

High speed and alcohol leads to auto death

By Judith Doner Berne
staff writer

Preliminary investigation into the Memorial Day collision in which a Bloomfield Township teenager was killed indicates the 16-year-old was driving faster than the speed limit, police said.

"We've done some calculations. It appears to be above the speed limit," said Sgt. Michael Madigan of the West Bloomfield Police.

Joseph Shouneya, a Bloomfield Hills

Andover High School sophomore, died when he was thrown from his car after swerving into a ditch following a collision with a 1980 Lincoln Continental driven by Glenn Russell Johnson of Bloomfield Hills.

The accident occurred shortly after 2 p.m. May 30 as Johnson allegedly pulled out from Lone Pine to head south on Inkster, then stopped in the middle of the road.

Shouneya, driving north on Inkster — the border between West Bloomfield and Bloomfield townships — allegedly

collided with Johnson's car, and ran off the road.

JOHNSON, 40, allegedly had been drinking, police said. He was uninjured; his car suffered minor damage. Neither car had passengers.

The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office will consider criminal charges against Johnson sometime this week, Madigan said. Charges which could be filed include manslaughter, negligent homicide or drunk driving.

A state police traffic accident-recog-

nition expert is expected to finish his investigation early this week, Madigan said. Police also have not received the final autopsy report from the Oakland County Medical Examiner.

The preliminary report attributes death to a head injury, Shouneya apparently was not wearing a seat belt. Although the engine caught fire as the car landed, police said it appears there would have been time to get Shouneya out of the car.

Helaine Cherrin, who lives on Inkster near the scene of the accident, said she

has reinstated a request made three years ago to the Oakland County Road Commission for a three-way stop sign at the Inkster-Lone Pine intersection.

NOW, A one-way stop sign forces only Lone Pine traffic to halt.

"Inkster has been a race track," Cherrin said, particularly since the new Wabcock subdivision brought more traffic to the area over the last three years.

"I think this could have been avoided," she said. "People should be aware

that we've asked for help."

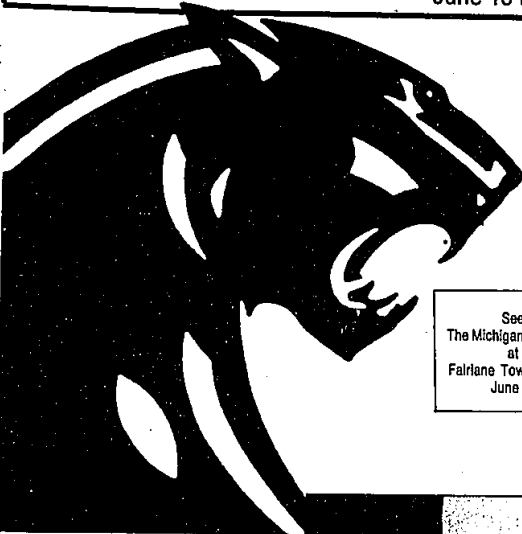
West Bloomfield police, however, cite only two minor accidents at the intersection in the past six months and seven more at a curve in the road one-fifth of a mile further north on Inkster.

"In my opinion, this accident had nothing to do with engineering or road construction," Madigan said. "Every accident is like a chain. Here, the links may have been drinking and high-speed driving. In this chain, the road condition, the layout is not even considered."

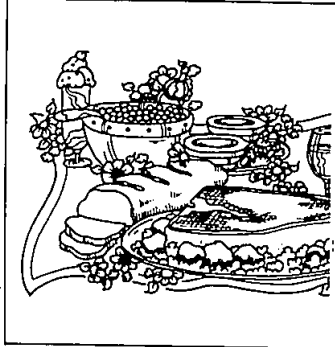
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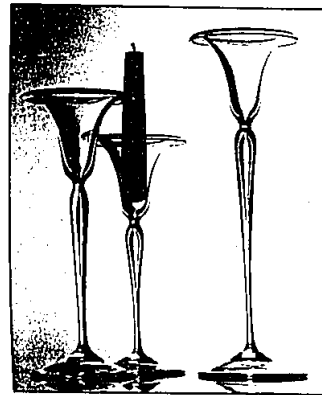


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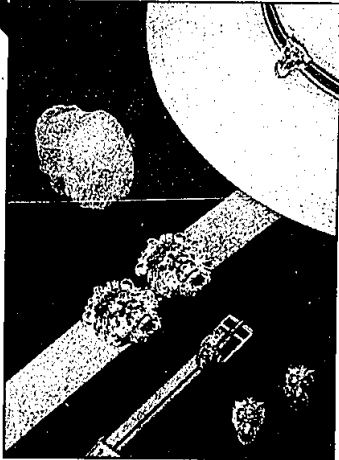
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