

Mich. Shows Marked Progress In Driver License Laws

LANSING—Today's horse-power conscious teenager may not realize it, but his grandfather was likely one of the first licensed drivers in Michigan.

Driver licenses in Michigan go back to 1919. Thousands of engine-oriented doughboys were returning from the muddy trenches of Europe after World War I. They found letting off steam with the help of the gas buggy... then in its infancy... harder than using horse-drawn buggies.

Automobiles were already becoming popular.

The need for safe drivers became important. And the Michigan legislature, seeing this growing need for controls, passed Public Law 388 requiring all Michigan drivers to have a driver's license.

Secretary of State James M. Hare, director of the Michigan Department of State which licenses Michigan's nearly 4.8-million drivers, tells this story about the first driver's license issued in Michigan.

"Strange as it seems, Michigan's first driver's license was applied for before it was legal," Hare said. "Governor Albert E. Sleeper made application on June 30, 1919, a day before the license bill became law. He received the first license from Coleman E. Vaughn, then Secretary of State, on July 1, 1919."

That first license was issued on a linen-backed paper measuring 4½ by 5½ inches. It had no expiration date. As a permanent license, it required no renewal. Drivers could apply at their local police station or in person at the State Capitol in Lansing.

Applications were bound into books for record keeping. The license itself was either typewritten or hand penned.

Although the actual issuance of a driver's license has always been a job of the Secretary of State's Department, Michigan's licensing was a cooperative venture for more than a quarter-century, notes Hare.

Applications were taken by local or state police or county sheriffs. But licensing procedures were supervised by the Michigan State Police while issued by the Department of State.

As the use of the automobile and the population grew, applications for licenses kept pace. Binding applications in-

Crowds Set Record At Greenfield

With four months to go, Greenfield Village's travel and convention department has already surpassed the total attendance in this category from a year ago.

Special groups coming into Dearborn this year to visit the world famous Museum complex have traveled here from all parts of the United States. Many of the groups were scheduled as part of an Expo '67 program tour. Twelve tour groups from Mexico have visited Greenfield Village, according to Ronald Kanack, manager of the travel and convention department.

A total of 23,376 special tour and convention visitors were recorded through the month of August. In 1966 the total in this same category was 22,081 for the year. The overall admission count for the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village through the month of August was close to one million visitors.

Both the Museum and Village are open to the public seven days a week the year around, closing only on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Visitor hours now are from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays and until 6 p.m. on weekends.

Attends ROTC Camp
Army ROTC Cadet James P. Gale Jr., 20, of 28435 Quail Hollow, Farmington, attended ROTC summer camp at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He is a student at the University of Michigan. Gale is a 1964 graduate of North Farmington High.

to books might have been adequate for the comparatively few cars issued in the early days. But when Michigan began issuing more than a million licenses a year, drastic changes were called for.

Today, when nearly 2-million licenses are issued annually, records are kept in electronic computer memory banks, capable of handling, sorting, searching, and providing information at the rate of thousands of words per minute.

In a short time, the entire licensing procedure will be mechanized on the computer.

Already in the field are special typewriters which are used to make out applications. These applications are sent to Lansing, where they are fed through a computer "reader" which translates the typewritten material into

State Police Are Trained For New Traffic Law

Michigan State Police officers and representatives of other law enforcement agencies are being trained in the use of breath-testing equipment in preparation for checking suspected drunk drivers under the state's implied consent law which becomes effective November 2.

Tigers Sign 4 Standout Prospects

The Detroit Tigers have signed four more prospects, including their third choice in the regular phase of the free agent draft.

This gives the Tigers a total of 55 players signed this year, including 25 of their 62 draft choices in the January and June selections.

Topping the new additions is Jim Tanner, 17-year-old righthanded outfielder from Tampa, who was No. 3 in the June picks and who was signed for 1968. The 6-foot-2, 195-pound youngster was a 10-letter winner at Robinson High School in Tampa and will attend Manatee Junior College at Bradenton, Fla.

The other signees: Pat Kincaide, 19, righthanded pitcher of Grand Rapids, who had a previous trial with the Atlanta Braves organization. He is 6-2 and 215 and attended both Rogers High School in Grand Rapids and St. Louis High School.

Jim Rodriguez, 20, righthanded infielder of London, Ont., and a student at the University of Western Ontario. He is 5-11 and 161, with sandlot averages from .340 to .365.

Lee Alfred Sage, 18, southpaw pitcher of Ada, O., and plans to attend Bowling Green University. He is 6-2 and 190, with 12 high school letters and a 23-5 prep diamond record to his credit.

Cactus Flower In Spotlight At Fisher
After a year and a half of riotous laughter on Broadway, and still keeping the audiences laughing, the National Company of Cactus Flower, is at the Fisher Theatre until Oct. 15.

Starring in this smart, brisk comedy are Hugh O'Brian, of television motion pictures and stage, and Elizabeth Allen, last seen on Broadway in "Sherry" and "Do I Hear A Waltz."

Before starting rehearsals, O'Brian went to Viet Nam for the second time with Abe Burrows, "Guys and Dolls."

In Cactus Flower he portrays a freewheeling bachelor dentist, who does not mind twisting the truth to fit his needs.

His frigid and efficient nurse ("You look like a large band-aid") is played by Miss Elizabeth Allen. She has been elected to pose as his wife. Then complications upon situations develop, fast and wild.

Abe Burrows has written this comedy based on French play by Pierre Barillet and Jean Pierre Gredy, "Fluer de Cactus." With his flair for crisp, crackling comic lines, he has converted the French setting into one at home in New York.

computer language, and then stored for instant use.

In the early days, law differentiated between the regular driver and the chauffeur. This has not changed. The difference now is that varying types of operator and chauffeur licenses are now issued by the Michigan Department of State.

Chauffeurs in the early days wore badges. Like today, yesterday's chauffeur had to renew his license every year.

According to Hare, age requirements for drivers were different in the early years.

"Youngsters, who now must wait until they are 16 and have passed a driver education course, would have gotten their licenses far easier in those days," says Hare. "Most of them were taught by their parents or friends. And at age 14, a teenager could have

walked into any license station, paid the fee, and walked out a licensed driver."

As the automotive age took shape with its attendant sound and fury, more traffic-oriented problems were created. Newer, more powerful cars, capable of faster pickup and higher speeds, became available. Enforcement agencies had a serious safety problem... and no provision to re-examine licensed drivers... who were "permanently" licensed.

The Legislature countered the situation with new laws... ones requiring all Michigan drivers to renew their licenses every three years. This was started in 1931.

Renewal period was from date of application. This sometimes created a "rush" problem at licensing stations every three years.

It took 20 years to make a

63 which will provide one for each of the department's 59 posts plus several spares. Breath checks will be made at the posts.

Federal funds in the amount of \$320,989 have been approved on a matching basis for police department to purchase the necessary equipment in participating in this phase of the national highway safety program.

Under Michigan's implied consent law, licensed drivers of motor vehicles must submit to a test of breath when suspected of driving while intoxicated or else be subject to an administrative hearing before the secretary of state's department to show cause why their license should not be suspended or revoked.

Blood or urine tests may also be given.

change in this procedure. In 1953, under Secretary of State Owen J. Cleary, two major changes were made:

All driver licensing operations were placed under the Secretary of State. And the expiration date of the license was set up to correspond with the applicant's birth date. This spread the workload evenly through the year.

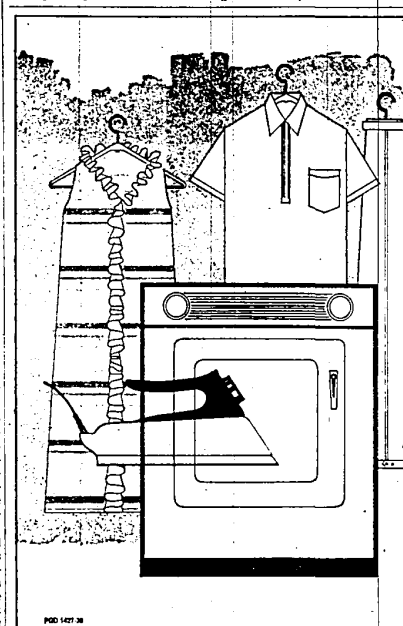
In 1964, new type "green" licenses were issued to drivers under 21. The same year, the Legislature implemented a law which had been on the books by appropriating money to provide a photo license for every driver in the state.

Other laws involving Michigan drivers have been enacted through the years. Among the most important

have been:

- Michigan Point System, a program of driver improvement under which every driver may be disciplined at certain point levels;
- Financial Responsibility Law, enacted back in 1933, but refined and amended since;
- Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund which pays valid claims as a result of accidents caused by uninsured drivers.

A new licensing law went into effect last year. Every original license issued to a Michigan driver who was unlicensed in this or any other state is on a "probationary" basis. It may be suspended if its holder is arrested for violation of traffic laws within the one-year probation period.



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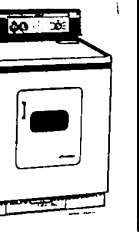
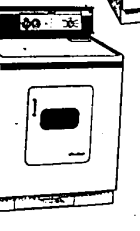
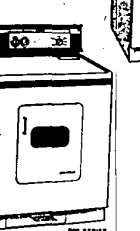
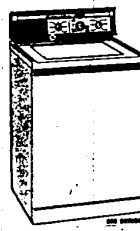
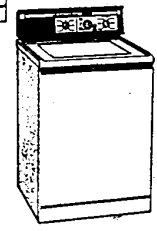
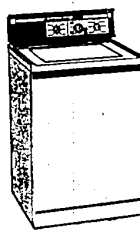
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