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Slight Decline In Michigan Water Mishaps

Michigan's 218 water accidents in the first seven months this year have taken 145 lives and injured at least 88 persons, State Police provisional records show.

The water deaths include 50 swimmers or waders, 23 who fell from bridges, docks, banks or piers, 11 boat operators, 11 boat passengers, seven who fell through ice, four who drowned trying to rescue others, two skin or scuba divers, and two who fell into open tanks or wells. Official descriptive reports on 50 other water deaths had not been received as of July 31.

Of those falling into the water from bridges and banks, 11 were children in the under nine age group. The swimming or wading deaths include six teenagers who were swimming in gravel pits and another two adults and four children who drowned in other water-filled excavations.

In the first seven and a half months last year, the nearest comparable tabulation period, there were 172 accidents which resulted in 132 deaths and 125 injured.

Free fireworks displays are scheduled at the Michigan State Fair Grandstand for 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 2, and Monday, Sept. 3. The State Fair runs from Aug. 21 through Sept. 3.

Metropolitan X-Way Network to Cost Michigan \$1 Billion

An investment of more than \$1 billion is being made to give the metropolitan area the nation's finest freeway network, State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie said recently.

"During the next five years, the miles of freeway open to traffic in this area will more than double, increasing from 192 miles now open to 425 miles that will be in use by 1967," Mackie said.

The State Highway Department has spent an estimated \$300 million during the last five years for construction of freeways in the Port Huron-Flint-Toledo triangle and will award contracts totaling more than \$200 million during the next five years.

"These new freeways will serve as a stimulus for further development of the industrial heartland of Michigan," Mackie said.

"By 1980, nearly 80 per cent of the state's population—four of five residents—will live in this triangle and will be served by this freeway network."

Michigan's population is expected to top 12 million by 1980.

Aboard the Henley

Midshipman Third Class Eric C. Pilger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph C. Pilger, Jr. of 485 North Evansdale, Birmingham, is serving aboard the destroyer USS Henley, operating from Norfolk, Va.

CON-CON REPORT

Civil Service Remains Same

While the state civil service system was the subject of detailed study and lengthy deliberation in committee and convention sessions, few changes were made in the original civil service amendment which was voted into the present Constitution by the people of Michigan in 1946.

Considered by a majority of the delegates as improvements in the provisions governing civil service and proposed changes which would:

1. Allow administrative control of the creation or abolition of positions for reasons of efficiency and with the employee's right of appeal to the civil service commission clearly stated.
2. Give the legislature some control over the total level of state payroll by allowing legislative re-

State Agency To Form Senior Service Corps

A Senior Service Corps, which will use the skills and talents of senior adults, is being organized in Michigan.

Men and women 60 years old and over are eligible to join the Service Corps, Gary D. Hansen, Director of the Commission on Aging, announced today.

"The Senior Service Corps," Hansen said, "should provide some part-time employment and volunteer activities for participants and thereby accomplish many of the tasks which go on and on in our society."

SSC WILL provide personnel for operations of Senior Information and Referral Service (SIRS) centers. These offices, located in counties and large communities, will refer Senior Service Corps members to tasks and jobs which arise in their locality.

These tasks, Hansen pointed out, will be as diversified as the occupational and hobby skills and talents of Corps members.

He explained that families often need home care services to assist them when a member is sick or disabled; when both parents are working; or in baby sitting, maintenance and repair of home, yard and garden. Public and private agencies often need volunteers for clerical, educational and public relations services.

"Communities throughout Michigan," Hansen said, "could benefit greatly from mobilizing the skills, talents, wisdom and experience of senior adults in a wide variety of tasks."

"Of equal importance, the Senior Service Corps will be of great psychological benefit to its neighbors. It will give them added inner satisfactions of being more useful to their neighbors and their community . . . adding greater purpose and meaning to life."

jection or reduction of pay raises ordered by the commission, but only by an extraordinary (two-thirds) vote, and prohibiting legislative reductions below compensation rates then in effect.

The legislature is not empowered, however, to change pay differentials established by the commission.

THE CIVIL service section occupies the major part of Article XI which is concerned with Public Officers and Employment. The civil service provisions are designed to continue Michigan's national leadership among states in public personnel practice, and to foster and encourage a career service in state government.

The bipartisan civil service commission continues as at present. New language in the proposed revision, however, prevents the classification of the chief executive officer of boards and commissions and reserves these positions for political appointment without tenure.

Eight exempt positions among policy personnel are permitted in the governor's office. This simply gives constitutional sanction to a practice which has become customary. The revision also provides for additional exempt policy positions in other principal state departments.

Another revision provides that increases in compensation for civil service employees can be authorized by the commission only at the start of a fiscal year and after prior notice to the governor so he can accommodate the increases in the budget he submits to the legis-

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