening. "I understand that we pay so much per month for each light, but couldn't a saving be effected if the contract were based upon the use of a more limited quantity of electricity?" he asked.

Last Friday afternoon one of the Wanderers, feeling the need for Symphonic musical entertainment, sat up near the sky line in Orchestra Hall as Ossip Gabrilowitsch put the Detroit Symphony Orchestra through some modernistic classical stuff. Candidly, we were much bewildered for several pieces; the program went on to explain, for instance, that one of the pieces was a "mountain legend," and so we watched with our ears for something Alpinish. We recognized the cog road at Pike's Peak, the tooting of tourists horns, the ringing of the wayside garage's cash register, but we failed to hear the blatting of the mountain sheep or goats, the crinkle of icy snow as footsteps footed up steep ascents—and only faintly did we hear the roar of the great cataract as it tumbled down the mountain ravine to sea level. But the last offering on the program by Liszt, entitled "Les Preludes," was dandy—and we felt repaid for our trip.

Not long ago Mrs. Herbert M. Zerbe, of Oak street, came downtown to attend to some business. She parked her car on west Maple avenue. When she went to get in later, she found a police tag for over parking. The queer part of it all, she relates, is that her car is an Oldsmobile, not a Chevrolet as the tag stated, and the over parking took place on the day before the date written on the tag. She queries this Wanderer with the question: "what is the matter with the local police department?"

People shivered as they hurried about Birmingham last Friday and Saturday. It was a cold day. "The coldest November days I have ever seen," shouted John B. Howarth, of Pierce street as this Wanderer passed him on Woodward avenue.

Herman Schwarze, one of the 11 Birmingham boys who attended the Michigan State Older Boys' Conference at Grand Rapids, nominated Arnold Kingstead of Pontiac as president to preside at the next conference.

Among the subjects discussed by the boys and their group leaders during the conference were many of a serious nature dealing with the future prospects and activities of the boys. Amos Alonzo Stagg, noted football mentor of the University of Chicago, was one of the prominent speakers at the conference.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT SEEN IN BIRMINGHAM STORES

By ALICE M. FOX

The spirit of Christmas, in all its red and green splendor, has descended upon the stores of Birmingham. One by one, local merchants were found nailing up racks that were to be twisted with bits of red and green crepe paper, putting new counters and tables into place to be loaded with gifts for the busy shoppers. And now the time has come when they are ready for the Birmingham Christmas gift seekers.

Stocks are larger this year than ever before. The outlay of gifts this season is the most complete that has ever been presented to the Birmingham public.

It is possible to shop conveniently and successfully right near home with the usual personal service that only a small community store can provide, and minus the nerve-wracking rush characteristic of the metropolitan store at Christmas time.

Many Gifts Prepared

But to return to the gift selection that awaits you. There are gifts for father, mother, sister, brother, sweetheart and the numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. There are the practical things, and also those apparently "useless" things that so delight the feminine heart. And the children are in the limelight, too. In the toy departments will be found new devices of every description. The little folks are no longer content with immovable toys, and the toy manufacturers have answered their call with electrified railways, tiny cars that go speeding around and around the small tracks, and dolls that walk and say, "Mamma." There are gifts for the home that every member of the family can enjoy.

Salespeople are eager to help you in your selections, to show you the new little novelties and things that have been manufactured for Christmas 1929.

Nothing has been left undone in the preparation of this Christmas merchandise. Stocks are well displayed and assortments are most complete right now. That is why Birmingham merchants are urging early shopping. That personal service which probably means even more at Christmas when we are choosing gifts for others is possible to a greater degree when stores are not crowded and clerks can browse with you from counter to counter, from one Christmas novelty to another while you make your selections.

Some stores are even offering a mailing service. They wrap your packages in pretty Christmas papers, tie them with dainty ribbons, put in your gift card, then wrap it for mailing, and the peak of it all is this: they even mail it for you. One store has advertised the payment of the postage on your gifts to any point in the U. S. A.

(Concluded 4 from Page 1)

The current year will total in excess of $2,904,000.00, which reveals an increase of 720 percent.

The total assessed valuation has grown from $5,300,000 to $25,300,000, and the tax levy for the year from $79,000 to $329,000. In 1922 I had 400 special assessment installments to bill and collect, amounting to about $8000.00. This year there were about 5000 such items, amounting to $142,000.00

In 1922 I had 1200 tax receipts to issue, and could almost write them up as the taxes were paid. This year we prepared 12,000 tax receipts and 5000 special assessment receipts, written in triplicate and balanced with our rolls before a single tax was collected.

We now mail tax bills to all known property owners, which feature alone adds tremendously to our work, as changes of ownership and description are continually going on, and it is a real task to keep a mailing list up to date so that it will have real value in aiding the collection of taxes. I am sure the value of this work is demonstrated in the fact that, notwithstanding the large growth of our tax roll here, the percentage of taxes actually collected is only slightly under that of 1922.

In addition to this large increase in volume of work, we have had a great increase in the detail of our bookkeeping, by the installation of a system of accounts embracing a trial balance list of almost 1000 book accounts, which are kept accurately, and subject to the strict audit of Certified Public Accountants.

Now all this increase in activity and detail means more work, and one of the most discouraging features of my position here is the continual criticism of the amount of the help employed by the Village. In this regard I cite the payroll figures of my Department. In 1922 I did all the work, and received $1500.00 for the year. This year salaries in my Department will amount to $9,580.00. This is an increase of 640 per cent, whereas our activities as shown by the above figures have increased 720 per cent. I have not examined the figures, but I dare say that the same favorable comparison will hold throughout all the departments of the Village. It should be remembered that the acts and votes of the Village Commission, dictated by the demands of the public, alone generate the work of the Village. We do not create jobs for anyone. But we are directed to do certain work, which must be done, and, human capacity being limited, we must have help.

J. E. LAWSON IS CANDIDATE

Royal Oak Man Says He'll Run For State Senator

James E. Lawson, state representative and Royal Oak supervisor is the first Oakland County candidate to announce his intentions of running or state senator from the twelfth district which comprises Oakland and Washtenaw Counties.

The office, which is now held by Charles A. Sink, of Ann Arbor, will be vacated by Mr. Sink who has announced his candidacy for the office of lieutenant-governor. Senator Sink has represented the district for two years.

Mr. Lawson was born in Troy Township in 1879 and attended the Troy Township schools. He was graduated from the Birmingham High School. He engaged in the lumber business with his uncle, Jacob M. Lawson for a short time and then continued in the same business in Armada for 12 years.

Served As Commissioner

For the past 13 years he has been engaged in the real estate business in Royal Oak. He has represented his district in the lower house at Lansing since 1925 and has served several years as a city commissioner. He is also a member of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors and fostered several bills for the organization on apportionment, Pontiac State Hospital, private corporations, public health, roads and bridges at the recent session of the legislature.

In 1905 Mr. Lawson was married to Mathilda Storz in Royal Oak. They have two children and live at 1212 Washington avenue, Royal Oak.

GAS STATION FIRE CAUSES $50 DAMAGE

What might have been a serious fire in a gasoline station of the Standard Oil Co., at Woodward avenue and Long Lake road in Bloomfield Hills, was extinguished Wednesday after the blaze had wrought damage estimated at $50.

The fire was put out by the Bloomfield Hills fire department. It started when a truck belonging to the Baldwin Rubber Co., burst into flames while the attendant at the station was filling the automobile gas tank.

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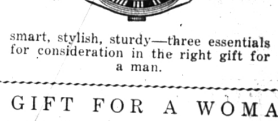

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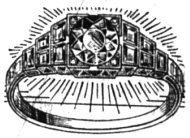

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