



Plymouth Show Guests

Two Birmingham area men were guests of the Detroit Plymouth dealers at the Plymouth Show in Hollywood, Calif., recently. Left to right are: Vern Langton, Birmingham; Alice Long and Lawrence Welk, stars of the Plymouth Show; Carl Layman, Bloomfield Hills; H. Cook, Detroit.

Traffic Accident Toll Lower in '58

An accident summary for the month of September and October shows that an estimated \$20,000 worth of property in the Birmingham area was damaged during that period.

But, Birmingham police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said the traffic accident toll for 1958 "showed a substantial improvement over the same period last year."

"The drivers along our streets

are to be commended for this improved driving record," Moxley said. "The officers of our department are also to be congratulated for their work in apprehending those drivers who commit hazardous traffic violations that increase the accident potential."

"This vigilance has unquestionably saved thousands of dollars in property loss, many painful or permanent injuries and loss of life."

"The drivers along our streets

Good Equipment Means Safer Winter Driving

As winter begins to tighten its grip, motorists should waste no time in making sure they are fully prepared for safe winter driving, Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley advised today.

He suggested a three-point preparedness check, listing first the importance of top-grade equipment.

"By this I don't mean that you have to drive the most expensive car in the block," Moxley said, "but I definitely do mean that a driver needs automotive equipment he can depend on in an emergency. I mean lights that work, windshield wipers that do the job, brakes that deliver equalized stopping pressure, and tires with good tread."

"I also mean that he should have a good set of reinforced tire chains ready for use when the going gets tough, and for more complete peace of mind, he should seriously consider the installation of seat belts for himself and his passengers."

MOXLEY'S second main point stressed compliance with traffic laws and ordinances, and close attention to known safety principles.

He pointed out that careful, law-abiding drivers are usually able to drive through the winter without serious trouble, but winter weather contains plenty of booby-traps for thoughtless operators.

"We should remember that legal speed limits are designed for ideal weather conditions," the chief said. "In winter we frequently encounter conditions which call for consider-

ably reduced speeds. Poor visibility and greatly reduced traction rule out high speed driving," he said. "Third on the list of timely precautions is 'defensive driving.' He points out that the safe driver must not only be prepared with respect to his own equipment and his own driving practices, but must be prepared to cope quickly and successfully with the mistakes of other highway users."

"We have to be ready for the driver who cuts us short, the operator who always thinks he has the right-of-way, and the pedestrian who charges into the street without looking," said Moxley.

"THIS MEANS we must be alert. It means we must be able to see and stop quickly, or to turn deftly

out of the path of impending danger. If windshield wipers are just smearing, this is no easy task. We must maintain clear visibility with wiper arms of adequate tension and blades that wipe clean."

"We should realize we cannot stop or turn as quickly on snow or ice, even with the definite advantages of tire chains, as we could on dry pavement. So we must allow ourselves an added margin of safety in terms of slower speed, increased distance between vehicles, and constant vigilance."

"The winter will be long in any case," Moxley said, "but we can make the best of it by taking immediate steps to avoid possible involvement in a skid-erect. If we fail, this could be the longest winter we have ever known."

Dec. 9, 1958 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 5-A

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