



Lots and Lots of Hose

Birmingham fire department members unreeled lots of hose for the fire at the Secretary of State's office, 375 Palm, recently. An estimated \$500 damage was caused by the fire that started by an overheated furnace duct between the first and second floor. It took the firemen only 40 minutes to subdue the flames. The building is owned by Dr. John Wood.

In What Shape Is Your Car?

What shape is your car in? If it's not in tip-top condition, you're flirting with danger according to the national safety council. "A lot of cars on the road today," it said, "need repairs to be safe for driving." In support of its claim, the council offered this information: Seven states and the District of Columbia reported in the Council's annual inventory of traffic safety activities that almost 45 per cent of all vehicles inspected were rejected for mechanical defects.

FURTHER, OF THE more than eight million vehicles inspected in 10 states and the District of Columbia, 1,722,400—out of 5—had substandard brakes, the council said.

Nearly as many cars—1,649,500—had defective rear lights. Substandard headlights were the third most frequent violation noted. Exhaust and fuel systems were faulty in about 1 out of 7 cars inspected.

Here's the council's nine-point safety check list on car maintenance:

- 1) Brakes—check them often to make sure they hold evenly on all wheels, that the pedal has the right travel, and that brake fluid is at a proper level.
- 2) Headlights—make sure they are aimed right and that both upper and lower beams work. Keep lenses clean.

- 3) REAR LIGHTS—they should be burning, of course, and direct, signals and stop lights should work.
- 4) Tires—keep them properly and evenly inflated. Check often for cuts, breaks and excessive wear.

- 5) Steering—check the steering mechanism occasionally to see that all parts are in good condition and that wheel alignment is correct.
- 6) Exhaust system—muffler and tail pipe should be free of cracks, leaks, rusted or worn spots.

—wiper blades should wipe clean, not just streak. Glass should be kept clean.

- 8) Horn—be sure it will work when needed.
- 9) Seat belts—install and use belts that meet the standards of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Perhaps most important, give your driving attitude a check. "The driver can be a car's weakest part," the council points out. "Keep a close check on your driving attitudes."

Job Accidents At Record Low

Accidental work deaths hit a record low last year, according to the national safety council. On-the-job accidents last year still accounted for 13,200 fatalities. But even that number was a decrease of 900 from the 1957 figure.

The council says a decrease in the number of hours worked and a drop in employment contributed to the accident reduction.

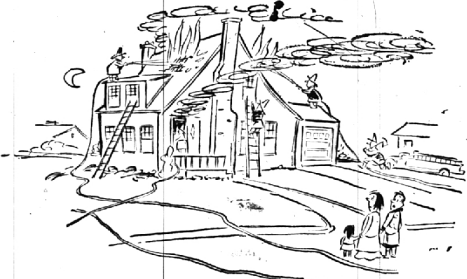
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My Neighbors



"Got a little hungry!"

The Light Touch by Jeanne Westerdale

MEN OF THE FAMILY

They toll in the living room, nothing to do, While I'm in the kitchen preparing the stew... When everything on the table stands That's when they go to wash their hands!

Michigan's Past Blends With Future at Mackinac

High up in Michigan's north country where the Mackinac Bridge begins stands a small stockade. It covers a scant three-quarters of an acre, but more history was made on this tiny parcel of land than on any similar tract in the Great Lakes territory.

This is Fort Michilimackinac (pronounced Mich-ee-mack-in-ack), one time it was France's Gibraltar of the west, Britain's Gibraltar of the north.

The garrison was massacred once, the fort was partially burned more than once and it was the jumping-off place for explorers and traders ranging a thousand miles north and west to Great Slave Lake and the Bad Lands of the ferocious Sioux.

It also seems to have been a jinx for many of the fort's commanders. TODAY FORT Michilimackinac stands in the very shadow of the mighty Mackinac bridge, and scores of travelers make the old stockade a favored sightseeing stop on their vacation itineraries.

The bridge represents one era, the weathered palisades another; and the legend and mystery surround the old fort are enhanced by the contrast.

From the gate of the fort in framed view of the five-mile-long Mackinac City the visitor has a bridge that spans the Straits of Mackinac to link Michigan's two peninsulas.

An aura of mystery surrounds even the date of Fort Michilimackinac's establishment. But officially, the Michigan historical commission marker says 1712.

This was the year Gov. de Vaudreuil of New France sent Deligny out from Quebec to tame the coursers de bois—the wild free traders who refused to pay for passes into the interior and who periled the lives of those who abided by frontier regulations.

DELIGNERY HAD his troubles. His garrison consisted largely of trader-adventurers rather than trained soldiers. "There are at present at this point about 40 deserters, who in all their conduct, only consult their own interests," he complained in 1712, asking for reinforcements.

"He got them in 1716, but they left immediately to fight the Fox country."

Indian tribe in Wisconsin and Iowa—at LeLignery's expense. Originally Fort Michilimackinac was only about 100 feet from the shore, and at times its walls were washed by the choppy waters of the straits.

In shape nearly square, with bastions at the four angles, the stockade was armed with four brass cannon and two guardhouses—small affairs set over and above the two gates, taking the place of watchtowers and serving defensive purposes.

HERE, IN THE 1750's Indians were recruited by the French for the war against England and her colonies in the east. Leader of the Indians was the famed halfbreed, Sieur de Langlade, who fought at General Montcalm's side at the Battle of Quebec in a losing cause. Earlier Langlade had commanded the Interoceanic Expedition, in 1755 at Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh), in which a young colonel—one George Washington—had fought on the British side against the French and Indians.

When the French lost the war and retired to the Illinois settlements, Langlade was left in charge of the fort. He must have subscribed to the "if you can't lick 'em, join 'em" philosophy, for he soon became a trusted British subject.

YET, THE Indians apparently still held him in high regard, for when they massacred the British garrison in 1763 during the Pontiac Conspiracy they not only spared Langlade and his family but also handed his instructions about not harming British traders, of which he was now one. Langlade later turned the fort back to the British and went on with his fur trading.

The old mainland fort was abandoned in the summer of 1780, a victim of the growing threat of American forces in the Illinois country.



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