

Governor Suggests Studying Fund Use for Traffic Safety

By ELMER E. WHITE
Michigan Press Association

An apparent move to broaden the use of presently earmarked highway funds has been indicated today by Gov. George Romney. Speaking to a traffic safety group in Lansing before the approval of the new constitution was even verified by the board of state canvassers, Gov. Romney called for a study to determine the feasibility of using highway funds to promote traffic safety. Gov. Romney's theory was that since today's roads are designed to encourage safety, the same funds used to build them should also be available to preach the subject and conduct research on it. His specific reference was to possible use of the funds to re-establish a traffic safety center similar to the one which was in operation at Michigan State University until last year, when it was cut out of the state budget.

HIGHWAY Commissioner John C. Mackie reared up quickly at the governor's suggestion. Mackie said he believes it would be "a serious mistake" for the state legislature to divert highway funds to another agency. Under the new constitution, however, the earmarking of these funds will end.

The commissioner's fear that "When they make the first diversion to a quasi-highway agency, the second one will become that much easier."

This fear is not altogether unjustified, it would appear. There have been some discussions among legislators already that a traffic safety center, driver education, highway police patrol and all other highway-related state programs should be financed by road funds.

WHILE MACKIE'S complaint about possible "raids on highway funds" was heated at the first public mention of the possibility, his antagonism toward such use might be lessened if he were assured the new uses were kept in quasi-highway programs.

What Mackie really appears to fear most is that the legislature will do exactly what the new constitution gives it the power to do. That is to spend highway funds for highway purposes "as defined by law."

The list of state government operations which could be constructed as "highway purposes" is longer than most would expect. It would certainly be unfortunate if the legislators, many of whom resist the present financial independence of the highway department, were to

stage a wholesale raid on the funds which would deter the long-range construction plan.

THE WARM weather months bring forth an increase in the incidence of child molestations but it needn't be so if youngsters are properly advised.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Lynn M. Bartlett has asked teachers to provide a special aid to law enforcement officials before Michigan's children begin the summer vacation, when they spend more time playing outside.

"The teacher's cautioning words used to build them should also be available to preach the subject and conduct research on it. His specific reference was to possible use of the funds to re-establish a traffic safety center similar to the one which was in operation at Michigan State University until last year, when it was cut out of the state budget."

Early Indians in State Practiced Conservation

Michigan Indians were much more interested in conservation of wildlife and soil than in war parties, scalp dances and other dramatic events, contrary to the common television portrayal of North America's early natives.

"Daily efforts of the Indians during the 17th and 18th centuries were centered on securing an adequate food supply. It is perhaps because of this hardship that they were more aware of conservation than any other group in Michigan history," according to Philip P. Mason, Wayne State University historian and archivist.

Because they depended upon a steady supply of game, Indians did not hunt the same area continuously. This hunting-ground rotation was particularly important to the Chippewas who lived for the most part in the upper peninsula and gained their main livelihood by hunting and fishing.

EVEN TRIBES who supplemented hunting and fishing with agriculture, like the Ottawas in the northern half of the lower peninsula, rotated hunting grounds. Extreme caution was taken not to deplete the animal population in any one area. Tribes often moved many miles from their original camps sites on the advice of their chiefs so as not to drain the wild-

life supply. It is recorded that one group moved from the Glen Lake area, Leelanau County, to the Saginaw Valley, in this hunting-ground rotation pattern.

"Beaver hunting illustrates the conservation which was practiced," points out Dr. Mason. "The Indian never killed a whole beaver but always left enough to insure a future supply."

THOSE TRIBES which depended more completely upon agriculture, like the Potawatomi in the southern part of the lower peninsula, also moved in the interest of conservation to prevent soil exhaustion. Corn, squash, beans, melon and tobacco were the staple crops of these southern tribes who inhabited land stretching from present Detroit to Lake Michigan.

Food crops were so important that tribes warred over rich fields and provisions for use of the fields were included in treaties. Areas especially productive in rice were the Lake St. Clair flats, Menominee County, and the basins of the Grand, Huron, Kalamazoo, Manistee and Raisin rivers. The Menominee tribe and present upper peninsula, mostly even derived their name from an Indian word. Menominee in translation means "wild rice people."

Flag Week Proclaimed by Mayor Burgum

This week has been declared National Flag Week in Birmingham by Mayor William H. Burgum. The occasion is the 186th anniversary of the birth of the American flag.

"With the troubled times this country is experiencing, both internationally and nationally, our flag should be not only waved, but respected now more than ever," Burgum said.

The mayor noted the flag of the United States is reflective of the strength of freedom, of government by law, and the individual spirit as it finds expression in the interest of all.

City Approves Purchase of DPW Truck

Birmingham bought a new rubbish truck last week.

Commissioners authorized the purchase of a 17-yard loadpacker on a GMC truck for the net price of \$21,922. It will replace the 1959 GMC truck now being used by the DPW for the pickup of commercial rubbish.

The figure submitted by the GMC Truck Co., Pontiac, was the lowest of five bids, according to DPW Supt. Tom C. Brian. Delivery of the new loadpacker is expected in about two weeks.

THE COMMISSION also authorized the purchase of three one-yard containers for rubbish for \$735. The large rubbish containers will be placed in the alleys in the downtown area.

Brian said if the containers prove useful it is hoped that mechanics will purchase additional containers for use behind their stores.

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Barnum Instructor Chosen As 'Teacher of Semester'

The Birmingham Education Association announced last week that Merion Smiley, Barnum Junior High industrial arts teacher, has been selected as "Teacher of the Semester."

Smiley first taught in the rural one-room schools in Branch County and the public schools in Ann Arbor for five years. He came to Birmingham in the fall of 1929, teaching mathematics and industrial arts at Adams School.

When eight years later Barnum became a junior high school, he transferred there and devoted full time to teaching industrial arts. His educational background includes graduation from a county normal school

at Coldwater. Life certificate from Western Michigan University where he majored in industrial arts and a B.S. degree from Wayne State University. He first became interested in industrial arts while working with handcraft clubs.

Today when time permits, he can be found carving caricatures of animals as well as serious replicas of wildlife.

SMILEY HAS been active in professional organizations over the past years at the state and district levels. He is a member of the Michigan Industrial Education Society and was nominated by it for a state award as a master teacher.

His selection by the Teacher Education and Professional Standards Committee of the Birmingham Education Association as the "Teacher of the Semester" will come as no great surprise to his co-workers, for he has never given less than his best to the profession. The committee said. His work in the shop goes beyond the usual teacher-pupil relationship as he is sincerely interested in the boys and their problems; he has quietly served as counselor and confidant to many boys during the past 42 years, the committee said.

When classes resume in September, Smiley will be starting his retirement. He and his wife Flora plan to spend the summer at Sand Pointe on Lake Huron near Cassville and the winters in Florida, as he is an avid fisherman.

Historians now believe that most of the world's domestic fowls are descended from the so-called jungle fowls of Asia. The Chinese began raising chickens more than 3,000 years ago, the Greeks kept them, and they were introduced into western Europe by the Romans.

Michigan's forest product industries contribute over \$650 million annually to the over-all economy of the state.

B'ham Confirms Roll For Street Program

Birmingham city commissioners last week confirmed the roll for the special assessment districts for the 1963 street improvement program.

Several minor changes were made from the program adopted by the commission May 20. DPW Supt. Tom C. Brian recommended that four streets be dropped from this year's program. They are: Birchmeade east of Elton to west of Coolidge; Yorkshire east of Elton to west of Coolidge; Buckingham east of Elton to west of St. Andrews; Edinborough north of Maple to south of Durchester.

Commissioners also agreed to delete the alley between Ravine and Brookside from the 1963 program.

MRS. CARL E. HOUSNER, 562 Brookside, told the commission she thought the assessment would be spread equally among the 11 property owners abutting the alley. In addition, she said, the City had already made minor improvements in the alley and the residents could see no need for further work at the present time.

BRIEN SAID the DPW had skinned the worst spots on these streets and the roadway was now in good condition. He said it was likely the streets could go one more year without much maintenance. The four streets are also included in the 1963 sidewalk program and many residents of the area had expressed concern over the amount of money they would

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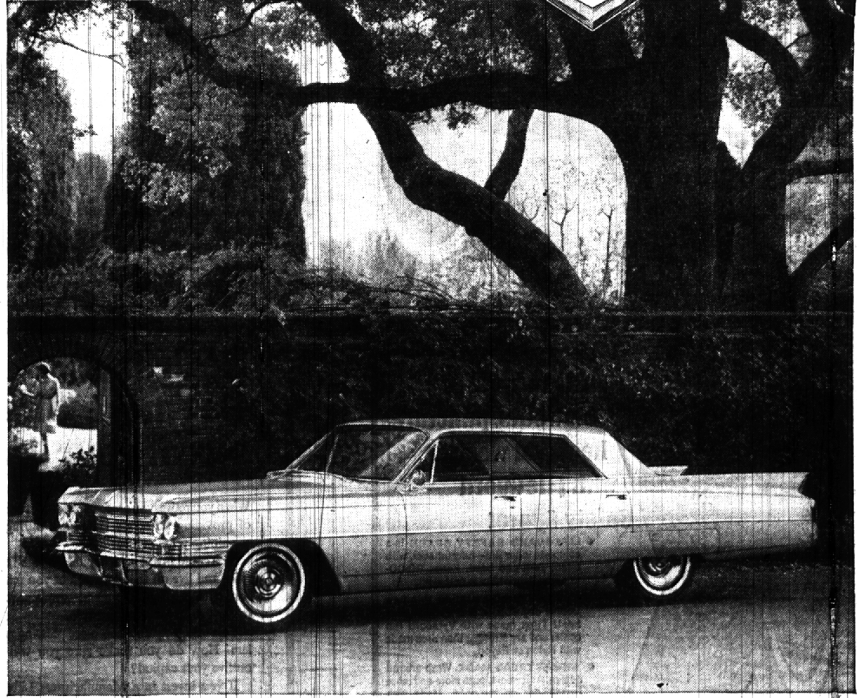
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