Many Accidents Don't Make News Headlines

Like the submerged part of an iceberg, the large volume of auto accident damage which doesn't make the headlines accounts for the major part of the car insurance bill of Michigan motorists.

The fatal and injury accidents upon which attention naturally centers are becoming an ever-larger factor in the cost of car insurance because of their increasing average cost per accident.

However, three conditions are keeping the repair of damage to cars in the number one cost position.

First, nearly every accident involves some degree of vehicle damage whereas, fortunately, fewer than half of them result in personal injury. And, because the majority of accidents involve two or more cars, insurance claims for damage to cars number five times as many as those resulting from injuries. Last year, in Michigan, they totaled more than 600,000.

Second, damage to cars from causes other than collision, such as fire, storm, theft, vandalism, and glass breakage is an important cost item. The average loss from this type of damage is much less than that from collision, but, in 1961, such instances of damage in Michigan numbered nearly a half-million.

* * *

FINALLY, THE COST of repairing accident damage has reached a point at which, cost-wise, there literally is no such thing as a minor accident. Today the average cost of replacing the most commonly damaged parts on the principal standard-size cars is nearly $1,000. This includes bumper, fender, quarter-panel, grille, hood, decklid, door, lights, and trim, several of which usually are damaged in an accident. Since 1947, this cost has increased 159 per cent, but it has leveled off somewhat during the past two years.

The effect of the large volume of car damage, and its cost, is shown by the Michigan insured loss figures for last year. Insurance paid for car damage caused by collision amounted to $75,000,000. The bill for damage from all other causes was $22,000,000, for a total car repair cost of $97,000,000. The bill for accident injury was $67,500,000.

Two factors appear to hold some promise of helping to cut the repair cost figures.

One is the trend to more simplified windshield design which was begun in some 1960 car models and has since become general. This reverses the compound-curved windshield styling, which began in 1954 and was general from 1956 through 1959, and which has been a major influence in an annual glass replacement cost of about $10,000,000.

Another is the lower parts cost for the American makes of compact cars. This, far, however, this has been offset in most instances by the cost of new techniques required in the repair of unitized construction.

The basic factor in controlling this area of car insurance cost, however, is the number of accidents, which decreased in 1961 but has increased thus far this year.

Highway Pilot Study Finished

With completion of a pilot study, the Michigan State Police will inaugurate their 24-hour expressway patrol July 1 on Michigan's new Interstate and high type limited access trunklines, Commissioner Joseph A. Childs has announced.

"About 100 troopers split into three shifts will be assigned from 20 posts to specifically patrol these controlled access roads to assist stranded motorists as well as for traffic supervision and crime prevention," Childs said.

* * *

"THE PATROLS will still be in an experimental stage for some time. We will still have the same manpower and must carry out our usual other duties and traffic supervision on other highways. But as now planned it is expected that a patrol car will pass a given point at intervals of not less than two hours.

This may be longer if there is more than an average of previous stops and shorter if the average is less or supplemental cars are on segments."

* * *

THE PILOT test covered an 83-mile stretch of I-94 between Battle Creek and New Buffalo. During the period a special compilation made for the month of May showed that assistance was needed by 571 motorists. Of these 189 were for tire failure, 91 out of fuel, 164 motor trouble, 37 other motor vehicle failures, and 110 including information on food and lodging, vehicle services and routes, illness and miscellaneous causes. Cars out of gas are given enough to get to the next filling station.

The 24-hour patrol will cover more than 650 miles and be extended as construction proceeds.

'Romney Girls' Headed by Area Woman

An orientation meeting will be held in Lansing Saturday for some of the State's most attractive young ladies.

The occasion, the formation of a corps of 275 girls to help George Romney in his current campaign for governor.

A search is currently underway in Michigan, directed by Mrs. Allen A. Strom of 1130 Wakefield, Bloomfield Township, to build up a force of "Romney Girls" from all 83 counties of the state.

* * *

"IN ORDER to sell anything nowadays, it seems you must have glamour," said Mrs. Strom, herself an attractive vice-chairman of the Republican Committee for Oakland County.

"Not that George Romney needs glamour to sell himself," she added, "but we have found that having some pretty girls around when Mr. and Mrs. Romney are making appearances is most helpful." Mrs. Strom said that the girls, between 18 and 30 years of age, will be outfitted in colorful blue and white official Romney campaign colors—dresses set off with white shoulder bands with white lettering.

White go-devilet hats with blue streamers will be part of the ensembles, which the girls will make themselves.

* * *

CREATOR OF the addition to the Romney forces was Arthur G. Elliott, Jr., Romney's campaign manager and former Oakland County GOP Chairman, who instituted a troop of "Oakland Girls" during the 1960 campaign.

Mrs. Strom promises a "Romney Girl Song," the lyrics of which she prefers to keep confidential until the campaign progresses.

"There are so many ways in which the Romney Girls can be helpful in this campaign," Mrs. Strom said. "Touring with candidates, attracting attention and helping at fairs, rallies, banks and handing out literature and buttons are just some."

"This is a proven idea—it has been tried and found extremely successful."

MRS. ALLAN A. STROM

MI 1-1100 is a number for you to remember. Call it today and place your Birmingham Eccentric classified.

Driver Awaits July Sentencing In Auto Mishap

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Sentencing date for LeRoy F. Edgerly, Royal Oak Man involved in a February, 1961 collision in which a Berkley man lost his life, has been set for July 31.

Edgerly, 18, pleaded guilty to a charge of negligent homicide before Circuit Judge William J. Beer.

Vernon M. Libstaff, 46, of Berkley was killed Feb. 24 in the crash. Township police said the accident occurred when Edgerly attempted a left turn onto Franklin Road from the west-bound lane of Square Lake Road. Edgerly's car struck Libstaff's eastbound car, according to police.

Both Edgerly and a woman passenger were injured in the accident.

Finishes Training

Army Pvt. William C. Reilly, son of Mrs. Marion T. Reilly, 983 Kenrosaw, Birmingham, recently completed eight weeks of advanced individual training at The Armor Center, Fort Knox, Ky.

"You know what signals I'm referring to, Ashley!"

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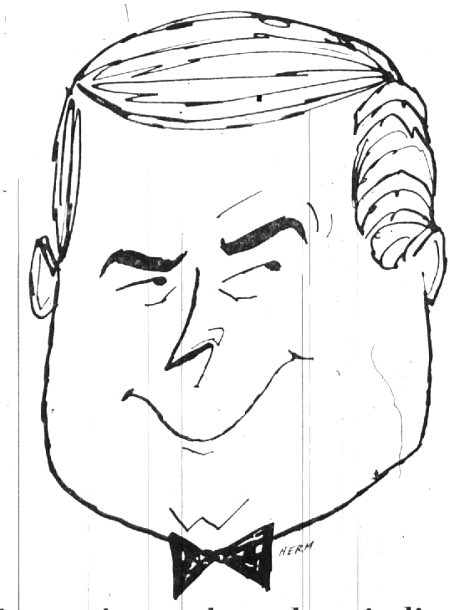

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"One stop for everything in lumber"
1025 Haynes

BIRMINGHAM PAINT, GLASS & WALLPAPER
"The Beautification of the Home"
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"Birmingham's Oldest & Finest Shoe Store"
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"Things of Beauty for Better Living"
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"If it's For the Office, we've got it!"
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"Everything Musical"
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"Specializing in Children's Shoe Fitting"
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"Serving Birmingham Over 50 Years"
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"Fashion institution for over 90 years"
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KAY BAUM
Be sure to visit "Little Kay Baum"
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"The Sterling Store of Birmingham"
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409 East Maple

McCLELLAN-BALL CO.
Everything for the yard & garden
650 S. Woodward

McSWEENEY SHOE
"Orthopedic Shoes for Children"
277 Pierce Street

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"Gracious Dining without Extravagance"
160 W. Maple

MATTHEW'S CUSTOM TAILORS
Birmingham tailor for 36 years
288 East Maple

MICHAEL'S DELICACIES
"Party Foods–Beer & Wine–Delivery"
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"The Area's Largest Laundry Dealer"
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"Prescriptions carefully compounded"
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"Everything we sell must travel well"
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THE SPORTSMAN
"Distinguished Gifts & Sportswear"
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"If it's glass we have it!"
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THE TIME SHOP
"Watchmakers, Clockmakers, Jewelers"
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