

Auto Dealers push seat belts

The Detroit Auto Dealers Association today urged legislation in Michigan mandating the use of seat belts.

C.M. Shelton, a Pontiac-Buick dealer in Rochester, Michigan, and president of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, said, "It's about time that some state took the lead in demonstrating the true value of 100 per cent use of seat belts."

"Every study has shown that the use of seat belts has dramatically in-

creased the saving of lives in accidents on the road, and dramatically reduced the number of injuries to our population."

"The reason that the federal government is looking so hard at mandated air bags is that the people of our country have in large numbers refused to buckle up."

"While we object to any more government intervention in the automobile business or any other business,

we are going to get intervention one way or the other on the vital subject of restraints and the mandatory use of seat belts looks like the best available alternative."

The association is composed of 258 new car dealers in the tri-county area, whose members employ approximately 11,000 people and whose dealerships sell more than 60 per cent of all the new cars sold in Michigan.

"Our board of directors, representing all the domestic and all the import car lines, decided to take a strong stand on the issue," Shelton said. "We have been encouraged by the growing number of people, such as Secretary of State Richard Austin, who sees the mandatory use of seat belts as desirable."

"One of the most persuasive statements recently came from John Riccardo, chairman of Chrysler Corp. when he said 'Yet we still hear it said that we can't get the citizens in the free and democratic society to buckle their belts. The fact is that France, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Austria, Finland and two provinces of Canada

all have mandatory belt-use laws. And they all work."

We don't have to go any farther than Ontario province across the river," Shelton continued. "To get our inspiration. We are encouraged that Motorists Information, Inc., a non-profit educational corporation formed by the big four manufacturers, has instituted a voluntary program to increase the usage of automotive safety belts."

"We like their approach of 'Somebody Needs You,' a campaign to convince motorists that they should use their belts, if not for their own benefit then for the sake of others who need and depend on them. However, we feel that legislation is the ultimate answer."

"The Department of Transportation has estimated that 19,000 lives a year in this country would be saved if everyone would wear the seat belts already in their cars. Mandatory seat belt usage would save more lives and would prevent more crippling injuries than mandated air bags. Additionally, it would be a lot cheaper."

"We certainly hope that some members of the house and some members of the senate in Lansing will take up the battle."

Soggy spring may zap our magic mushrooms

The arrival time and quality of this year's morel and mushroom crop are open questions because of unusual weather, says Michigan State University mycologist Everett Benke.

The warm and early spring, Dr. Benke points out, would normally produce an early crop of mushrooms and morels, but April's light rainfall may reduce their quality and quantity. Rainfall in early May will determine the fate of this year's crop, he said.

"To be safe and avoid poisoning," Dr. Benke advises morel hunters, "use a good illustrated field book or seek advice from an expert before picking and eating wild mushrooms." True morels have a hollow, cone-

shaped head which is connected at its base to a hollow stalk. There is no break between the head and the stalk, but there is a great deal of variation in size and color.

The second distinguishing feature is the pitted head. The size of the pits and the walls separating them can vary in different species, but all true morels have pits on their heads.

False morels, which can be poisonous, have ridges and depressions that somewhat resemble the pitted head of the morel.

False morels also have a head or cap that is not attached at its base to the stalk. Instead, the cap is attached only at the top and then hangs down like a skirt around the stalk.



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