

When Snow Comes, DPW is Ready

By JIM BARRETT
Special Writer

The increase results largely from the practice of "salting" residential streets, which is not done in mid-winter, according to Thomas Brian, head of the DPW.

STREETS WITH hills and those with the most traffic, such as Maple, Lincoln west of Southfield and Woodward, are cleared first.

Other streets, such as Eton, Southfield, Oak, Pierce and business-area streets, where there is much stopping and starting of automobiles, are cleared next.

"Snow is plowed in residential areas," said Brian, "but no salt is spread unless the winter is unusually severe. We begin plowing when the snow is three or four inches in depth.

"Plowing creates as well as solves problems. Sometimes it 'sows-in' parked cars and drive-ways, which have been cleaned by individuals."

NO RESIDENTIAL areas are given preference in the street cleaning process. Some areas will be handled first one time and last another.

All of the main streets of Birmingham's four square miles are conditionally cleared.

Oakland County's Road Commission does the maintenance work on the state highways and county roads inside the city limits, such as Hunter, 14 and 16 Mile roads, Cranbrook and Coolidge.

In the business districts where the snow cannot be quickly dissolved by salt, so "windrowing" takes place. "Windrowing" is the nomenclature for the process of bringing the snow to the center of the street, clearing two paths so cars can go alongside the snow piles, and later putting the snow in dump trucks and hauling it away.

BIRMINGHAM CITY Commission allocates a certain amount of money for snow removal during the fiscal year. This year it is \$20,000.

If the DPW spends more than that amount, the difference must be absorbed in other accounts, as the DPW must ask the city commission for a special appropriation. The commission has a special fund for such emergencies.

Of the 33 employees in the DPW, 20 are continually available for snow and ice removal. They work on an average of 40 hours a week. They are permanent employees.

No additional workers are recruited outside the various city departments in emergency situations.

ONE SNOW plow is used as an oil distributor in the off season, and the entire apparatus costs about \$55,000. The other is used in warmer weather as a catch basin cleaner and costs about \$12,500.

Road graders are used in all weather. They cost about \$15,000 apiece.

Approximate prices of the other equipment are: salt spreader, \$150; dump truck, \$4,000; bulldozer, \$12,000; and scoop loader, \$12,000.

During the average winter about 700 tons of salt at \$8.90 per ton, is spread upon the streets. In severe winters, as in 1958, approximately 1,750 tons will be used.

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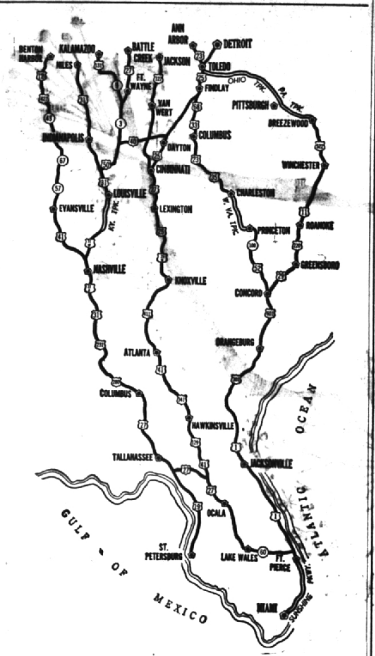
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CONCERNING COMPLAINTS, he said, "People appreciate having salt on the streets, but they don't appreciate having it accidentally from the salt spreader or top of their car. When salt melts, it leaves white spots on painted metal. People are quick to inform us about their 'speckled-looking' cars."

"Salt that falls or is splashed onto grass also arouses complaints. People maintain that it kills grass. Others contend that salt corrodes the metal on cars. We are inclined to agree with these objections, but we believe salt's benefits, more than outweigh its disadvantages aspects."

During the past two or three years, radios have been installed on the department's vehicles so the police department, Brian contends that this has "helped tremendously in emergencies."



On to Florida . . .

A newly-recommended eastern approach to Florida has been logged by Automobile Club of Michigan. Using the Ohio and Pennsylvania turnpikes, the route incorporates 549 miles of super highway. The fast-growing interstate highway network makes other approaches to Florida easier and quicker to drive as well. Auto Club predicts 850,000 Michigan vacationers will travel to Florida in 1961.

State Honored For Driver Plan

Michigan has received two national honors for its high school driver education program.

The "achievement award," highest in the 1959-60 national high school driver education award program, was presented to Gov. G. Mennen Williams at a recent meeting of the State Safety Council.

A special award was also presented to the state for outstanding non-public school districts. This was the first time in the history of this award program that such an honor has been conferred.

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Resident Sues State Official

Bloomfield Hills resident J. Donald McKay, 5200 Windingwood Drive, and his brother, Joseph A. McKay, of Wayne County, have filed a million-dollar slander suit against State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie and a Lansing appraiser. The suit was filed in Ingham County Circuit Court.

The pair claim their reputations were damaged by remarks made in a State Highway Department office on Oct. 12. They charged that Donald V. Whip Jr., identified by them as an appraiser for the department's expressway program, "made malicious, false and defamatory statements" during negotiations for their ranch near Clare in Clare County.

The brothers claim that Whip's comments charged they were operating the ranch at a loss to fraudulently evade payment of taxes and that the ranch "is operated as a hobby" and "the place would be worth more with adequate management."

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Philip H. McHenry, Attorney at Law, 406 Fisher Building, Detroit 2, Michigan.

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BREADED CHOPLETS

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Extra-large, lean chops about an inch thick, cut with an opening into which we stuff our special dressing. They look like giant ribs, but serve like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb. Sides and serve like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb. Sides and serve like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb.

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A special blend of smoked ham, milk, eggs, milk and bread crumbs and served like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb. Sides and serve like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb.

BIRMINGHAM HAM SALAD

Baked ham ground very fine, set with mayonnaise, sliced with pineapple, added dressing and served like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb. Sides and serve like a tender, succulent special treated bread crumb.

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