Self-insurance

County chips at high cost of liability with its own piece of the rock

"Risk management" sounds like a topic for ain surrance company seminar. It is. But it's also a program that like at topic like a topic last like at topic and the state of the

le target of the \$72 million, said pub-Sole target of the \$72 million, said pub-lic information officer, Dennis Pajot. But the agency is frequently targeted by accident victims as one of several parties.

"On every (Board of Road Commis-sioners meeting) agenda, almost, we

areas.

It purchased six mini-spreaders to spread salt and improve ice control.

It increased pothole and edge-cut re-

pairs.
And it is seeking federal funds to re-pair 11 bridges in the county.

'Safety has always been an element. But it hasn't been the determining element. Now it

— John Grubba

the casual motorist actually observes little of the road improvements under the risk management program, now in tshird year.
"I don't think people will notice is ween you get off the road."

Referring to the shoulder paving, he added, "The only time you'd notice is when you get off the road."

While he's "not cestatic about the rate of improvement actually going on roads," Grubba is a big booster of the highway risk management program. He says it saved the road commission \$400,000 last year.

"Safety has always been an element" in road commission decisions, he said. "But it hasn't been the determining element. Now it is."

The five-year plan to reduce road

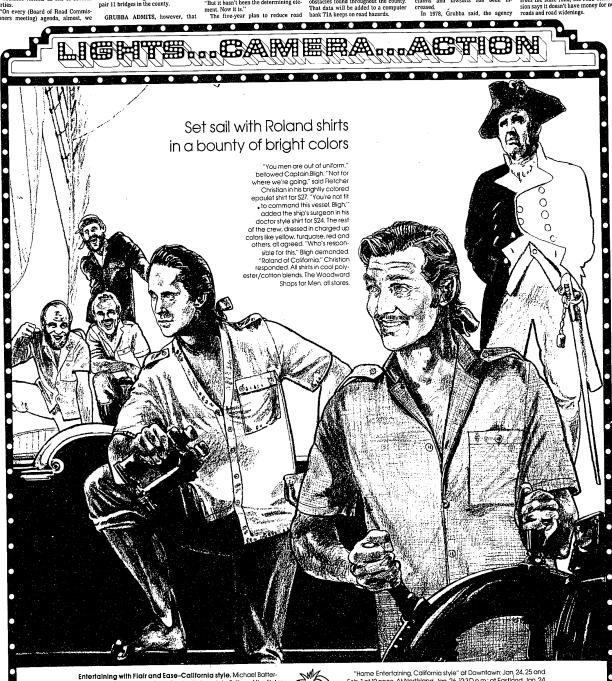
"SUING THE government used to be a difficult task," said Grubba, a law-yer. "Now we're wide open ... in the said of the said o

kept \$100,000 in reserve while last year reserves were in excess of \$1 million. It a claimant isn't satisfied with what the insurance company offers, a lawsuit could follow. Grubba added that an accident victim has to the operation of the opera

SMALLER, BETTER-mileage cars have led to a decrease in gasoline con-sumption statewide which road com-mission officials say has put a crimp in their main funding source — state gas and weight taxes.

Even though taxes paid by motorists have increased, the road commission's share of gas and weight tax revenues has not increased substantially the past few years, they said.

With a 2.5 percent increase this year from the state fund, the road commission says it doesn't have money for new roads and road widenings.



hudsons

Enterfaining with Flair and Ease—Cationina syste, Microtae outler-berry, Editor-in-Chief, and Peter Prestocht. Associate Editor, of the "Inter-national Review of Food and Wine", will host a Marketplace event on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Ockland (for reservations call 223-2405 or 223-1204): and a California wine-testing that same day. 7 p.m. in the Seaway Room at Eastland. Tickets, 7:50 per person. at Hudson's Ticket Office; Downtown, Northland, Ockland and Eastland.

What's Cooking in California: Sunny, healthful recipes using California fruits and vegetables, will be demonstrated in our Marketplace kitchens: Come to a two-hour session on

"Home Entertaining, California style" at Downtown: Jan. 24, 25 and Feb. 1 at 12 noon. At Northland, Jan. 26, 12:30 p.m.: at Eastland, Jan. 24, 25 and 31, at 12:30 p.m.: at Westland, Jan. 31, at 12:30 p.m.: at Oakland, Jan. 31, 12:30 p.m.; at Fairlane, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. Jan. 28, 12:30 p.m.; and Jan. 29, 12 noor; at Twelve Oaks, Jan. 29, 12 noor; at Lakeside, Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m.; and Briarwood, Jan. 26, 12:30 p.m.; Elegant Lunch, Colifornia style:

will be demonstrated at Northland on Jan. 24, 12 noor; at Oakland.

Jan. 25, 12:30 p.m.; at Southland, Jan. 28, 12 noon; at Fairlane, Jan. 31, 12 noon. And "Fine California Luncheon" Will be demonstrated at Pontiac on Jan. 26, 12 noon