

3 Detroit Youths Hurt on W. Maple

Three youthful Detroiters were injured, one seriously, when the car in which they were riding careened off the rear of another and into a fence on W. Maple at Wing Lake road last week.

Driver of the car, Robert J. Whall, 20, is reported in "good" condition in Pontiac General hospital suffering from a fractured collarbone, concussion, and bruised ribs.

PASSENGERS in Whall's car, Mary Joyce Jones, 18, and Patricia Abel, 19, were treated at the hospital and released.

Louis Phillip 27, of 1447 Clarendon, Birmingham, driver of the other car, told police that he heard

a squeal of brakes and looking in his rear view mirror saw a car speeding down on him at "terrific speed."

He said the car bumped his right rear fender lightly and veered off the road.

A witness told police that the Whall car had passed him seconds before the crash at an estimated speed of 80 mph.

Police said Whall told them he must have fallen asleep.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

We live today in an age of almost terrifying materialism and these some folks find time and desire to develop their inner, spiritual selves. It is only in this latter part of life that one may rise in thinking to heights of earthly Utopia.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3

Thursday, October 29, 1953

Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •



Low-Flying Plane in 1910 Was Real, Not Fictitious

The plane in the above picture which appeared in The Birmingham Eccentric Anniversary Edition last May was really there!

The illustration came from a picture postcard loaned to The Eccentric by Avis Gravin Wooster, a former Birmingham resident now living in Pontiac.

When Managing Editor George Wm. Averill saw that fragile looking airplane skimming the tops of the buildings on the northwest side of Woodward avenue, he naturally concluded that the plane was "super-imposed."

Not so, James W. Clapp of Pontiac has informed The Eccentric.

"That plane was real," said Clapp, "and the two pilots were Daredevil Arch Hoxsey and his assistant, Welch Johnston, the daredevil millionaire."

"The year was 1910 and the two pilots were making exhibition flights in Detroit at the fair grounds in July and later at the State Fair in September."

"DURING THESE exhibitions Hoxsey made several flights over Birmingham, Royal Oak, Pontiac and vicinity," Clapp said. "The picture was taken at that time and while Hoxsey was flying pretty low, it looks even lower in the picture because of the angle of the shot."

"I was exhibiting livestock at the State Fair that year," Clapp continued, "and saw the tricks Hoxsey pulled at the fair grounds. 'One of them was to fly around the race track with his wheels not over six inches from the ground, tearing along at better than 40 miles an hour, while he waved his hands at the crowds. I still have the State Fair catalog of 1910 showing a picture of the pilots and the plane.'"

CLAPP IS A lifetime resident of Oakland county. At the time the picture was taken, Clapp was working on the Hupp Stock Farm (now the site of Bloomfield

Village) where he had charge of all the books and records of the pedigreed live stock.

"While the breeding of Berkshire hogs was under the management of Mr. Clapp, Guernsey cattle and horses also were raised on the farm."

One Berkshire hog is remembered by Clapp—for its purchase price was \$3,500. Returning to the Hupp farm after exhibiting the prize Berkshires at the Ohio State Fair, Clapp became involved in an accident.

HE WAS HURT badly, several prize hogs were injured and the \$3,500 Berkshire was killed.

"The three Hupp brothers had mortgaged the stock farm," said Clapp "to finance the manufacturing of the RCII auto." (Ed. note: The RCII auto followed the development of the Hupmobile. The initials stood for Robert C. Hupp, president of the company.)

"When the auto company went bankrupt," Mr. Clapp said, "the stock farm went out of existence and all the prized livestock was sold at ridiculously low prices by the agent of the Union Trust Company."

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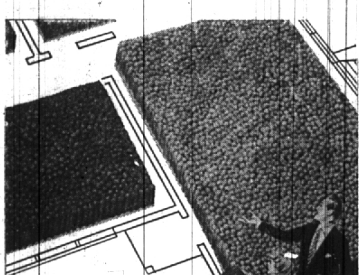
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Judge Gaffill to Press For Pedestrian Safety

Justice John J. Gaffill today announced that his court is cooperating with the State Safety Commission on the October-November safety campaign to reduce pedestrian accidents. Motorists are expected to take into account the special hazards of the season—more hours of darkness, rain, snow, sleet, and more pedestrians shopping.

The death of over 400 pedestrians a year in Michigan is reasonable proof that many motorists have failed to drive as safely as the law and their driver's license requires, Judge Gaffill pointed out.

"While there is no separate law in Michigan requiring motorists to slow down when approaching pedestrians, as there is in some states, the violation of the Michigan basic speed law, running red lights and stop signs, improper turns and dangerous passing frequently endangers the pedestrian," the Judge said.

"THIS COURT will make a special point of limiting of police officers in each case whether or not a pedestrian was endangered and will take this into account in determining the penalty to be assessed against those found guilty," the Judge added.

According to Judge Gaffill there is no excuse for motorists failing to slow down and exercise special caution when they see a pedestrian or approach areas where pedestrians are likely to be found.

"Quite aside from the law," the Judge commented, "any motorist driving a ton of steel should display special courtesy for the man on foot who is the under dog in the traffic stream. Witnesses are frequently appalled at the discourteous motorist who scares a pedestrian half to death by just missing him or splashes water or mud on him when it is raining."

In conclusion, Judge Gaffill said, "I am displaying as a reminder on the official safety poster which reads, 'Darkness Hides Walkers, Slow Down as a reminder that an increasing number of hours of darkness which begin in the fall of the year require motorists to drive more slowly. Those who fail to heed this advice and are found guilty of speeding after dark can expect especially firm treatment from this court.'"

Have You Met...
Narcissus to Larchina drive, Dr. and Mrs. John V. Markie and daughter, Linda, age seven? The Markies moved here Oct. 2 from Ossauan Ridge. Dr. Markie is a psychiatrist and has his own office in Royal Oak. He is a member of the Oakland County Medical Society and Mrs. Markie is affiliated with the PTA and the Women's auxiliary of OOMS.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Southfield Township Supervisor William Roeser: "We have been criticized by a few residents on attempts to establish a police department on a small budget. We are not sure just how effective the department will be at first, but are confident that Southfield residents will have better protection with a local police force than they have had in the past."

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Reports 'Definite Progress' on Gas Safety Controls

A basic start has been made and definite progress can be reported on the drafting of safety regulations governing the transmission of natural gas in Michigan, Birmingham Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith reported this week.

"The work may be slower than the public or our committee would like, because there is no place we can go for assistance," commented Griffith, who is one of the members of the general committee.

He added that Michigan is the first state in the Union to seek such safety measures.

ON OCT. 14 in Lansing, the general committee heard reports from its four subcommittees—gas distribution, high pressure transmission lines, underground damage, and compressor stations.

Some of these reports, said Griffith, have been sent back for further information and some additions.

Next meeting of the main committee is scheduled for the middle of November.

Efforts of the state to regulate

the construction of gas lines and transmission of gas stem from a Dec. 11, 1948, gas explosion and fire which claimed five lives in Birmingham.

Household Goods of every description are offered for sale in the Classified Columns of The Birmingham Eccentric.

On Kemper Honor Roll

Bob Selvidge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harner Selvidge, 3831 West Maple, is one of 50 cadets at Kemper Military School, Boonville, Mo., named to the scholastic honor roll for the first grade month. One must maintain an average of at least 87 to be eligible for the honor roll.

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