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Accidents and Crimes Increase During 1960

Traffic accidents, traffic deaths and major crimes in Birmingham during 1960 increased over the previous three-year average according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley's annual report.

While overall traffic accidents jumped about 14 per cent, property damage accidents climbed only one per cent above the average. However, personal injury accidents increased 79 per cent and persons injured in these accidents increased 94 per cent.

Much of these increases, said Moxley, can be attributed to more complete accident reporting that is required on the new traffic accident forms which have been in effect since January of 1959.

THE MEN outnumbered the women in traffic accidents during the year with men involved in a total of 940 accidents while women lagged behind with 492. The greatest number of accidents (317) occurred with drivers in the 35-44 age bracket.

As for juvenile traffic violations, there were 143 such cases, a decrease in 1960 compared to 1959.

Sixty-five of the 198 traffic tickets issued to juveniles were for speeding violations. Miscellaneous violations, no driver's license, signal lights, prohibited turns, stop streets and equipment followed in order. No tickets were issued to juveniles for reckless driving.

THE BIRMINGHAM Teen-Age Court handled 44 violations and the Teen-Age Clinic handled 38 violations.

Two traffic deaths last year represented an increase of one, compared to the three-year average of one death per year.

In the department of major crimes in Birmingham, the increase was slightly under one per cent. While decreases were noted in criminal homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and auto thefts, increases were experienced in burglary and larceny.

HOWEVER, this slight increase in major crimes last year, said Moxley, was much more favorable than the state's national crime picture for the same period.

The only serious increase in the juvenile crime picture, he said, was a 34 per cent increase in larceny arrests which jumped from an average of 68 to 97 last year.

Overall juvenile arrests dropped nine per cent from the previous three-year average. The 174 juveniles arrested during the year represented a decrease from 1959 when 161 were taken into custody. Seventeen offenders were arrested twice and one person was arrested three times.

ARRESTS FOR burglary and disorderly conduct each plunged to one from the previous average of 15. Arrests for auto thefts dipped from an average of 10 to 5 while those for malicious destruction of property dropped from 28 to 16.

Unpaid Bills Bring Special Assessment

Birmingham property owners who failed to pay their weed-cutting bills this year will find themselves on a special assessment roll this year.

City commissioners Monday night authorized the city clerk to report unpaid bills of 13 property owners to the city assessor for assessment.

The unpaid accounts, for weeds cut by the City when the owners failed to do so by certain dates as required by city ordinance, totaled \$804.78.

AMONG THEM were four bills for R. J. Coryell, totaling \$173.42, for cutting of weeds on lots in Coryell Park.

A. L. Kassabian will be assessed for 14 unpaid accounts amounting to \$148.07 for weeds cut on his lots in Birmingham Forest Hills, Quarten Heights and Quarten Lake Estates subdivisions.

City Treasurer R. T. Berger explained that notices and letters were sent to all property owners having unpaid bills. He reported that only two, who later are Harvey P. Trombley, responded. Both protested the service and the charge.

Retirement
(Continued from 1-A)

ties should work at providing a broader, more rounded foundation. The concentration on specialization should be left to corporations through on-the-job training and other internship type programs, he said.

BUSINESS AND industry have an obligation, said Zeder, to continue graduates' training until they have passed those periods of transition.

"Don't specialize too soon," he emphasized. "A man's got to be educated before he specializes."

Zeder suggests that a broad understanding of the humanities, arts and literature be nurtured. Engineers need this broader base, he said.

Then, once prepared socially with a well rounded education, there's plenty of time to specialize. According to Zeder, attainment of this goal requires more closely supervised curriculums including careful screening of required and elective subjects.

EDUCATION ISN'T just a matter of making a living," he said. "You must be at peace with yourself by having a chance to discover what you enjoy doing and what you are best qualified to do."

Industry's specialization programs would afford such opportunities, said Zeder. Then, if interests or abilities should change once in the field, the well rounded education would make adjustments easier.

Zeder relates these views to a prediction of sweeping changes in teaching methods in the next five years. He sees a new concept of education evolving from the combined problems of increasing number of students, decreasing number of teachers and an expanding field of knowledge.

IMPROVE FACILITIES, aids and methods such as extension of the teaching period will be developed, he said.


Although the electronic tube will never replace the professor, said Zeder, television will eventually be necessary to reach the larger predicted audiences of students.

Television, he said, is a definite aid to education. Instead of the second-hand classroom readings of Frost and other contemporary writers, television can bring these authors to the lectures with all the feeling and meaning of their work.

"But," cautioned Zeder, "we're not ready for the extended role of television because there is so little known as to how it should be used."

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