

Hills corner among county's worst

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

The Orchard Lake and 14 Mile intersection in West Bloomfield is the township's most dangerous corner. The corner of Farmington Hills, it 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 (TIA) 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 Michigan State Police statistics were:

- Orchard Lake-Walnut Lake roads: five injury, 14 property.
- Orchard Lake-Maple roads: five injury, 13 property.

- Orchard Lake-Middlebelt roads: two injury, 10 property.
- Maple-Haggerty roads: six injury, five property.
- Orchard Lake-Lone Pine roads: one injury, 10 property.
- 14 Mile-Middlebelt roads: three injury, six property.
- 14 Mile-Farmington roads: two injury, 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 accidents," said Cunard.

He credits TIA's drunk driver crackdown program and local police cooperation for much of the 20-percent reduction in alcohol-related accidents.

"We started our alcohol program three years ago. With 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 in third place of the Orchard Lake-Maple corner. Cunard credits the Oakland County Road Commission improvements there as well as citizen caution.

Service drives such as those the township has imposed along Orchard

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

McGhee said individual driveways coming out of Orchard Lake Road should be 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 it," was McGhee's reaction to the just announced three-year delay in widening Orchard Lake Road from Maple to Willow. "If that could be done now traffic could run a helluva lot smoother."

Distributor moves to Farmington Hills

Holmes Associates Inc., distributors of construction materials in Michigan and Ohio since 1956, has moved offices and warehouse facilities from Oak Park to the Halsted Industrial Park in Farmington Hills.

The new 16,000-square-foot facility

was designed and built for Holmes Associates to accommodate present and future needs, said president Ray Rieger. Address is 25335 Interchange Court, off Halsted between 12 Mile and Grand River. Phone number is 478-8800.

Ream appointed

Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc., Thomson Investment Services Division announces the appointment of Janet K. Ream as an investment manager in its Troy office.

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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