

Smokers Caused 2,881 Forest Fires Last Summer, Conservation Dept. Shows

LANSING, Feb. 26.—Half of all of the forest fires in Michigan during the 1930 season were caused by smokers.

Cigar and cigarette butts, pipe "heeds" and carelessly tossed away matches started 2,881 forest fires last summer. This figure constitutes 49.56 percent of the total number of fires reported for the year.

For the past six years the proportion of fires caused by smokers has grown rapidly each year. The Forest Fire Division of the Conservation Department points out in issuing comparative figures.

In 1925 only 5.09 percent of the fires were attributed to the smok-

er. It increased 11.60 percent the following year. In 1927 the percentage had jumped to 20.96 percent. In 1928 to 38.80 percent and in 1929 it had reached 39.54 percent.

More Hunters Cause
Penetration of highways into every corner area of the state, the increasing summer traffic on the main and side roads of the north and the increasing number of hunters and fishermen are given by the Forest Fire Division as reasons for the increased hazard to the woods from smokers.

However, while the same reasons more and more tourists would seem to apply to camp fires, the percentage of increase in fires caused by camp fires in 1930 over the previous year was but 7.4 percent. The Forest Fire Division reports 294 or 6.40 percent of the fires last season being caused by camp fires, increasing precautions on the part of the campers was cited as the principal reason for the fact that this percentage is remaining low.

An increase of 4.47 percent in the number of fires of incendiary origin is reported. Last season 437 fires or 8.61 percent of the total for the year, were maliciously started. The percentage for the year before was 8.01.

Engines Better Inspected
While noticeable increases were reported in several of the ordinary causes of forest fires; considerable decreases were noted in other causes.

Fires having "railroads" as their origins dropped sharply from 13.28 percent in 1929 to 6.75 percent in 1930. Increasing co-operation on the part of the railroads, and a more systematic and better inspection of locomotives were given as the principal reasons for the drop.

Over a six-year period, 1925-30 inclusive, 16,013 forest fires were reported in Michigan. The Forest Fire Division issues the following figures showing the number of fires and the percentages by causes for the six years:

Unknown 3,061, 19.12%; brush burning 2,332, 14.56%; camp fires 1,285, 8.09%; railroads 2,100, 13.49%; incendiary 1,142, 7.13%; smokers 4,003, 28.75%; lightning 385, 2.39%; miscellaneous 975, 6.09%; lumbering 140, .87%.

BIG BEAVER

Mr. and Mrs. John Ferguson and their daughter, Dolly, of Rochester were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Manderson of Detroit.

Grace Lawson, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Lawson of Ruth street spent the week-end in Pontiac as the guest of Patricia Palmer.

A Sunday School board meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Thomas Maddock of the Sixteen-Mile road Monday evening.

R. C. Hale of Rochester was a Sunday guest of Mrs. Mary Miles of the Sixteen-Mile road.

Mrs. Ella Hankin of the Sixteen-Mile road entertained the members of the Evening League last Wednesday. Prizes were awarded to Mrs. H. L. Schultz, Mrs. W. Miller, Mrs. M. Hopkins, and Mr. S. K. Baker.

Leslie Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hill of the East Sixteen-Mile road, left Monday for Chicago where he will attend the Coyne Electrical School.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wingate of Boyd avenue announce the birth of a son, Robert Edward, Feb. 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank James and their daughter, Mary Louise, of Detroit, were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Warren James of Rochester road.

Mrs. James Moore and Mrs. Cyril Burling of Pontiac were guests Wednesday of Mrs. Theresa Harris and her daughters, of Rochester road.

Mrs. A. Beaubien of Boyd avenue spent Sunday and Monday in Warren at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Church.

Mrs. J. Drinkwater of Royal Oak was a Sunday guest of her mother, Mrs. Abiel James, of Cherry street.

The Misses Grace and Ethel Howlett of the Sixteen-Mile road and Mr. R. C. Hale of Rochester were Friday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lockhart of Highland Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stokes and their son, Howard, of Boyd avenue were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lee East, of Detroit.

Ian Ferguson of Rochester road spent the week-end in Detroit as the guest of Frank Pollar.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde H. Lawson of Ruth street were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lawson of Redford.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Maddock of the Sixteen-Mile road had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Harry Roberts of Detroit.

Mrs. James Tracey of Rochester road left Friday for New York City for an extended visit with her parents.

Mrs. Mae Hopkins of the Sixteen-Mile road and Mrs. Ruth Healy of Pontiac left for Buffalo, N. Y. Saturday where they met Mrs. E. Cline of Boston. Mrs. Cline returned with them Sunday evening and is staying in Pontiac. Monday evening the party were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Orr of the Sixteen-Mile road.

The Misses Marian and Ethel Hill, Miss Mildred Howlett, Miss Morag Ferguson and Mrs. J. Roscoe were Sunday luncheon guests of Mrs. C. Burling of Pontiac.

Mrs. Lawson Lockhart of Highland Park was a luncheon guest Monday of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Howell, of Rochester road.

Miss Mary Patterson of the Sixteen-Mile road was an overnight guest of Miss Velma Pyne of Royal Oak, last Friday.

SCHOOL NOTES
The boys' basketball team met the alumni team last Thursday evening, playing to a 6-6 tie.

C. J. Heavener, field Scout executive for the Detroit district, spoke to the Boy Scouts last Tuesday evening at the school. The speaker will reorganize the Tuesday evening and Scoutmaster Jésum asks all men in the community who are interested in Scouting to be present.

FRANKLIN

Miss Mildred Wood gave a family party Saturday evening in honor of her father, Bert Wood, the occasion being his birthday. Dinner guests included Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wood and their daughter, Beth, and Mrs. Emma Wood of Dwight avenue, Pontiac; Mrs. Adie Grace of Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Adie Wood and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Wood and daughter Ruth of Franklin.

Myron Bush is convalescing from illness at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Glen Bingham.

Sunday evening the second and third quarterly conference of the Franklin Methodist Episcopal Church will take place at the

church with Dr. Field, superintendent of the Detroit district, in charge. Conference members and all who are interested in the church are invited to attend. The morning service will be held as usual at 10:30 a. m.

The regular meeting of the Franklin Ladies' Aid Society will be held tomorrow at the Franklin Church. Dinner will be served.

Rev. Walter Luce, pastor of the Franklin M. E. Church, gave a short address on the life and character of George Washington at the Sunday morning service. At the conclusion of the sermon a brief talk on Junior department work of the Sunday school was given by Mr. Waters, superintendent of the newly-organized Sunday School at Walnut Lake.

Mr. Waters, who completed a course of study in the School of Religion, recently conducted in Detroit, was presented with a diploma from the school by the pastor. Special music was rendered by the Junior choir of the Franklin church.

Mrs. Ardell Grace, of Mt. Pleasant, is ill at the home of her nephew, Bert Wood.

The Live Wire Club will present a home talent play, "No Men Admitted," this evening at the Franklin Hall. The play is a short three-act comedy, concerning a manless summer hotel. Members of the cast include Marquerite



An interesting and concise history of Scouting, its aims, and a few facts about the movement as it exists today are set forth in a communication to all members of the Michigan Department, American Legion, by Lloyd L. Stigney, of Birmingham. Capt. Studever is department chairman in charge of Boy Scout activities.

In the communication Capt. Stanley urges all members of the Legion to get actively into Scout work. He asserts that many of the Legionnaires are waiting for someone to take the initiative and suggests that each local post appoint one of its members who has an interest in Scouting to take

Spicer, Helen Bristol, Margaret Johnson, Ehea Bowden, Florence Bingham, Charlotte Wood, Mildred Meade, Ethel Harrison, Mary Curfin, and Mildred Wood.

Mrs. William Ranning was hostess to members of the Live Wire Club at her home on Paritan avenue, Detroit, Friday afternoon.

over the post's work in the movement. The Charles Edwards Post of Birmingham is sponsor of troop B3.

A signaling contest, in which the troop was separated into two teams was the feature of troop B3's meeting Tuesday evening. The team under Patrol Leader Roy McCutcheon was victor.

Drill on tests in preparation for test-camps next month, occupied most of the remainder of the meeting. The troop will give a free-week end at Camp George to the patrol which by the end of March is the winner of the inter-patrol contest.

Troop B2, holding but a brief meeting, spent most of its time in instructive Scout games.

Troop B3's plans for its meeting last night included a demonstration of fire by friction by the use of a bow and drill. Junior Assistant Scoutmaster J. H. Senney gave the demonstration, which was in preparation for a contest next Wednesday. A tracking observation game and star study occupied the rest of the meeting time. An outdoor game of Capture-the-Flag is planned for next week as the opening of an outdoor program for the spring.

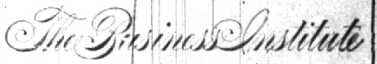
Alfred Ruffording, 14 years old, of Wichita Falls, Tex., won the first prize in the Grand American Handicap trapshooting contest.

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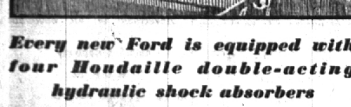
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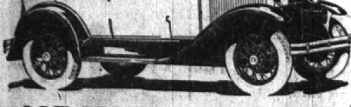
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