Hills corner among county's worst

By Mary Lou Calleway special writer

The Orchard Lake and 14 Mile inter-ection in West Bloomfield is the town-hip's most dangerous corner. On the border of Farmington Hills, it

On the border of Farmington Hills, if led the list of the 10 worst intersections in the latest available figures for the six months ending June 30, 1982. That's according to Richard Cunard, Oakland County Traffic Improvement Association (ITA) engineering director.

There were 21 accidents — seven personal injury and 14 property damage — at the intersection which leads to the intensely developed shopping strips in both municipalities.

For the first time, the corner of Orchard Lake and Maple fell from first to third place.

THE NINE others, in order, according to local police reports and Michlegan State Police statistics were:

Orchard Lake-Walnut Lake roads:

five injury, it property,

orchard Lake-Maple roads: five injury, it property.

Distributor moves

to Farmington Hills

 Orchard Lake-Middlebelt roads: o injury, 10 property.

Maple-Haggerty roads: slx injury,

ive property.
Orchard Lake-Lone Pine roads:
one injury, 10 property.

14 Mile-Middlebelt roads: three y, six property, 14 Mile-Farmington roads: two in-

14 Mile-Farmington rouse; two m-jury, five property.
 14 Mile-Northwestern Highway: two injury, five property.
 Orchard Lake-Northwestern Highway: two injury, five property.

FATAL ACCIDENTS were down from four in 1981 to two last year.
Friday continues to be the worst accident day.

When the weather is bad, said West Bloomfield Police Chief Alfred McGhee, accidents and crime are

down.

"Accidents have been going down.
One of the reasons could be the economy. People aren't driving as much. It's a funny statement that if the economy improves we might have more acci-

dents," said Cunard.

He credits TIA's drunk driver crack-down program and local police cooperation for much of the 2b-percent reduction in alcohol-related accidents.

"We started our alcohol program three years ago, Wilth the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) program there's an increased awareness perception by the common citizen," said Cunard.

BOTH OFFICIALS were surprised by the drop to third place of the Or-chard Lake-Maple corner. Cunard credits the Oakland County Road Com-mission improvements there as well as citizen caution. Service drives such as those the township has imposd along Orchard

Lake Road business fronts help control

Lake Road business fronts help control accidents, Cuanar aid. By controlling the access points, you're controlling the access points, you're controlling the potential for accidents."

McGhee said individual driveways coming out of Orchard Lake Road shops are a big problem. "There are not enough service drives. Everybody's making left turns out of driveways. It's a mess."

Accidents are caused mainly by drinking, speeding and driver impatience, said McGhee. "We've been out there doing a lot of enforcement.

"I HATE IL', was McGhee's reaction to the just announced three-year delay in widening Orchard Lake Road from Maple to Willoway. "If that could be done now traffic could run a helluva lot smoother."



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Ream is a graduate of the University of Michigan majoring in education, She resides in Farmington Hills with her husband, Walter.

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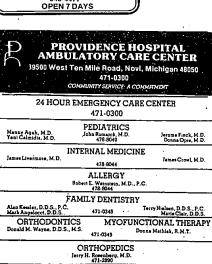
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