

THIS IS OUR MICHIGAN Cars, Roads, Bridges We Build em All

By WILLARD BAIRD Ninth in a Series When it opened Nov. 1, 1957, Michigan's breathtaking Mackinac bridge was hailed by Gov. G. Mennen Williams as "a modern Northwest Passage."

Indeed, the giant bridge has stimulated a greater flow of long-distance travel through Michigan to the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states and to the Canadian provinces. BUT IN FAR GREATER measure it has opened new avenues of commerce and tourist travel between upper and lower Michigan and between Michigan and its immediate neighbors in the north and central regions.

A FIVE-YEAR state highway construction program, announced in 1957, calls for construction of 300 miles of four-lane expressways, connecting all of our cities of over 50,000 residents... construction or reconstruction of 2,900 miles of state trunklines... and paving of the remaining 1,000 miles of gravel surface trunklines by 1962.

The five-year program bears a combination of steel and concrete linking the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan. Measured between its enormous cable anchor blocks — each of them about the size of a football field — it is the world's longest suspension span... 8,814 feet.

INCLUDING its approaches, it is five miles long... 26,372 feet to the water. While heavily dependent on water, rail and air travel, the backbone of Michigan transportation facilities is, of course, our highway system.

Michigan now has one passenger car for every 28 residents... a ratio in which we rank among the top states in the country in car ownership. Moreover... we had a 27.7 percent increase in car registration from 1950 to 1958, while population rose 23.4 percent in the same year period.

Our motorists travel over 30.6 billion vehicle miles a year on our roads... an average of 14 trips across the state at the equator every hour! Since 1955, Michigan has been engaged in an accelerated road-building effort of vast dimensions, designed to provide a new set of

in Michigan—a 35-mile line connecting Erie at Kalamazoo Railroad in 1836 between Toledo, then a Michigan city, and Adrian... 22 railroads and 11 terminal companies which operate in our state have 9,954 miles of rail tracks... more than in any other state... and in service of 99 percent of Michigan's population in our vast territory.

Air transportation in Michigan is increasing. We have 147 licensed airports... 2,290 airports for emergency use, including a dozen regular bases... 5,372 aviation-licensed pilots... 2,290 airports for emergency use, including a dozen regular bases... and 77 aviation schools.

Placed in the Monday seven, the classes will begin March 14 at 8:30 a. m. The first and third Saturdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. Mr. Samuels, assistant director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, will be on hand to answer questions.

THE CLASSES are limited to eight persons each. George Spencer, PGA professional at River Bank club, is the instructor. Another class in Judo will begin March 14 at 8:30 a. m. and will be held on the same days as the Judo class.

PEP-TEENS will meet this Saturday evening and every second and fourth Saturday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. Mr. Samuels, assistant director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, will be on hand to answer questions.

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