# Police Chief Discusses Speeding

"How fast is fast?"

This question, Chief Ralph Moxley told The Eccentric this week, probably arouses more widely divergent opinion among drivers than any other traffic safety topic.

"When such a marked difference of opinion exists," Moxley said, "it is obvious why so many traffic accidents each year involve a speed violation."

**A DANGEROUS NUMBER** of motorists, he stated, referring to National Safety Council studies, feel that "too fast" is some sort of definite speed limit above which the laws of physics determine that a driver cannot be depended upon to have complete control of his car.

"Actually," Chief Moxley said, "'too fast,' may be any speed from 10 miles an hour to 100 miles an hour. We can't just arbitrarily say that 40, 70, 60 or 50 miles an hour is 'too fast' and let go at that. There are times and places, for instance, when 90 miles an hour may not be an excessive speed at all—a supervised race course, for example. Even more often than this, however, there are times and places when 20 miles an hour may be—literally—fatal!"

The Chief's interpretation of the problem was based on the theory that weather, road surfaces, mechanical factors and the driver's physical and mental condition are the real determining factors in the problem of what is a safe speed and what speed is dangerous.

**"POSTED SPEED LIMITS,"** he said, "give only the top speed at which enforcement and engineering officials feel travel is safe under ideal weather, physical and mechanical conditions. Anything less than that calls for a proportionate reduction of speed."

Chief Moxley's discussion of speed coincided with the Michigan State Safety Commission's announcement of the June-July program of traffic safety education, which has as its slogan: "Now—Take It Easy!" The program is being sponsored in cooperation with the National Safety Council and coordinated in Birmingham by the Police department.

"Year in and year out," Chief Moxley said, "about 9,000 traffic accidents in which at least one person is killed involve a speed violation of some sort. This is the price that drivers can expect to pay if they forget, or ignore, the fact that dangerous speed is any speed—when weather or other conditions are such as to cancel out an appreciable part of the driver's skill."

## New Books at the Baldwin Library

BOOKS ADDED TO THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY DURING THE WEEK ENDING JULY 7, 1951

**Fiction**
Bowen—Weight of the Cross
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Coward—Star Quality
Kennelly—The Hour
Lockridge—Murder Comes First
Sebgsnover—Golden Exile
Wheelwright—Kentucky Stand

**Philosophy, Psychology**
Herma—Elements of Psychoanalysis
Vincent—Make Mine Success

**Sciences, Useful Arts**
Cerhart—Water—or Your Life
Cobb—Amateur Builderas Handbook

**Fine Arts, Handicrafts, Sports, Amusements**
Parking for Smaller Cities
Henderson—Circus Doctor

**Literature**
Garrison—Guide to Creative Writing
Odets—Country Girl

**History, Biography**
Bunn—Wandering Scholar
Higgins—War in Korea

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## RECREATION ROUND-UP

A quick glance at the past two weeks finds the program well underway. In fact, instructors are running at top capacity in tennis, riffery, radio dramatics, and swimming classes.

Activities which still have plenty of opportunity for those who wish to participate are the baseball school in the morning at 10 a.m. and afternoons at 1:30 p.m. at St. James Park; adult swimming in the Barnum pool on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 7 to 9 p.m.; exploratory music for youngsters of the third grade level at the Hill School on week-day mornings; and half price golf on Tuesdays.

**EXPERTS CAN JUDGE** a handicraft program usually by the amount of material consumed in the operation. It doesn't seem possible that the nimble and not so nimible fingers of Birmingham youngsters are already putting the finishing touches to 300 pounds of molding powder, 84,000 yards of weaving plastic, and it seems, enough pot holder loops for just about every pot in the old burg.

To the persons using the pool after hours, officials have pointed out the danger of indoor swimming without lights and emergency supervision, and also the fact that if caught you will be turned over to the state health authorities for violating the sanitary code. Eight hours a day of swimming is a top load for the filtrating system.

John Petrakis, coach of several championship high school baseball teams, is seeking more boys 7, 8, 9 years and older for instructing in the art of bunting, fielding, hitting, and general game strategy at the morning baseball school at St. James Park.

**ALL EQUIPMENT IS** furnished except fielding gloves. For those lads who cannot give up rifle shooting, tennis, golf, dramatics, or music another school is held in the afternoon at 1:30 p.m. four days a week.

We think that Miss Pat Price, our tennis instructor, is doing an exceptional job in teaching fundamentals with only two courts at her disposal. Visit the session at Hill school any week day morning and notice the determination and enthusiasm exhibited by her many charges. There is no charge and balls are furnished.

**DAILY ATTENDANCE** for all program activities have been above the 800 mark. Mid-summer decline is expected to set in now that the full vacation season is on hand. Many Barnum pool youngsters are looking forward to the time when they can attend a class of instruction without getting a hand, elbow, or foot in the eye.

Mothers and Dads should not forget that Thursday evening is family night at Barnum pool.

Director Frank Whitney stated, "Folks, why not grab the old suit and bring the kids down to the pool for some fun. This is an especially good time to get the small youngster ready for their future swimming lessons."


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