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Traffic Death Toll Hits Peak

Remember December—it can boast of the shortest days, the longest night, and the gayest holiday season.

But December can be remembered for another reason—not one to boast of. According to the National Safety Council, December has the highest traffic death toll of the year.

Traffic deaths in the final month of 1947 totaled 3,190. The Council says there are three main reasons for this peak:

1. Slippery streets and poor visibility—the mileage death rate in northern states goes up 24 to 53 per cent in winter as compared to summer.

2. Pedestrians — the December pedestrian toll last year was more than 42 per cent above that for the average month, and early darkness is one of the big reasons.

3. The holiday season—death from traffic mishaps both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are two or three times the annual daily average.

The Christmas-New Year holiday season is the most dangerous single period of the year, according to the Council. Heavier travel and the festive spirit of the season increase the normal winter hazards, such as bad weather, slippery roads and more hours of darkness.

More drinking by both drivers and pedestrians during the holiday season also is partly responsible for the increase in the traffic toll.

In an attempt to hold accidents to a minimum during the festive season, when death or injury is doubly tragic, a national campaign is again being launched behind the slogan—"Don't Let Death Take Your Holiday!"

The idea is to create in the public mind an awareness of the special holiday hazards, and to enlist voluntary cooperation on the part of every individual.

This campaign is the final effort of the year to hold the 1948 traffic toll below the 1947 total of 32,300 deaths. At the end of the first nine months this year, the nation clung to a small reduction in traffic deaths—3 per cent—from the same period of 1947. But the final quarter of the year always is the one with the most traffic deaths.

Make it a wary Christmas, and it will be a merry Christmas.

Abandons Rain-Making

Some months ago the people of the country were vastly interested in a process to cause rain by sprinkling dry ice on clouds.

It is worth noting that the United States Air Force, which has conducted experiments for nine months, has come to the conclusion that the process "isn't worth the effort." The experiments did not produce rain in amounts sufficient to be significant.

Motorcycle Of the Air

The motorcycle of the air is what some call the "Hoppi-Copter", a one-man helicopter that will be manufactured in England, according to Horace Pentacost, the inventor of the machine.

The model has no body. It simply carries a seat and a tripod landing-gear beneath the pilot. Empty, it weighs 175 pounds and can carry more than its own weight. When production gets under way, the cost of the machine is expected to be less than $1,000.

According to the inventor, the Hoppi-Copter will have a top speed of ninety miles per hour, with a cruising speed of sixty miles per hour and an estimated ceiling of 12,000 feet. It will cruise for three hours at a time and land or take off in an area thirty feet square. The machine can hover motionless in the air or move in any direction. If the engine fails, it descends at normal speed and is easily landed.

Young Willkie's Advice

Recalling that the Republican Party, to which he belongs, has not elected a President since he was "in knee pants", Philip H. Willkie, son of late Wendell Willkie, is advising GOP leaders to appeal to the imagination of the American people.

Mr. Willkie thinks that the Republicans will have a chance to dramatize themselves while the Democrats, soon to be in majority, get most of the headlines. He insists that the Party must "become fruitful of ideas, policies and principles", or it will die.

One statement by the youthful politician seems to contain sound advice. He suggests that you can't "win an election until the public knows where you stand." He might have something in that statement because it is obvious that voters want to know what a candidate stands for before depending upon him.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO
December 16, 1898

Just compare the appearance of our telegraph poles to those in nearby communities. Incidentally, congratulations to those farm owners between here and Pontiac who have removed all signs from poles and trees on their property. The deed is a great improvement.

* * *

The party who stole the beans must have too tender a conscience for such business, or they would not be sowing seeds so early. Better keep them. The stomach may be as tender as the conscience before the proper seeding time.

The lecture entitled "The man in the moon and the other man", given by Fred C. Pillsbury of Pontiac in our Methodist church Monday evening, was one of the best this fair village has heard in many a moon. The learned gentleman told us very clearly that it is man's character and not a handsome face which is his greatest value to family, community and country.

* * *

Don't forget to go to the social at Sullivan's Friday night. The ladies will sell their thimbrails to the gentlemen. Hurry home girls, polish your thumbnails and paint fetching little crescents on them.

* * *

On another page our leading druggist tells what great and famous tonic you can drink will give you a "parsnip complexion". Ye editor, being a curious man, would like to know who, among his readers, desireth a complexion like a parsnip?

TWENTY YEARS AGO
December 20, 1928

Christmas Sunday, Dec. 23, has been set for the opening services of the new Baptist Church on Willetts street. The entire building has not yet been completed, according to the pastor, Rev. David Leon Woodward, but the lower auditorium, with a capacity of 400, will be ready, and is to be the scene of the special Christmas services.

* * *

Knowing that most people have an impulse to write, the Eccentric, in its issue of Jan. 17, is giving localites their chance. At least one page, and possibly more, will be devoted to their contributions. We invite all sorts of contributions, but must ask that items be kept to 1,000 words or less.

* * *

Final preparations are being made for the Christmas carolers in this city. Under the direction of the Metropolitan Club, Birmingham will have its first community tree, where all are invited to gather at 7 p.m. for an old-fashioned carol sing. Following this, various groups will go through the city, singing for those who are ill and were unable to attend the community sing.

* * *

Compulsory target for the 15 members of the Birmingham police force will start Jan. 1, according to Chief James Anderson. Each patrolman will fire at least 10 shots per week. Competitive matches will be arranged among the men, with awards for excellence in marksmanship.

* * *

Work has been started on the ornamental light poles along Woodward. The style is of the ornamental pendant type, 24 feet high. The posts will be spaced 100 feet apart on both sides of the avenue, from Lincoln to Oak. Already 30 of the posts, which are set in a concrete base, have been delivered. City officials say the remainder will arrive here shortly after the first of the year.

FIVE YEARS AGO
December 15, 1943

A local rooster played "Mrs. O'Leary's cow" at the home of Charles Haifas Wednesday night, when it knocked over a lantern, cremating himself and 80 hens, and destroying the Hanifan car. The lantern had been placed in the chicken house to furnish heat.

* * *

Between illness and the Christmas rush, the Birmingham post office is having a pretty tough time. Nine out of the 17 employees are ill, and the rush of holiday mail is nearing its peak. Postmaster James Byrne said they were handling things as well as possible, and will arrange overtime schedules to further speed deliveries here.

* * *

Ten-year-old Jack Carter is richer by $175 for knowing the capitol of the state of Maine. Jack was home along Sunday afternoon when WXYZ called on one of their quiz programs, and asked the question. Jack was prompt with the answer, and right, having studied that state last week. He says he will use the money to buy war bonds.

* * *

Birmingham merchants are learning the rules and regulations which will govern the use of the new red and blue tokens to be adopted in the rationing program in March. The tokens will be used as "change" when purchases do not take the total number of points on one stamp.

* * *

Dr. A. L. McNaughton, a dentist here since 1936, will leave for a naval air field in Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 21. He will begin active duty as a Lieutenant, senior grade. Dr. H. F. Hildebrand of Pontiac will take over McNaughton's practice on Jan. 1, 1944.

* * *

The U. S. Navy's only "grog tub" is at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. An exhibit at the Academy's Museum, it is present from HMS Probisher, British training ship, in appreciation of the welcome given the English sailors on a week's visit to Annapolis.

The Burdens of War

Michiganders Resent Auto Dealers' Conduct at Rate of 300 Letters a Day

(Special Story
From Our Washington Bureau)

From all corners of Michigan complaints are pouring into the Congressional Committee on Questionable Trade Practices, now investigating the business conduct of auto-dealers.

Typical of the Michigan letters being received by the Committee, led by New York Republican, W. Kingsland Macy, is this one from a resident of Pontiac:

"By all means keep on with your investigation. It makes me particularly bitter to have to trudge two miles to work through the snow. Ordered a new Plymouth over two years ago. The latest advice of the dealer is to forget a new car, and buy second hand."

At Terrific Markdown

This Pontiac buyer presumes if he bought a second-hand car, he would be able to get a new car by trading it in at a terrific markdown. That's the story most of the letters to the committee tell. No new car without a trade-in. Undervaluation of trade-ins. All sorts of unwanted accessories on the new car when the dealer finally decides to sell.

A Saginaw man writes "I know I am to blame" for the fleecing, but "I had to have a new car for business." And he asks, "What could I do?"

One Michigander paid his dealer a $325 "tip" to get a new car which was loaded with $825 of accessories. This brought the cash price of the car—a Ford—to $3400. And that's not all. He was allowed only $300 for his old machine, which the dealer promptly re-sold for $600. So the new Ford really cost $5700. In the face of this, the buyer asked the Committee if they thought he had been "gyped."

GM May Use Data

Accessories on new cars include such things as jeweled exhaust pipe extensions, electric razors, and kleenex disposers. A complete list of accessories can easily reach the $1000 mark.

So stuffed with complaints are the files of the committee, that General Motors has asked that it be allowed to check them. GM may use this information to crack down on some of its dealers.

Many of the letters—they arrive at the rate of 300 a day—say that manufacturers aren't being tough enough with their dealers.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

PICTURE OF THE WEEK. No, it's not a painted ship upon a painted ocean although the extraordinary backlighting on the waves gives that effect. The diagonal course of the schooner and the sail shadows make it an excellent composition. It's an aerial photo taken with an F 56 Aerial Camera on Ansco S.S. Aero Pan film. The exposure was 1/150 second at f 11 using a minus blue filter. It was taken at 4:30 p.m. with the sun low enough to cast spectacular shadows but still brilliant.

Back in the pioneer days when the only fit subjects for color photography were thought to be October foliage, June roses or an August bathing beauty, photographers tended to turn up their noses at the idea of using precious color film on a wintry snow scene.

It was all black and white, wasn't it? Wrong again. There's plenty of color in winter. It's a symphony of grays and browns and blues against a blue or blue-green sky with here and there a red barn or an evergreen.

Moreover, a transparency of a snowscape projected on a screen will give you the crisp feeling of winter—the brilliant sparkle of sunshine on ice and snow—far better than the best print can produce it.

Exposure For Color

Color photography is harder to do successfully than black-and-white. Let us face it. Color film requires far more critical exposure calculation. You can't allow a margin for error in exposure because the latitude of color film (its ability to record wide extremes of light and shadow) is more limited than in monochrome film.

However, most outdoor scenes, you will find, are sufficiently alike in their illumination range so that the majority of shots can be made with just about the same exposure. For frontlit snow scenes it will probably average about 1/50 at f.8 for normal subjects in bright sunlight. A little more exposure for darker subjects and changes in sunlight.

If you're not sure of yourself, you will have to experiment a bit. Try taking a reading for the bright lights alone and then the shadows. Shoot halfway between. Also try using a half a stop more than is indicated from a general reading. Should your prints show too much bluishness, regardless of exposure, you will probably have better luck using a haze filter.

Use the Sun To Advantage

If you are not yet a canny old color worker, you will usually shoot with the sun behind you to produce a rather flat lighting without extreme contrasts.

However, the full value of color and its ability to reproduce texture and the beautiful range of colors in snow lights and shadows comes when side lighting is used. But remember to increase exposure accordingly! To avoid more contrast than your color film can handle, keep the heavy shadows down to a minimum or find a way to illuminate the shadow side of models, etc., by reflectors.

Sooner or later you will discover that the lower the sun is in the morning or afternoon, the more color there is in a snowscape. The shadows are more purple than blue. The sunlight on snow and trees and buildings becomes golden, then pink. The colors change minute by minute. It's hard to get a color picture at this time of day, but when you do get a good one, it's a prize.

So now we know. Wintertime is colortime, too.

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By Gene Alleman

LANSING — The state legislature, controlled by Republicans, voted members a $5,800 salary for the two-year term, 1949 and 1950.

Where a member of the house or senate formerly drew $1,095 a year or $2,190 for a two-year term, each legislator will receive $2,900 a year or $5,800 for the biennium. The increase will exceed 250 per cent.

Each legislator will be entitled to receive 10 cents per mile allowance round trip for travel once a month between home and the capital.

On the basis of a 120-day legislative session (four months, each year), the legislative pay thus becomes $24.16 a day for work performed at Lansing. As in the past, legislators will also receive special expenses for attending legislative committee sessions at Lansing or elsewhere when the legislature is not in official session. Such is the record.

* * *

The legislative special session, just concluded at Lansing, set the pay of the governor at $22,500, lieutenant governor $6,400, speaker of the house $3,900, and supreme court justices $15,000. A flat $12,500 salary was authorized for the following elective officials: Secretary of state, attorney general, auditor general, treasurer, highway commissioner and superintendent of public instruction.

Pay increases for the highway commissioner, superintendent of public instruction and supreme court justices would become effective later than Jan. 1, 1949, the date when other officials will draw bigger checks. The road and school administrators will begin new terms July 1, 1949. A constitutional provision prohibits any change in compensation of a court justice during their term of office.

Michigan voters approved on Nov. 2 a proposal to let legislators fix their own salaries. The vote was 935,441 to 531,950. They also approved in similar proportions a proposal to let the legislature fix salaries of state officials.

Legality of the legislative action is bound to be challenged, as Section 3, Article XVI, of the State Constitution forbade changing salaries of officials already elected. But the board of canvassers hasn't "certified" officialy to the election results, so it is explained. What will the Supreme court think of it?

And how about public opinion? These answers are yet to come.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Deyo and Paul and Jean who have moved from Long Meadow, Mass., to 348 Ferndale? Mr. Deyo is a sales representative with A P W Products Company.

* * *

Former Royal Oak residents, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Colville and son, Bobby who are living at 1814 Banbury? Mr. Colville is a salesman for Oldsmobile and Cadillac cars.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Marsh and their children, Tom, Bill and Joanne who have moved from Huntington Woods to a new home at 1271 Lyonhurst? Mr. Marsh is a manufacturer's representative.

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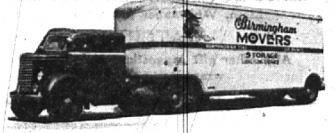

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

MORTGAGE SALE—Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by MELVIN L. CONSHAFTER and WILMA H. CONSHAFTER, his wife, of the City of Berkley, Oakland County, Michigan, Mortgagor, to FRENCH MORTGAGE AND BOND COMPANY, a Michigan Corporation, 5 West Larned Street, Detroit, Michigan, Mortgagee dated the 2nd day of July, A.D. 1947 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Oakland and State of Michigan, on the 1st day of August, A.D. 1947, in liber 2130 of Oakland County Records, on pages 499-1, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWELVE and 42/100 ($1,612.42) DOLLARS. And no suit or proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof; now therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on Monday the 24th day of January, A. D. 1949, at Eleven o'clock A.M., Eastern Standard Time, said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the Easterly or Saginaw Street entrance to the County Building in the City of Pontiac, Oakland County, Michigan (that being the building where the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland is held), of the premises described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount as aforesaid, principal of said mortgage, with the interest thereon at Seven per cent (7%) per annum and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the mortgagee, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows:

All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the City of Berkley in the County of Oakland and State of Michigan and described as follows, to-wit:

The North Twenty (20) Feet of Lot Four Hundred Thirty-five (435), and all of Lots Four Hundred Thirty-six (436) and Four Hundred Thirty-seven (437) of Brookline Hills Subdivision, a part of the Northeast ¼ of Section 18, and a part of the Northwest ¼ of Section 17, Town 1 North, Range 11 East, Township of Royal Oak, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 43 of Plats, Page 49, Oakland County Records.

Dated at Detroit, Michigan, December 2nd, 1948.

FRENCH MORTGAGE AND BOND CO.
Mortgagee.
HARRY W. MUENCHINGER,
Attorney for Mortgagee,
5 West Larned Street,
Detroit 26, Michigan.

52-44

Oliver H. Kirk, Atty., Wabeek Bldg., Birmingham, Mich.

No. 52,785

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 26th day of November, A.D. 1948.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Stephen N. Hare, Deceased.

Oliver H. Kirk, Administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his Final Account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, determination of the heirs of said deceased, assignment of the residue of said estate, and discharge of said administrator.

It is Ordered, that the 29th day of December A.D., 1948 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

37-39

No. 41,906

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac in said County, on the 23rd day of November, 1948.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Elizabeth Ward Davies Deceased.

Arthur Claxton, Executor of said estate having filed in said Court a petition, praying for license to sell at private sale the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is Ordered, That the 27th day of December, 1948 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said Court, at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate in the said real estate should not be granted.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once in each week for three weeks consecutively, previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

John E. Marts, Atty.,
727 Penobscot Bldg.,
Detroit 26, Mich.

37-39

No. 53,404

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 23rd day of November A.D. 1948.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Paul McPharlin, Deceased.

William H. McPharlin and Marjorie Sachsse McPharlin, Administrators of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to examine, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 7th day of February 1949 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

Clarence W. Blennan,
Atty. at Law,
Wabeek Bldg.,
Birmingham, Mich.

38-40

Have You Met . . .

The family from Royal Oak, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hicks and Marsha and Michele who are now making their home at 392 West Lincoln? Mr. Hicks is with Hydro-Cam Engineering Company.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Johnson, 1938 Graefield, and their son, Nelson who have just recently moved from Providence, R. I.? Mr. Johnson is a tool engineer.

No. 53,446

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 30th day of November, A. D. 1948.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Saphrolan A. Magoon (Sophrolan A. Magoon), Deceased.

Sylvia A. Russell, Administratrix of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said Court.

It is Ordered that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 7th day of March, 1949, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

Mrs. Sylvia A. Russell, 4007 13th St.,
Detroit, Mich.

38-40

No. 53,145

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac in said County, on the 6th day of December, 1948.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Arthur E. Bergeine, Deceased.

Elizabeth M. Bergeine, administratrix of said estate having filed in said Court a petition, praying for license to sell at private sale the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is Ordered, That the 10th day of January, 1949 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said Court, at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate in said real estate should not be granted.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once in each week for three weeks consecutively, previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

Clarence W. Blennan,
Atty. at Law,
Wabeek Bldg.,
Birmingham, Mich.

38-40