

It won't be long, in Michigan, before the fruits of fall come and then we witness the great annual art gallery of the out-of-doors; have you planned a brief trip north to thrill over the colored foliage that'll be there?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, September 1, 1949

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Child Traffic Safety Program Begun by Police

Reading 'ritin', and 'whimatic time is here again for the nation's youngsters.
"School has either started—or is about to—everywhere, and once again we must increase our vigilance while driving." This was the warning issued today by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley who locally heads up the September campaign for child safety in traffic in cooperation with the State Safety Commission.
"School time," Chief Moxley said, "takes the child away from his mother's apron strings for a few hours a day and during part of that time he is a potential traffic accident victim unless we adults protect him."
Emphasis on child safety is particularly appropriate in September, according to the State Safety Commission, because at no other time of the year are so many very young children exposed for the first time to the dangers of our streets. In spite of careful teaching by their parents of correct pedestrian habits, children are still immature in their thinking and warnings have very little meaning to them.

Traffic Training Important
We can't over-estimate the importance of conscientious traffic training on the part of parents, Moxley said, "but we shouldn't forget that the responsibility for child safety will always lie heavier on the shoulders of the motorist than the parents."
In connection with its project, the Commission reminded all drivers that in 1948 nearly 4,000 children were killed or injured in pedestrian and bicycle accidents.
"Many of these deaths," Chief Moxley said, "happened because motorists forgot to expect the unexpected while driving near schools, playgrounds and residential areas. When a child's life is at stake we can't afford the luxury of laxness."
News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. The "early bird" usually gets the space.

It's a Short Week Coming Up for the Eccentric

This results from the annual Labor Day holiday to be observed next Monday, Sept. 5. We on the editorial staff of The Eccentric, therefore, will have one day less next week in which to work on next Thursday's issue.
You can help us out immensely by seeing that your news items are reported to us by the end of this week, instead of waiting till Tuesday to do so. In the case of a "short" week, we cannot guarantee we can process all the "last-minute" items that are submitted. But if we receive them by Saturday, the news will appear.

So Please Bring or Phone In Your News By the End of This Week

New Bills Passed by 1949 Legislature Explained by State Bar of Michigan

Editor's Note: This is one in a series of articles on laws which were passed at the 1949 session of the Michigan Legislature. They affect you and every resident of Michigan. The entire series is prepared as a public service of the State Bar of Michigan under the direction of Russell A. Searl, Esq., Chairman of the State Bar Committee on Legislation and Law Reform. The articles are objective in nature and do not attempt to comment on the relative worth of the legislative enactments, but rather to present the most important facts and alert you to the changes these laws represent as they become effective on September 23, 1949.

On September 23 next, practically all of the 317 public acts passed at the 1949 regular session of the legislature and signed by Governor G. Mennen Williams will take effect. The purpose of this series of articles is, first, to

refresh the public in regard to the general provisions of such acts on the eve of their effective date, and second, to call attention to a number of acts which are of special interest but which were not of sufficient importance to catch the headlines at the time of their passage.
Of the 341 bills introduced in the Senate and 546 bills introduced in the House of Representatives, total of 231 were passed by both houses. Of these, 8 were vetoed by Governor Williams, none of the vetoes being overridden, 1 was recalled by the legislature, and 5 apply to purely local situations and are classified as local acts.

Initiated by Petition
Of the bills enacted, only one, Public Act No. 1, was initiated by petition. This measure would authorize the sale of seldom oleomargarine. The initiation of bills by petition, although seldom resorted to, is authorized by our state constitution. Under the constitution, the legislature must either enact such legislation without amendment or, if amended, the measure is referred to the voters by the legislature or else the proposed legislation would be submitted to the electors at the April, 1949, election. The legislature must choose to enact the bill. However, it is still problematical whether this will go into effect on September 23, if at all.
Various associations of the dairy industry caused referendum petitions to be circulated and current reports are that they have already obtained sufficient signatures which, if filed with the secretary of State, will prevent the measure from going into effect. This will cause the issue to be submitted to the electors at the general November, 1950 election.

5 Per Cent of Votes
The referendum action was taken during the referendum election of the constitution which provides that if a petition is filed with the signatures of five per cent and registered electors equal in number to five per cent of the total votes cast by a governor at the last election at which a governor was elected, the act shall not go into effect, but instead the issue shall be submitted at the next general election.
Thus, the unusual situation is presented that the bill was originally initiated by petition under the initiative provision requiring petitions signed by eight per cent of the total vote cast for government effect thereof was withheld by obtaining referendum petitions from 5 per cent of the voters.

Constitutional Amendment
The legislature proposed but one amendment to the constitution which will also be voted upon at the next general election. This is a non-controversial amendment to the constitutional provisions having to do with qualifications of electors by striking out certain language which, with the passage of years, has become obsolete.

Taxes
No new taxes were adopted. However, the threat of a potential deficit in the general fund before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1950, cast its shadow over the deliberations of the legislature throughout the session. Instead of passing the corporation income tax proposed by the governor, the legislature insisted on waiting for the appearance of any actual deficit before imposing any new taxes.

Sales Taxes
A sales tax upon used cars was proposed but was defeated by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats. Measures were, however, adopted to lighten up "loop holes" in the general sales tax statute, mainly by providing the Department of Revenue with additional auditors. By other measures, the proceeds of certain minor taxes were transferred from state funds to the state's general fund.

Gasoline Tax
The proposed increase in the gasoline tax alone with seven other related amendments to highway statutes were defeated, the main objection being, not the proposed increase, but, rather, the basis of allocation of the proceeds of the highway taxes between the state, county, and local units of government.
Schools—Sales Tax Diversion
The general school appropriation bill, as required by the sales

tax diversion amendment to the state constitution which requires the appropriating of 44 and 77/100 per cent of the total revenue from the sales tax for the last preceding year, totalled \$82,044,102.30. That was based upon a total revenue for the year ending June 30, 1948 of \$183,368,782.00. This was close to \$12,000,000 in excess of that appropriated in the year 1948 which was based upon the total revenue of just over \$172,000,000.
Next year the legislature will be required to appropriate in fiscal year 1950, approximately \$87,000,000, inasmuch as the total revenue for the fiscal year just ended was approximately \$116,000,000. While due to the sales tax diversion amendment to the Constitution the appropriation will be increased by some \$4,000,000 in 1950, nevertheless it is anticipated that the state will enjoy a smaller total revenue under the sales tax.

May Need More Money
While estimates as to the total revenue during the present year vary, the estimate given by the budget office to the legislature was \$180,000,000. If these estimates are correct, this will necessarily require either additional taxes or reduction of other appropriations.
The 1949 legislature recommended appropriations below that recommended by the budget office, total appropriations being \$276,000,000 as against recommendations of \$290,000,000. This compared with total appropriations for the preceding fiscal year of \$241,000,000 indicated that an increase in appropriations of \$35,000,000 was made by the 1949 legislature.
The next article in the series will treat legislation having to do with Labor Mediation, Unemployment Compensation and Workmen's Compensation.

Photographs for publication in The Eccentric must be submitted by Friday noon of the week before publication.

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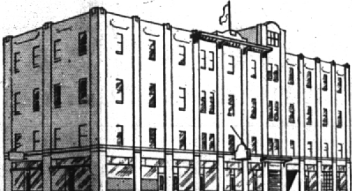
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