

State Regains Prestige Says John Mackie

Michigan has regained the prestige it once had—but lost—as the state with the nation's finest highway system, State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie said in a year-end report.

Unofficially, Michigan ended the year as the nation's number one highway construction state in terms of amount of Interstate freeway placed under contract.

At the same time, it had the longest continuous toll-free Interstate highway anywhere in the U.S.—a 208-mile superhighway extending from downtown Detroit to Strevensville on Lake Michigan.

The final section of the nation's first border-to-border Interstate route was completed between Ann Arbor and Jackson late in December.

AMONG THE road building milestones observed in Michigan during 1960 was the opening of the 600th mile of freeway. This is more than

five times the amount of freeway Michigan had three and one-half years ago and the mileage will double again within three years.

Another milestone was the largest highway bid opening ever held by a state highway department. Low bids totaling \$423 million were opened on Dec. 7 for projects that included more than 73 miles of freeway.

The State Highway Department awarded contracts on projects totaling an estimated \$320 million during 1960. This figure includes cost of right-of-way and engineering and much of the money will be expended during the next two years as the work is completed.

Mackie said the highway department expects to award contracts during 1961 for projects totaling an estimated \$400 million including right-of-way and engineering.

"ALTHOUGH the amount of construction contracts will increase in 1961, it now appears that with carry-over the 1962 construction season will be the peak construction year in highway department history," Mackie said.

"Every one of these projects is a long-range investment in Michigan's future."

Mackie said Michigan's freeway construction program started to come into focus as 1960 ended. Within two years, Mackie said, motorists will be able to drive north from Detroit to the Indiana line, Detroit to Muskegon and the Ohio line to the Mackinac Bridge.

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Old-Timers Get Together

The annual Christmas party and dinner for the men employees of the Cranbrook Academy of Art and the Cranbrook Foundation served a dual purpose in providing an opportunity for celebration of the holiday and an old-timers' reunion. Pictured are those who have been at Cranbrook for 30

years or more and some who are retired. Standing are (from left) Harry M. Bell, D. Palmer Black, Henry S. Booth and Lee A. White. Seated are Zoltan Sepeshy, Ellis P. Witt, Albert E. Leipold, Joseph Lewandowski and Sanford H. Allen.

NATURE NOW Musings from the Desk Of a Field Naturalist

As I write these lines, we who dwell in northern latitudes have just passed the winter solstice. Twice in each year of the earth's elliptic course it reaches the point at which its equator is farthest from the sun. The winter solstice, Dec. 21, occurs when our northern hemisphere is turned away from the sun and marks the shortest day. June 21, the summer solstice, is our longest day.

For primitive man, crouching in a cold unit cave, early winter held the horizon for few brief hours and set early, in mystery. At such a time of day, he could dream of love and springtime but the groping thoughts of the savage had little awareness of a brighter day.

SOME SCIENTISTS speculating on the unknown millennia of the future, envision this winter darkness of the earth's final moments. When the sun has thus far burned its life out to a red ember, his volume diminished and lighted by radiation. When the sun has thus far burned its life out to a red ember, his volume diminished and lighted by radiation. When the sun has thus far burned its life out to a red ember, his volume diminished and lighted by radiation.

THE FIELD naturalist's desk is always a reflection of that which is current in the outdoors. Beside me is a bit of moss, Entodon saccatus by name, which I gathered from a tree-trunk on a recent field trip at Haven Hill. These valuable soil-makers and water retainers remain green throughout the year.

To some knowledge of these ancient land plants and their interesting uses and structures we have given countless hours during half a lifetime's study, much of it while burning the midnight oil after a busy day at camp. Seldom can we share this hard-won knowledge with others, for the minuteness of most species demands the use of a hand lens and frequently that of a high-powered microscope.

Retail Trade in B'ham Exceeds Annual Quota

How was business in Birmingham in the last fiscal year? According to a new nationwide survey retail activity locally was at a healthy level right through the first half of 1960.

With a majority of the workers getting bigger incomes, personal expenditures were high.

The survey, covering every part of the United States, is for the twelve months ending June 30, 1960. It was compiled by the Standard Rate and Data Service on the basis of data gathered from national, state and local sources.

IT SHOWS that retail business in Birmingham reached a gross figure of \$86,014,000 in the year.

This was in direct contrast to the experience in some other areas of the country where there was considerable unemployment and, consequently, a large drop in business.

With their \$86,014,000 volume, Birmingham retailers accounted for 3.084 per cent of the nation's business, states the SRDS report. It was more than their quota since the city's population is only 0.146 per cent of the national.

SALES STRENGTH was noted in most groups of stores, but especially in those selling children's clothing and shoes, drug, household equipment, food and other supplies that reflect the fact that the birth rate has been high and that there are more youngsters.

Most of the confident spending by Birmingham residents stemmed from the fact that personal incomes by and large, held up well.

The report shows that local expenditures were high. Tax deductions, amounted to \$86,816,000 in the year.

IT WAS AT the average rate of \$10,705 per household, which is more than was available in the rest of the United States, \$6,396 per household. In the East North

MSUO Plans International Festival

Students and faculty at Michigan State University Oakland have joined to create an international festival to further the improvement of global relations.

The festival, "Culture International," will be presented at MSUO Jan. 15.

Sponsored by MSUO's Association of Women Students, the festival is expected to draw more than 1,200 persons to its international cafe, art and book displays, entertainment programs and lecture-film series.

"Our goal," said Dr. Mary Ann Cusack, assistant dean of students and director of the festival, "is a contribution to world brotherhood by helping our students and the community better understand cultures other than their own."

Community leaders active on the festival advisory committee include Mrs. Walter Reuther, wife of the UAW president; Mrs. William Gossett, wife of a Ford Motor vice president; Harold Fitzgerald, publisher of the Pontiac Press, and foreign consuls from Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

Students on the committee include Barbara Osborne, 20, of 1330 Dorchester, Birmingham; Joan S. Association of Women Students president; and Paul Allen, 22, of Lake Orion, who student government president.

The festival program of international speakers will precede the festival.

That Time of Year Is Here Again, So Be Prepared

Federal income tax forms for 1960 and instructions will be mailed to the nation's more than 60,000,000 taxpayers in late December and early January, Dana Latham, Commissioner of Internal Revenue has announced.

Limited supplies of the forms are now available in offices of district directors of Internal Revenue for tax practitioners and others who require advance forms to meet their filing requirements.

Each taxpayer will receive one of three forms, 1040, 1040e or 1040a, depending on the type of return he filed in 1959.

Most taxpayers will find that the form they receive will be adequate for their 1960 income and other reporting requirements and they will be able to complete and file those forms.

For those whose tax situation requires a different form, quantities of all forms will be available after Jan. 1 at local IRS offices and many post offices and banks.

Springer Completes Army Supply Course

Army Pvt. Patrick J. Springer, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Springer, 2976 Summerville Lane, Birmingham, recently completed a supply specialist course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

He entered the Army in September of this year and received basic training at Fort Leonard Wood.

Springer is a 1956 graduate of Catholic Central High School and attended the University of Detroit.

An example of an idiomatic expression is when a driver says his car "went out of control" and means he "lost his head."

WHEN ON AN autumn day in 1955 death stillied the pen of Alan Deane, America lost one of her most sensitive naturalist-writers.

Said he, "Winter is the season when life is slowed-down, scaled-down, to where we can really have a look it, to fix a date here and there, to approach this 'eigantude' without being instantly disturbed and bewildered. Nature never, of course, comes down to our size. We are always little and insignificant in the infinity."

And so it is that winter, forboding as it may appear, can be a time to meet nature.

Performance to Aid Scholarship Fund

Pontiac-Oakland Town Hall, Inc. will present the Canadian Players in Julius Caesar on Jan. 13 at Pontiac Northern High School.

The evening performance will be at 8:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by mail to Mrs. J. A. Rammer, 1435 Rosedale, Pontiac.

Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Scholarship Fund of Michigan State University-Oakland.

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Plaque Is Presented

Boy Scout Council President Merrit D. Hill (left), of 965 E. Glengary Circle, Elmhurst Township, presents a carved oak plaque to Scout Board Member C. Allen Harlan, 3535 N. Adams, Birmingham. The presentation was made on behalf of the Michigan Week Committee for Harlan's contribution and leadership in the fields of education and human relations. The plaque is known as the Wolverine Frontiersman Award.