

Highway Toll Is 548 Dead

Oakland County, with an estimated registration of 280,054 motor vehicles, listed 548 deaths among the 8,150 fatalities suffered in Michigan during the past five years.

According to James M. Hare, Chairman of the Michigan State Safety Commission, both rural and urban areas showed substantial increases in injuries and deaths last year.

Michigan State Police reports show that rural areas still account for seven out of 10 highway deaths but show that injuries in city areas were up 14 per cent last year compared to nine per cent for rural areas.

"IT LOOKS AS though we will have to concentrate harder than

Attending Institute

Fred Radloff of 1855 Villa Rd., Birmingham, is enrolled in the earth sciences institute for general science teachers now being offered at the Rutgers University Summer Session. The six-week institute will run until August 12.

Radloff, a teacher at Barnum Jr. high school in Birmingham, is a graduate of Capitol university in Columbus, Ohio.

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Wild Flowers Lend Beauty to Bouquets

Midsummer wild flowers thrive in sunny undisturbed soil. Queen Anne's lace, chicory, daisies, milkweed, purple vetch, these are but a few commonly known to all. Together their kind make a bouquet which adds much to the beauty of our world.

Of these, Queen Anne's lace (Daucus Carota) is one of the most widely dispersed. It was known to the ancients, since Pliny records that it came from Crete to Rome. One needs only to walk the country lanes of Europe to see how plentiful it is in the old world. There as here, it intrudes in meadow and grain field.

In London and Berlin we saw it hiding the rubble of war. In southern Europe it grew amidst fallen pillars and temples. Like so many of our common weeds and wayside flowers came early to North America, perhaps as a stowaway on some oldtime sailing vessel.

MUCH HAS BEEN written of the beauty of this common wayside flower. It is a member of the Queen Anne because its flowers suggest the intricate lace-like pattern arranged in flat-topped clusters each a perfect unit in itself. Every flower has five white petals. No botanist has ever been able to account for the single narrow flower which frequently appears at the very center of the flower head.

As the blossoms dry, the seeds ripen forming a concave cluster which has the appearance of the bird's nest, hence another of its common names. One enterprising

botanist counted 34 umbels in a single flower-head which together bore 782 seeds. These latter are oblong and prickly and thus well suited for dispersal.

FROM THIS PLANT was developed our common carrot, one of the most useful of our present day vegetables. Celery and parsnips also belong to the family as do such herbs as parsley, chervil, caraway, fennel, coriander and anise.

Queen Anne's lace, like all members of its family is a biennial. Only a crown of leaves is produced the first year. These are lance shaped and toothed and are two or three times pinnate giving the plant a fine feathery appearance. They are also rough and have an unpleasant taste and smell which protects them from grazing animals.

STALKS TWO or three feet tall appear the second year bearing a large flat flower clusters so familiar to all. At summer's end the two year cycle is complete with the production of the familiar bird's nest filled with seeds.

Queen Anne's lace aptly demonstrates the fact that "weeds" are nothing more than "plants growing in the wrong place". In a farmer's grain field this plant is a pest difficult to eradicate. Along a roadside or even behind the garden wall it is in truth one of our loveliest flowers.

The slow stain of summer falls on roadside and meadow. But each plant continues to bloom in its turn, in the end setting the seed so that its kind may not perish from the earth.

Wall Plaques Bring Prize to Local Boy In Ford Contest

Bruce Clark, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Clark, 740 N. Adams, Birmingham, is one of the winners in the Ford Motor company's industrial arts awards contest.

Young Clark was awarded a \$60 third prize for two wall plaques made of cast aluminum which were entered in the open division of classification. He explained that he

first made molds of clay, then cast them in aluminum, finishing them up with hammer and punch.

Clark will be a ninth grade student at Derby junior high school this fall. His industrial arts instructor for the contest was M. C. Pierno.

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Southfield Roars Into 'Copter Age

One of Michigan's youngest cities has plunged into the air age, with the announcement that Helicopter Airways Service, Inc., will operate a heliport facility at Northland shopping center for the city of Southfield business community and private passengers.

The Southfield city council has approved a license for the heliport, to be located on the center's J. L. Hudson drive, between Northwestern highway and Greenfield.

Southfield and the surrounding communities of Oak Park, Berkeley, Pleasant Ridge, Lathrup, Huntington Woods and the Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and northwest Detroit area, will be serviced via the heliport, according to Robert E. Van Cleave, vice president of Helicopter Service, Inc.

VAN CLEAVE credited Mayor Donald L. Swanson of Southfield and the Southfield Business Association, with spearheading the drive to establish a heliport in the city.

Swanson and the Southfield city council asked the business association to take on the project as a community promotion and receive the support of SBA president Maurice R. Geisel of the Special Machine and Engineering Co. Geisel in turn appointed Robert Weber, regional manager of Allstate Insurance Co., to head a committee to activate the project.

Weber's group surveyed the entire Southfield business community to determine the possible benefits and uses such a facility could offer.

Said Geisel:

"THE GROWTH of the business community in Southfield, and the large number of major concerns coming here, such as Bendix, Sundberg Farrar, Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Standard Oil and Reynolds Aluminum—to name just a few—Make it more than feasible to have air transportation to airline terminals, area plant facilities and other points in the metropolitan region."

Richard W. Frey, assistant general manager of Northland center, said the shopping center's facilities indefinitely, for establishment of the heliport. According

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