

Safety Council to Test Driving Hazards on Ice

Whoever it was that first said everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it didn't reckon with the "skid testers."

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 20, the "testers," more formally known as the National Safety Council's Committee on Winter Driving Hazards, will be doing something about the weather.

On an ice-covered field at Gaylord, Mich., they'll spend two weeks finding out what effect winter weather has on a car's stopping distance.

During the last 20 years the committee has run many winter-time tests to evaluate the performance and reliability of various types of tires, tire chains, and methods to help motorists drive more safely on ice and snow.

THIS YEAR'S tests at Gaylord, though, will be pure research aimed at determining the effects on automotive stopping distances of five variables: ice surface, temperature, air temperature, wind velocity and direction, and the amount of sunlight.

"We know very little about how these variables affect the braking performance of tires on ice," says Walter B. Laabar, Jr., chairman of the committee's subcommittee on testing and manager of technical sales for American Chain Division of American Chain and Cable Co.

"During past tests we have seen large variations in stopping

distances, even though we were using the same vehicle, with the same tires, on the same ice, and on the same day.

"We're hoping that this year's tests will help us describe these variables, quantitatively and qualitatively. Then, if the variables can be brought under control by, say, tire or chain design, we can expect some tangible safety benefits from our research."

SINCE 1938 the Committee has combined the roles of proving ground and safety educator.

Bringing together all segments of the transportation industry — manufacturers, fleet operators, public officials, safety organizations and the motoring public — it serves as a catalyst in uniting the groups to work toward a common goal, the reduction of winter driving accidents and traffic tie-ups.

After the weather-effects testing is completed, on Jan. 30, the committee's work will move into its final phase.

Some 30 driver education instructors from snow-belt states have been invited to take part in a special training program. They will learn safe winter-driving techniques they can pass on to their students in high schools and universities.

Chairman of the Winter Driving Hazards Committee is Prof. A. H. Easton, director of the motor vehicle research laboratory of the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Argues For Free Colleges

Tax funds should be employed to support free public education at the college level for all who qualify, Merritt Chambers, University of Michigan visiting professor of higher education, asserts.

"Some people argue that more of the cost of operating colleges and universities should be charged to the student," says Chambers.

"We are told that scholarships can be provided for superior students who are unable to pay their own way, that students and their families should borrow heavily to pay for college expenses and that a student will not properly appreciate his chance for education unless he has to pay for it."

SAYS CHAMBERS, "This is an attempt to stop the clock and turn it backward. Scholarships never have been sufficient and never can be unless they are provided from taxes on an enormous scale.

"Scholarships involve an odious 'means test' and other invasion of privacy which many spirited persons will have nothing of."

"If instituted on a really large

scale, they would entail a vast amount of bureaucratic administration whose cost would be much greater than that of all qualified persons.

"In Chambers' view, the idea of loans to students on a large scale is unpalatable because it involves so many unacceptable side effects.

"First of all, it is cruelly discriminatory against young women.

Second, it corrupts the student by having to depend on the aid of an uppermost in his mind the necessity of 'making a fast buck' and paying off his debt as quickly as possible after leaving college.

"It pushes him away from the modestly paid service professions in which he may have a real interest and preoccupies his mind with a choice of occupation which he thinks will pay the most in the shortest time without much regard to his obligation to the public."

Chambers' remarks are from his new book, "Chance and Choice in Higher Education."

Freeways Safer Than Old Roads, Reports State

A whopping two-thirds reduction in accidents and casualties on Michigan's freeways compared to the highways they replaced has been reported by the State Highway Department.

Highway Department officials said a continuing study of highway accidents shows that Michigan's freeways are carrying increased traffic at three times the safety of the old roads.

THE LATEST report comparing 350 miles of freeway against 377 miles of old roads they replaced shows:

—387 accidents on freeways compared to 2,769 on old roads, a reduction of 67 per cent.

—533 persons injured in freeway accidents compared to 1,497 on old

roads, a 64 per cent reduction.

—14 persons killed in freeway accidents compared to 59 on old roads, a 76 per cent reduction.

The figures represent a full year of operation on the freeway compared to the last year the old routes were used.

HIGHWAY OFFICIALS pointed to the record of a heavily traveled stretch of Interstate 96 Freeway which replaced US-16 between Brighton and Farmington, a distance of 22 miles.

During the last year US-16 was in operation, 10 people were killed. Only one person was killed this past year on the freeway.

There were similar reports on other sections of freeway—a nine to two reduction in deaths on a 19-mile section of Interstate 94 west of Ann Arbor and an eight to one decrease on a 47-mile section of US-24 Freeway in Genesee and Saginaw counties.

This savings in life, limb and property has more than paid for construction of the freeways, officials said.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 10, 1913
The Birmingham Choral Society, assisted by Mrs. H. F. Blake violinist and Mr. Albert Dunham, soloist will give a concert tonight. The program includes besides the solo numbers, a male chorus, a ladies chorus and several quartets. The longest number given by the choral society is the dramatic ballad "Fair Ellen," a poem set to music by Max Burch.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, speaking before the United States senate subcommittee on judiciary in favor of the Clayton anti-injunction and contempt bills, gave answer to criticisms aimed at the organization of workers which he heads because of the trial and conviction for dynamiting of officers of the Structural Iron Workers' union.

It is not the intention of the democrats, just because of the fact that they have a governor in the executive office, to get cocky and endeavor to push through any partisan measures. At least this is the declaration made by Senator James H. Murtha, chairman of the senate committee on executive business and democratic floor leader in the upper house.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 12, 1933
Giving the demands of private practice, "together with other reasons," as the cause, Dr. William Lloyd Kemp tendered his resignation as health officer, effective Feb. 1, in a letter placed in the hands of the Village Commission Monday night. A motion made by Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert, to accept Dr. Kemp's resignation with regret, was withdrawn after a brief discussion, and action was deferred until the next meeting.

Determined to check the epidemic of burglaries which has raged in the theft of thousands of dollars worth of jewelry and clothing from Birmingham homes within the past several weeks, Chief of Police John P. Hackett today had issued a warning to residents of the village to notify police headquarters whenever they intend to be gone from their home, even for a few hours.

After prolonged discussion by the Village Commission Monday evening, a resolution authorizing the village treasurer to accept, at par value, past due and currently maturing village bonds and interest coupons in part payment for delinquent taxes, met with a deadlock when the vote of the commission was tied, 3 to 3.

15 YEARS AGO

Jan. 8, 1948
With but four days to go before the "Empire Food" leaves Birmingham for the hungry people of France, the city was over the halfway mark toward its goal of 10 tons of food donations. Harry Smart, local "Caravan" chairman, reported yesterday morning. Last-minute contributions may be taken to the Peabody warehouse at Hunter and E. Maple.

With 200,000 of Michigan's million school pupils using what has been described as inadequate facilities and with taxpayers faced with the need of financing needed school improvements, the Town Hall discussion on "State Versus Local Support of Schools" which is to be held Monday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m. in Adams School becomes increasingly important.

Plans are being completed for the benefit concert which the Birmingham Musicale will sponsor at the Community House on Monday, Jan. 26. All proceeds will go to the benefit of the Community House fund drive. The program will feature the work of two well known musicians, Stanley Lock, Detroit pianist, and Charles Ross Turner, Birmingham violinist.

University Chaplain Talks to Eumemos Joint Youth Group

"Eumemos," a joint youth group formed by young people of the First Baptist, First Methodist, First Presbyterian, Congregational and St. James Episcopal churches of Birmingham will meet on two successive Sundays, this week and Jan. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Sunday the meeting will be held at Fellowship Hall at the First Presbyterian Church when the Rev. Malcolm Boyd, chaplain at Wayne State University, will speak about "Questions and Answers on Christian Commitment."

A service of witness will follow. "Eumemos" meets the following Sunday, Jan. 20, at the First Methodist Church in Fellowship Hall with James H. E. L. inter-city worker for the Lutheran Church, speaking on "Christian Commitment and the Challenge of the Metropolis." A service of witness will be followed by refreshments.

Looking for a job... a home... a special service? See the West Ad.

Bloomfield Woman Goes To Conference

Mrs. Harvey B. Greene, 1040 Country Club Drive, Bloomfield Hills, chairman of the Oakland Planning Division, will represent United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit in Indianapolis on Jan. 10 to 12 at the 1963 Citizens Conference on Community

Planning, sponsored by United Community Funds and Councils of America.

Essentially a conference for laymen, this sixth biennial meeting will provide a practical exchange of experiences for volunteer leaders of local Community Health and

Welfare Councils throughout the United States and Canada.

More than 400 persons will participate in concurrent round table discussions.

Under the general theme, "How Are Councils Measuring Up?" they will cover problems concerning the

aging, chronic illness, juvenile delinquency, family problems, mental illness, economic insecurity, Council financing and urban renewal.

Edwin G. Plum, vice president and comptroller, Indiana Bell Telephone Co., Indianapolis, is chairman.

Speakers include Harry T. Sealy, vice president, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co.; Dr. Paul Yivis-

aker, director of the Ford Foundation's public affairs program; George K. Wynn, commissioner of social welfare, State of New York; and John S. Hayes, chairman, executive committee, The Washington Post Co., Washington, D. C., and president of United Community Funds and Councils of America.

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