

The Mining Journal

Upper Michigan's Largest Daily
A PANAX PUBLICATION
Founded July 11, 1846

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Reducing Highway Deaths

The Michigan Auto Club has completed a sobering examination of the state's fatal highway accidents in 1969.

Michigan set a new highway death record last year when 2,481 persons lost their lives on our roads and streets, a 3.6 per cent increase over 1968.

The Auto Club has conducted 10 previous studies on Michigan traffic accidents and deaths since 1966, and the following three factors always show up as underlying causes:

1. The drinking driver who is involved in at least 50 to 65 per cent of all fatal accidents.
2. The problem driver who makes up five per cent of the driving population yet is involved in up to 30 per cent of the fatal accidents.
3. The young driver who makes up 21 per cent of the driving population yet is involved in 37 per cent of the fatal accidents.

The Auto Club, whose "Bring 'Em Back Alive!" slogan has become a safety byword in the state, offers some practical solutions to the problems, including the lowering of all speed limits on unposted roads to 50 miles per hour day and night. But without adequate police manpower to patrol these highways and arrest the speeding driver, such a proposal is unrealistic.

The Auto Club points out that the physical condition of Michigan's highways and country roads also can be blamed as a major cause of traffic injuries and deaths. Currently, 45 per cent of the 51,676 miles of Michigan roads and streets are inadequate for current traffic needs. This includes 38,000 miles of country roads where 70 per cent of the state's fatal accidents now happen. When just state trunklines are considered, 82 per cent have defects ranging from narrow pavement to substandard traffic controls.

The areas where real progress can be made in reducing the number of traffic deaths and injuries without added financing, as recommended by the Auto Club:

1. Support a legislative program to lower the blood-alcohol level to prove a person legally drunk from .15 to .10.
2. Remove the problem driver from the road.
3. Modify restrictions on young drivers.

What Ever Happened To That Little Girl?



Andrew Tully:

Schism In The Cabinet

WASHINGTON — Symptomatic of the widening schism in President Nixon's Cabinet over youthful dissent and other social issues was the criticism leveled by Attorney General John Mitchell against Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Robert Finch over the invasion of Finch's office by a gaggle of noisy welfare "leaders."

Finch, Mitchell told an aide, "Other Cabinet members who side with Hickey are Labor Secretary George Shultz (a former fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences), Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Romney, and Transportation

Secretary Peter D. DeLoach. The administration's apparent unwillingness to "listen" to young demonstrators. Finch, Mitchell told an aide, "Other Cabinet members who side with Hickey are Labor Secretary George Shultz (a former fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences), Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Romney, and Transportation Secretary Peter D. DeLoach. The administration's apparent unwillingness to "listen" to young demonstrators.

Business Mirror:

What's Your Position On Metrication?

By JOHN CUNIFF
AP Business Analyst

NEW YORK (AP) — How do you stand on the issue of metrication?

You mean to say that you weren't aware of metrication as an issue—that the United States might some day abandon the familiar inch-gallon-pound system of measurement in favor of meters, liters and grams?

Although it is difficult to imagine that Americans must take a stand on still another issue in these controversial times, the fact of the matter is that the government is planning to solicit their views on just such a change.

To Poll Manufacturers

If the change indeed even comes, it is likely to be gradual, for it will be a long time before Americans can adjust to a Willie Mays hitting 150-meter home runs, or of buying 500 grams or 10 liters of gasoline.

By the end of the month, however, hundreds of manufacturers may receive questionnaires from the National Bureau of Standards to determine their stand on metrication and, if possible, to estimate the costs of conversion.

Later surveys will probe into the attitudes of other areas of society in order that a report be made to Congress under a law passed in August 1968. But the report won't necessarily recommend that any action be taken. Inherited System From England

In fact, Congress has off and on considered the matter for more than 100 years, but almost nothing has been done. Now the United States, which inherited its present system from England, could find itself alone in its use.

England plans to convert by 1975. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have set various dates for doing the same. Asia and Latin America



Contributions are invited. Letters should be limited to less than 300 words. Only signed letters will be considered for publication. Personal attacks on individuals will be eliminated.

Facts About Poppies

Dear Sir:

On street corners and some places of business small paper flowers will be offered for sale by veterans organizations. It is the poppy.

As a poppy chairman, I believe the buyers are entitled to the following information:

The poppy program is unique in that it operates contrary to all business practices. They carry no price tag, no mark-up or mark-down. There are no wages, profits or commissions, and it is not yet necessary to obtain a state license to sell them, no sales tax, and the whole operation is entirely free of political corruption. Eight per cent goes for material and postage and 92 per cent is donated to the warthiest of causes. The wearing of the poppy indicates an appreciation of those who by circumstances and sacrifice have been rendered less fortunate than we.

RUSSELL McLEOD
Gwinn

Criticizes News Coverage

Dear Sir:

I am a 19-year-old freshman from Northern Michigan University, and I am very much concerned about the coverage given local news events. Especially that of the trial of the "Marquette Six." I am sure that in the future your paper will be more careful in what they print when it has to do with such matters as this.

CHARLES MOSS
412 Main St.
Ishpeming

Trial Of NMU Students

Sir:

I would like to know why the trial of the six NMU students ever took place. If the prosecution never had the evidence to prove guilt there should never have been a trial. Blaming the local newspaper for the prosecution's inadequacy is hardly an excuse. Reference the trial of the "Chicago Seven." There was never a mis-trial declared in Chicago, and that trial probably received more adverse publicity than any other trial in the history of our courts.

If the defense, prosecution and His Honor didn't like the vulgar word "ransacked" being used in the County of Marquette, why wasn't a change in venue asked for? I am sure the good citizens of another county wouldn't have been so offended by that naughty word.

I think we, the public, have just witnessed a flagrant misuse of county funds, and I hope that we, the public, won't be so forgetful of this incident come next election.

ROD HULBERT
Route 1, Box 560
Ishpeming