

Treat Traffic Fatalities, Accidents as an Epidemic

Commission is proud of its many cooperative approaches in making Michigan a safer state in which to drive. We hope that we can still further improve our record in the years ahead with still more across-the-board approaches such as I have outlined here. I hope that my talk tonight will help to build up

August 30, 1962 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 7-B

Hor-collars and husband-callers will be in the spotlight at the Michigan State Fair on Friday, Aug. 31. They'll compete for prizes that afternoon in the Old-Timers Grove. The State Fair this year runs from Aug. 24 through Sept. 3, a week earlier than usual.

James M. Hare, chairman of the Michigan State Safety Commission, recommends "treating highway accidents and fatalities as though they were a wide-spread disease and to take an across-the-board attack on the problem as though it were an epidemic."

Hare, addressing the Women's Auxiliary of the American Optometric Association conference recently said, "The epidemiological approach to accident prevention seems to be the only realistic way to lower the total number of highway fatalities in America."

As he explored his theme, "The Quandary of Highway Safety" at the Auxiliary's driver improvement conference, Hare told his East Lansing audience of State Safety Chairman from the entire United States that "this epidemiological approach to accident prevention is one which is as yet little understood by many safety experts or laymen in this country."

"IF WE SCRUTINIZE all the facts we have on traffic accidents as though accidents were a complex disease, much as many researchers now approach alcoholism, we may arrive at better solutions to this problem more quickly. The United States Public Health Service is beginning to get significant results from this approach."

"One of the most important questions concerns the amount of information available as to basic causes of accidents. Such knowledge is necessary to organize effective methods of prevention. Unfortunately, however, there is only limited understanding of the interrelationships among the various influences resulting in accidents, and the effectiveness of the methods of prevention."

Many of the studies which have been carried out have been inconclusive because of such deficiencies as: inadequate time sampling, and definition and criteria of accidents; study of single variables out of context; biased sampling or the absence of control groups; lack of appropriate statistical treatment; and the fact that many conclusions are based on intuitive rather than empirical information.

"My medically-inclined colleagues in traffic safety, who have been pursuing this 'epidemic' approach, have shown that when data on accidental injuries are analyzed in a standard epidemiological manner, injuries appeared to follow patterns somewhat similar to diseases, and involve related biological principles. The distribution of injuries showed characteristic variations in regard to age, sex, type of accident, and other factors. Accidents occur at different rates and

in relation to different agents and circumstances among different groups of the population."

HARE STRESSED the fact that the epidemiological approach to curing the continuing epidemic of accidents involves the study of influences of many kinds, including the characteristics of the persons involved and variables relating to the environment. This usually requires the collaboration of scientists from several fields or disciplines, and the team approach has been essential to many important advances.

"It is this same team approach which has worked so effectively in our Michigan 3-E program of across-the-board action programs in safety education, enforcement, and engineering. It is my hope that the same spirit of cooperation will make it possible to work with backgrounds in medicine and related fields to achieve significant results in their areas of competency."

"The first step in an in-depth study of accidents involves an analysis of their distribution in terms of the persons who had them, the places they occurred, their times and temporal sequences, taken in regard to different classes of accidents and in regard to different agents and mechanisms of injury."

"THE REDUCTION of accidental injury and death may be approached at a number of levels or stages similar to the control of diseases. In this way, the findings of research may be applied within a framework of four basic strategies having the common final objective of significantly reducing the consequences of accidents. These strategic approaches are: the control of exposure to known hazardous combinations of factors, such as, eliminating risk of head-on collisions by separating opposing streams of traffic, the prevention of accidents in hazardous situations, such as, training drivers to handle skids, or to take appropriate evasive actions; the minimization of injury consequent to accidents, such as, seat-belts for occupants of vehicles; and minimization of long term effects of injury, such as,

through adequate emergency treatment and management of concomitant consequences.

"Most of the above strategies parallel the basic principles of preventive medicine. These have as objectives, either singly or together, to reduce the susceptibility of persons, decrease the injurious properties of specific agencies, and to prevent harmful interactions between persons and agents of potential injury."

"AS THE causes of motor vehicle accidents are reviewed in spot studies, the almost invariable conclusion that is reached is that most are attributable to human failures of various kinds. This is an oversimplification and often eliminates the factor of multiple causation, including not only certain human characteristics of the drivers leading to error, but also the influence of the interrelationships between the driver, his vehicle, and the environment. Thus, a consideration of human factors in accidents should be based not only on the driver as a component, but also his integration with the vehicle, and with environmental variables, in a total operating system.

"Associated with higher accident rates are such characteristics as youthful drivers, lack of training and experience, poor vision or inadequate social adjustments, the changes in skill which come with advancing age, and the impairment in driving performance due to such temporary factors as fatigue, alcohol, emotional mo-

Legal Notices

L. C. Putnam, Atty., 185 Earl Court, Grosse Pointe 36, Mich.

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. In the Matter of the Estate of HELEN ROWE CARTER, also known as HELEN R. CARTER, deceased. At a session of said court, held at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, in said county, on the 29th day of August, A. D. 1962.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Order appointing time for hearing claims.

Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing on claims against the above estate shall be the 5th day of September, 1962, at nine o'clock in the Court House at the City of Pontiac, Michigan.

All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims and to file the same with the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, on or before the 5th day of September, 1962, at nine o'clock in the afternoon, containing sufficient detail reasonably to inform the fiduciary of the nature and amount of the claim.

It is further ordered that notice be given to interested parties as shown by the records in this estate by delivering by registered mail with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this estate.

And it is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks, on or before the 5th day of September, 1962, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

Attest: J. G. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

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Happenings

(Continued from 1-B)

real, red-blooded men. There are plenty of people content with doing their work in a mediocre fashion but few are content to take the pains in doing their tasks which mark a person as diligent and persevering. The satisfaction derived from work done in the very best far outweighs any discomfort encountered in paying attention to details and the more delicate side of life. One reason why one man will succeed where another will not is open-mindedness.

15 YEARS AGO

Aug. 28, 1947

Dick Blauman, fast right-handed pitcher for the Baldwin baseball team for the past two seasons and this summer a member of the pitching staff of Sam's Class D team in the Detroit Federation, left yesterday for Dayton, Ohio, to pitch for his team in the national junior sandlot tournament over the weekend. Sam's won the tournament last year and a rare favored again. Dick's record is four victories against five defeats.

First of the local vegetable gardeners to report an unusually good crop of home-grown tomatoes was Fred Mullender of 1444 Chesterfield Street. He called The Eccentric Tuesday afternoon to report that this week he had obtained two luscious, red tomatoes that weekend, one pound and two ounces each. "And that certainly is nice what with the present price of tomatoes," he said.

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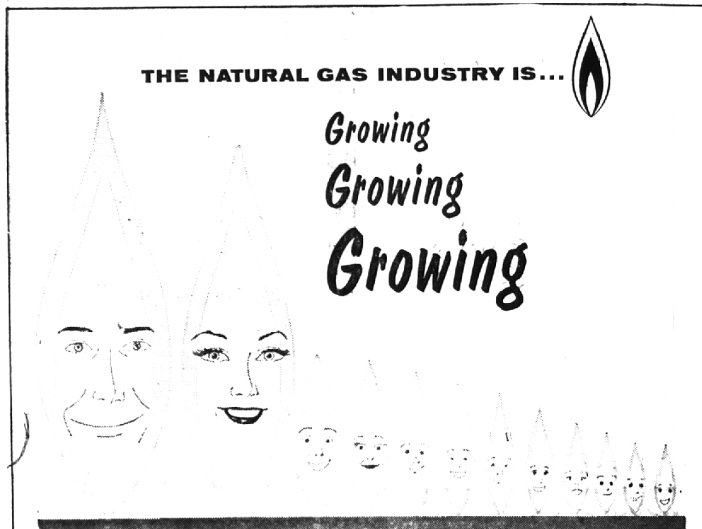
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