

Curbs Sought On Michigan's Traffic Toll

EAST LANSING—If all the residents of Richmond, Mich. (population about 2,000) were killed, and all the residents of Bay City (population about 57,500) were injured, that would be the equivalent of the predicted traffic toll for Michigan in 1954. These figures were brought out at the second annual Michigan Highway Safety seminar at Mich-

igan State College's Kellogg Center for Continuing Education. THE SAFETY seminar, attended by about 100 persons from over the state, is investigating possible ways to reduce traffic deaths. F. Granger Weil, executive vice president of the Port Huron Times-Herald and chairman of the seminar, declared that if some tragedy were to kill every person in Richmond and injure every resident of Bay City "there would be bold headlines in every newspaper in the country, television and movie cameras would move to the scene, help from relief agencies would pour into the district, congress would likely have a special session and emissaries of the President would be on hand to investigate."

But in traffic accidents, he continued, "catastrophe has come upon us so gradually that it is all taken for granted. You get in your car and hope you'll get where you're going."

WEIL SAID that recommendations will be made by the seminar to the state legislature. "Democrats and Republicans alike are in agreement that the traffic toll must be stopped," he said.

Weil explained that recommendations of the seminar will be helpful to state lawmakers because few legislators consider themselves safety authorities. "They will need the support of recommendations to make effective legislation for accident prevention," he said.



CHAIRMAN FOR THE FIRST Detroit Automobile show in 13 years is Myron T. Patterson, 1636 Latham, who is shown in the center of the above picture with members of his committee. The show, which is to be held from Feb. 20 through Feb. 28 in four buildings at the Michigan State Fair grounds, will present . . . the latest and greatest cars in history" Patterson states. Radio and television stars have been engaged to entertain. Sponsor for the show is the Detroit Automobile Dealers association. Members of the show committee are, left to right, Paul Graves, executive vice-president of the D.A.D.A.; Al Roger, D.A.D.A. president; Patterson; Ed Schoenherr, director, and Omer Stotts, past president of the association.

der its supervision during 1953. Officials believe that this figure will be nearer 2000 during 1954.

ON COMMENTING on the County Children's Home on Telegraph, Mrs. Roberts explained that the home is used as an emergency shelter for children at all times. "During 1953, almost 1,000 children entered the home and at times its bed capacity of 100 children was strained with 135 youngsters."

A staff of trained children's workers and group therapists is on duty, day and night, to train and assist children and to help rehabilitate their personalities so that they may adjust to various life situations.

Camp Oakland is the newest of county facilities for child care, Mrs. Roberts continued.

In 1953 a civic-minded group of county residents incorporated and organized this new home. A 300 acre farm near Oxford was purchased and set up to provide a home for homeless older boys. The farm includes a private lake, three-story brick building, farm buildings and a herd of cattle.

for a period of one to seven days," Mrs. Roberts stated. Plans are now being made for camp buildings on the opposite side of the lake from the boys' building."

In addition to the services provided the Juvenile Division by the Oakland County Child Guidance Clinic, Dr. Clinton Mumby, a psychiatrist, offers his personal assistance and spends considerable time with disturbed children at the county children's home. Whenever possible, parents or

relatives are required to pay toward the cost of county care of these children. All too often, reimbursement is impossible, Mrs. Roberts assured.

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Juvenile Division's Duties Are Varied

Disposition of cases involving misdemeanors and felonies committed by juveniles is only one of several services on the county level administered by the Oakland County Juvenile Court, according to Mrs. Helen P. Roberts, Chairman, Juvenile Affairs Committee, Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

"Actually, the Juvenile Division of the county's Probate Court has the responsibility for the care of dependent, neglected and delinquent children, and the placement of children for adoption," Mrs. Roberts stated.

Under the statute outlining the powers and duties of the Juvenile Division, the law states that proceedings in the Juvenile Court are to be for the benefit of the child and not to be considered criminal actions.

It also stipulates that every child coming within the jurisdiction of the court should receive "such care, guidance and control, preferably in his own home, as will be conducive to the child's welfare and best interests of the State."

MRS. ROBERTS said, "Sometimes the court is compelled to remove a child from his home or from his parents but, more often, the child has no suitable parents. When this occurs, it is the court and county's responsibility to find

adequate substitute care."

The child then becomes a ward of the Juvenile Court and may remain under the court's supervision until he is 17 or 19 years old, depending upon the discretion of the court.

The county has provided a children's home accommodating about 100 children of all ages. Two children's cottages for neglected and dependent children are also available, Mrs. Roberts reports.

"The county also provides boarding care constantly for approximately 150 neglected and dependent children," Mrs. Roberts said. "The court provides a trained staff to assist in the child's care as many of these children have difficult problems to solve."

HEAD OF THE department is William McCarthy who has had psychiatric training and who is assisted by two clinical psychologists. Also serving the department are 12 case workers.

Hard to believe is the fact that nearly 1800 children are constantly under the supervision or probation in their own homes.

Adoption proceedings account for a great deal of the department's time, according to Mrs. Roberts. "Each year, some 450 children are placed for adoption through the court," she stated.

Counting all the Division's duties, some 2300 children were un-

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