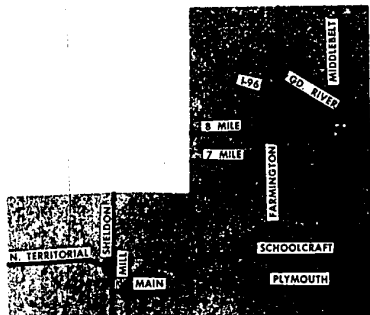


7 SUBURBAN DANGER SPOTS

Sunday Edition

Section B Observer Sunday Edition Sunday, May 14, 1967

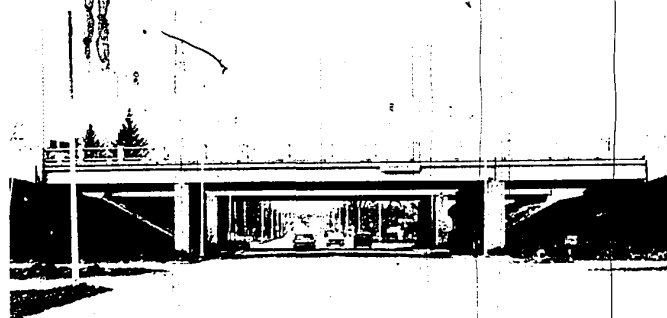
OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS



THESE ARE the worst traffic corners in Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth, judging from the number of motor vehicle accidents. Four of the seven are on Middlebelt Road, a north-south artery, rather than on one of the east-west roads going into Detroit. To find out how bad the intersections are and what might be done about them, we sent a team of reporters to interview police in each of the areas.



MIDDLEBELT-GRAND RIVER, with 74 accidents last year, is worst in the entire area, principally because both carry much commuter traffic. Farmington Police Chief Irving Yakes blames the problems on his understaffed enforcement division and just plain careless driving on the part of the public.



FARMINGTON ROAD is crossed by I-96 (bridge) and the expressway, in turn, is flanked by Nine Mile to the south and Freedom Road (beyond bridge) to the north. Farmington City Public Safety Director Robert F. Deadman says Freedom Road traffic is constantly in danger because of the vision of Farmington Road is obscured by the bridge.

Police gave "superior" enforcement by issuing violations in many of the six injury and 10 property damage accidents, and signals and lights have been installed. But Deadman says the problem is more basic: The poorly-designed bridge should be rebuilt.



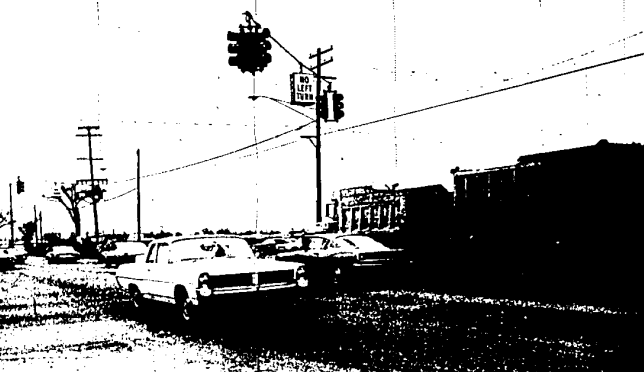
MAIN AND MILL is Plymouth's worst spot — five property damage accidents and three injuries this year alone. City Police Chief Robert Corrington cites two reasons: the "stupid layout" of the streets, and the 45-mile speed limit

east of the corner which causes drivers to slow down in a hurry when the speed limit is cut to 25 at the city limits. Corrington says the 45 speed limit is in the township section and is therefore Wayne County's responsibility.



NORTH TERRITORIAL AT SHELDON Road, scene of five property damage accidents so far this year, ranks as Plymouth's No. 2 bad spot.

Chief Corrington lays the blame simply on heavy traffic.



MIDDLEBELT-SCHOOLCRAFT, with 68 accidents last year, was Livonia's worst. Big reason: Detroit Race Course traffic. Police traffic investigator Cpl. Archie Hewett notes Middlebelt has only four lanes from Plymouth to Five Mile, should have a left-turn lane and left-turn signal.



MIDDLEBELT-PLYMOUTH, with 61 accidents, has a pair of shopping centers. Cpl. Hewett says biggest driver violations at all the bad corners are failing to yield during a left turn, following another vehicle too closely, and speeding.



MIDDLEBELT-SEVEN MILE, scene of 57 accidents during 1966, has adequate lanes for left turns but lacks special left-turn signals. Thus, left turns must be made on the yellow light, and only two or three cars can get through. Special signals would allow eight to 10 cars to complete left turns. The county is studying all the problem intersections, according to Hewett, speaking in the absence of traffic bureau head Lt. Robert Thorn.