

Use your head for safety's sake

Thursday, November 25, 1978

(BWT 567A)

Moderation and common sense can help reduce the 102-hour Thanksgiving holiday of its reputation as one of the most dangerous periods in Michigan for auto travel. Sixteen persons were killed on Michigan roads last Thanksgiving holiday, compared with 26 in 1974 and an average of 24 each of the last four years.

Last Thanksgiving, according to the Auto Club of Michigan, alcohol was a known or suspected factor in eight of 14 traffic accidents in which 16 persons died. To reduce the death toll this Thanksgiving, the Auto Club cautioned motorists driving near home to avoid alcohol. 75 per cent of all holiday traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of home.

The holiday, which runs from 4 p.m. Wednesday to midnight Sunday, traditionally is family-oriented.

The Auto Club makes these recommendations for holiday travel to make this Thanksgiving holiday the safest ever.

• Restrict weekend roundtrips by car to no more than 200 miles and plan to be home by dawn.

• All drivers, remember the one for one rule. It takes one hour for the average person to assimilate one ounce of alcohol. Two ounces of alcohol in an hour equals the effect of a fatal accident.

• If you should stop serving alcohol an hour before guests depart and serve a meal or snack.

Auto Club's Road Gauge survey shows 69 per cent of the stations checked along

main state highways will be open daylight hours Thanksgiving Day. After 9 p.m., 41 per cent will be open, and after midnight 12 per cent will pump fuel.

Persons avoiding the 50th 21st Hudson Parade in downtown Detroit Thanksgiving morning should arrive at the Woodward Avenue parade route at least one hour before the 9:30 a.m. start to find a good viewing point.

The one-hour parade will draw an estimated 500,000 persons. A school crowd of 80,000 is expected for the 12:30 p.m. football clash between the Detroit Lions and the Buffalo Bills at Ford Field.

late's Silverdome Thanksgiving Day. Motorists not attending the contest should avoid stadium-area highways one hour before and after the game, which should end about 3:30 p.m.

If planning a trip by air, many carriers report flight delays at peak travel times on Wednesday and Thursday and Friday and Sunday. Most popular destinations include Las Vegas, New York, Los Angeles, and several Florida cities. Hotel or motel accommodations at deluxe facilities will be difficult to find in these locations.

Air travelers avoiding Nov. 24, 25, 26, and

28 should encounter fewer travel problems according to the Auto Club.

Ten Michigan ski areas will operate Thanksgiving Day, weather permitting. Five others have said they may open for the holiday.

Lower Peninsula lodges scheduled to open Nov. 26 are Boyne Mountain, Boyne Highlands, Sugar Loaf, Cannonburg, Timber Ridge, Royal Valley, Pine Knob and Mt. Brighton.

The only other lodges planning to open Thanksgiving are Pine Mountain and Indianhead Mountain, both in the Upper Peninsula.

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Year's longest night is solstice on Dec. 21

By MARTIN SCHAEFER
Cranbrook Institute of Science
Planetarium Coordinator

There will be ample time for star gazers this month to look both in the morning and evening sky, since this is the time of the winter solstice. Dec. 21 the longest night of the year. The sun will be rising in the southeast a little before 8 a.m. and setting in the southwest soon after 5 p.m.

The most beautiful night skies of the year can be seen this holiday month. Just going down in the west on Christmas Eve will be the Northern Cross, or Ursa Major, the Swan and high in the southeast will reign the great hunter of the winter skies, Orion. He is easily recognized by his belt of three bright stars in a row. The point in the west toward Taurus the Bull with his bright reddish eye, the star Aldebaran, and his off-lying cluster of stars, the Pleiades.

In the southwest, the belt points toward the most brilliant night time star, Sirius, the star worshipped by the Egyptians thousands of years ago.

Local persons sought for health council

A meeting to form a county health advisory council will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, 4001 E. Main St., East Lansing. The advisory council is the Oakland County Health Advisory Council, which will serve as a permanent part of the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan (CHPCSEM).

CHPCSEM is a private, non-profit corporation involved in health planning in western southeastern Michigan counties since 1971. It received federal funds this year to carry out local health planning.

Joseph Tarakad, CHPCSEM advisory council member, will discuss the role and functions of the council.

Either of the two planets, Venus low in the southwest or Jupiter, rising in the southeast, will make a Solstice Christmasy star this year. And after midnight the bright object rising in the east will be Saturn, a beautiful planet to look for with a telescope.

If the nights are clear, especially after midnight, meteors or shooting stars may flash across the sky. These will be especially noticeable near Dec. 11 and again on Dec. 22.

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