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## Most Traffic Mishaps Occur Close to Home

Where do people have automobile accidents? Is it in some distant and unfamiliar place? Or is it close to home? There's no question but what confusion in unfamiliar surroundings contributes to some accidents.

But national statistics show that the old saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt," explains a greater proportion of highway mishaps.

Sixty-five per cent of the fatal traffic accidents occur in the driver's home county. Another 15 per cent occur in a county adjacent to the driver's home county.

## Lady Bird Johnson's Letter Carried an 'Awesome Truth'

By JULIE CANDLER  
 Special Writer

Not Lady Bird Johnson, nor any human, would have dreamed that a letter she sent to Birmingham one year ago would carry such awesome truth.

She was writing to me after her visit to Bloomfield Hills in October, 1962. I had followed up our meeting there with a letter asking her to speak to the "Ladies of the Press" breakfast. The event is sponsored annually by Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalism fraternity.

"In declining," she explained, "it is impossible for me to look into the crystal ball and plan anything so far ahead of time. I feel it is important for me to keep my schedule flexible in order to fit in with Lyndon's plans, which often can be completed only at the last minute."

HER LETTER was dated Nov. 29, 1962, less than a year before her flexibility to "fit in with Lyndon's plans" meant assuming the duties of First Lady of the United States.

That she could handle those duties capably she demonstrated when she attended the reception in her honor last fall.

She arrived at the Kingsley Inn with Mrs. Harriet Phillips of Huntington Woods, then vice chairman of the State Democratic Committee and other party workers.

It was just before the Nov. 6 elections, and she was doing what she could to help Democrats get John Swainson re-elected to the governorship and win every possible congressional seat.

She carried a rich-looking mink stole. Her sheath dress was of deep red, striking against her dark modish coiffure. She was a

far handsomer figure of a woman than her photographs portray.

THIS SOUTHERN charmer had all the graciousness of a great lady, all the poise and savoir-faire of the seasoned partner of a lifetime politician.

Her Texas accent drawled more than her how-do-you-dos to party workers.

Among them were Birmingham residents Mrs. John H. McVay, then candidate for county treasurer; Mrs. William B. Clark, vice-chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Committee, and Mr. George B. Fulkerson (he was the Democrats' hope for Oakland County representative to Congress). Then she took the place of honor in the receiving line beside them.

WHILE LADY BIRD Johnson was drawing her how-do-you-do and repeating each reception guest's name as she was introduced, her efficient assistant took me aside.

"Newspaperwomen always seem to ask for recipes," she said, handing me a card bearing a picture of the LBJ ranch and a printed recipe for "Fedorales River Chili," which sounded better than Texas.

"A favorite recipe of Vice President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson," the card said.

With it, the assistant handed me a printed biography with answers to questions reporters most frequently ask of Mrs. Johnson. It explained how she tried to become "Claudia" when she went away to boarding school, but gave up after a friend from home revealed her nickname.

MRS. LBJ smiled and made lovely small talk, laughed at little jokes and obliged photographers.

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## Permits in 6 Months Outdo Previous Year

WEST BLOOMFIELD—More new-home building permits have been issued in the first six months of the fiscal year beginning April, 1963, in West Bloomfield Township than were issued in the entire fiscal year of 1962-63.

The rapid rate of residential growth was pointed out at the township board meeting last week by Supervisor John C. Richard.

Three reappointments to the township planning commission, which is in the process of completing a master plan for development of the township, were also made at the meeting.

Incumbents Claude Whitmer, Leo DeConick and John Warren were approved for additional terms of four years.

From April through October, 1963, the township has approved a total of 262 house-building permits at an estimated value of \$5,245,455.

In the entire preceding fiscal year a total of 21 such permits were issued.

During the past fiscal year the township's assessed valuation, based on 30 per cent of the market value of real property, grew by \$1,801,100 to a total of \$92,559,420.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS estimate that the increase in assessed valuation this year may reach two and one half times last year's increase.

According to Charles Tressler, new head of the township's building department, most of the home building is taking place in the southeastern part of the township and consists mainly of subdivision developments.

This section of the township is serviced by the Farmington Interceptor, and sewer lateral systems to the interceptor have been widely developed in the area.

THE BUILDING department report for last month showed 49 permits issued for new homes. Estimated value totalled \$1,055,500—an average of slightly over \$21,000 per home. No permits for commercial buildings were issued during the month.

In October, 1962, only 14 permits for new residences were given out.

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## Veterans Join Group Returning to School

Along with the millions entering the nation's classrooms this month will be some 2,800 Michigan veterans or their orphaned children.

This is a mere speck on the educational sea when compared to the wave of 129,000 Michigan veterans who crowded the state's campuses and training establishments the week of 1947 when the World War II GI Bill was in full tide. Over a quarter million Michigan veterans trained under that law.

However, four VA training programs continue to make their lighter impacts, Robert Fitzgerald, VA's regional manager for Michigan, said recently.

The Korean Bill also is waning after benefiting more than 81,000 veterans in the state, but approximately 1,000 former service men will enroll under that law this fall.

## State Leads In Pulpwood Production

Michigan moved up a notch last year to become the nation's leader in pulpwood production on state forest lands, the Conservation Department learned recently.

Some 239,100 cords of pulpwood were harvested from state forests in Michigan during 1962, according to the American Pulpwood Association.

## Birthday Dinner For Mrs. Romney

Mr. and Mrs. Algrid Ambrose, 2570 Yorkshire, Birmingham, will be among local residents attending a birthday dinner Saturday in Cobo Hall, Detroit, honoring Mrs. George Romney.

The party is sponsored by the new Republican State Nationality Council. Ambrose is president of the Lithuanian American Republican Club.

THE FIGURE represents nearly one-third of last year's pulpwood total for state forests throughout the country, placing Michigan well ahead of Minnesota, the 1961 front-runner.

In 1961, Minnesota's state forests yielded more than 207,000 cords of pulpwood; Michigan finished second that year with an output of nearly 238,000 cords from its state-owned forests.

To get general news printed in The Eccentric, call Midwest 4-1100 before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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