

Michigan mirror

Better care could save lives

By ELMER E. WHITE

Consider: 76,321 people died in Michigan in 1971. Estimates are that more than 2,000 of them could have been saved with adequate emergency care.

Consider: 1,428 accidental deaths occurred in Michigan that same year. Estimates are that 664 of those persons, or 15 percent, could have been saved with better rescue and resuscitation techniques.

Frightening figures, included in a public policy statement on "Emergency Medical Services in Michigan," were issued earlier this year by the State Health Advisory Council and the Office of Health and Medical Affairs.

A new law may help cut those statistics. Signed into law recently by Gov. William G. Milliken, the measure allows training and licensing of paramedic units.

This, Milliken says, "gives the green light to the communities that have been waiting for state action to spell out the legal status of emergency medical units and it clarifies the status of the units in cities where they already are operating."

In addition, Milliken declares, "This new law moves us a stage closer to a statewide emergency medical service system which could save as many as 3,000 lives a year—lives now lost needlessly to accidents and heart attacks."

"Spelled out in the law is authorization for advanced emergency medical technicians to perform certain life-saving techniques at the scene of an emergency, in conjunction with a cooperating hospital and when given the go-ahead by a doctor.

Such techniques include monitoring and stimulation of the heart, administration of drugs and intravenous fluids, relief of pressure in the chest cavity and removal of fluids from the stomach and air passages.

The legislation also includes liability protection for emergency care given in good faith and in accordance with specific procedures.

MICHIGAN IS giving away wood again this year.

Last year, the state says, more than 15,000 cords of free wood were carted away from state forests in the northern Lower Peninsula and in the Upper Peninsula.

Interested residents must obtain special permits—available from area foresters in local field offices of the Department of Natural Resources. The permits authorize bearers to take "dead and down" trees remaining in the state forests after timber cutters have been through the area.

Under the wood gathering plan, those who take advantage are not allowed to sell their booty nor can they use it for commercial purposes.

DUDE RANCHES of a different stripe—that's what the Michigan Department of Agriculture is seeking.

Director B. Dale Ball wants to know if there are any "vacation farms" in the state. That's the type where farmers open their homes and farms to urban dwellers who want a taste of rural life.

Those paying guests "learn there is more to farming than planting seeds in the earth and watching them grow," Ball says.

"When a city child drinks milk he may believe it originated in the supermarket," Ball suggests. "Watching the cows being milked will be a revelation."

And a note for parents: "Eating his vegetables might become a pleasure when he's seen ears of corn on the stalks, crisp cucumbers on the vine and has helped to dig potatoes in the field."

A farm vacation can provide insight for adults too.

"Everyone is concerned about food these days, but not everyone understands the work involved in growing food," Ball says. "Living on a farm for a brief period would bring about person-to-person contact between farmers and consumers."

Those Michigan farmers who provide such an experience for city folk are asked to write Ball—at the Michigan Agriculture Department, Lewis Cass Building, Lansing, 48913—with information about their operations.

ANOTHER SEARCH currently is being conducted by the Department of Public Health. This one is for outstate abortion facilities.

The department is preparing to move its surveillance of abortion clinics from the Detroit area to outstate regions.

In connection with that action, the department has asked local health department chiefs to report the names and addresses of all known abortion facilities or free-standing surgical outpatient facilities within their jurisdictions.

Rate of fatal accidents may be as high as summer

Although Michigan motorists will drive about 50 percent fewer miles this upcoming Thanksgiving week than on major summer holiday weekends, their chances of fatal accident involvement are as great as during a summer holiday period, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

"During the last five Thanksgiving weekends, a total of 141 traffic deaths were recorded," said James G. Moffat, Auto Club general manager. "This compares to 124 deaths on Memorial Day weekends, 151 over Fourth of July holidays and 138 during Labor Day periods for the same five years."

Moffat noted that Thanksgiving is an especially hazardous holiday because most motorists stay close to home, making short trips to see family and friends with a maximum opportunity to overindulge in alcohol. "Statistics show that about 75 percent of all fatal accidents on holiday weekends occur within 25 miles of the victim's home," he said. "Motorists apparently are lulled into a feeling of false security and become less alert in familiar surroundings."

MOTORISTS ARE expected to log an estimated 350 million miles on Michigan highways during the 102-hour Thanksgiving holiday, which runs from 6 p.m. Wednesday (Nov. 28) to midnight Sunday (Dec. 1).

In comparison, more than 690 million miles were traveled on state roads during the past Memorial Day weekend, 711 million miles over the Fourth of July and 827 million miles during the Labor Day weekend.

To help "Bring 'Em Back Alive!" Thanksgiving weekend, Moffat suggested that motorists take these precautions:

• Plan trips so they begin and end in daylight. Add extra travel time to compensate for poor weather.

• Don't drive more than 200 miles round-trip if only one day is available for travel. With the 55 miles per hour speed limit in effect, motorists should allow a minimum four hours driving time for travel by freeway and five to six hours for driving on other roads.

• If alcoholic beverages are consumed, remember the "one-for-one" rule: wait one hour for each ounce of alcohol consumed before driving.

• Drive with extra care when in familiar surroundings since most fatal holiday accidents happen near home.

• If driving between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m., make sure your gas tank is at least half full. At least 85 percent of the service stations in Michigan are closed during these hours.

Motorists driving in downtown Detroit on Thanksgiving Day should time their trips to avoid traffic from two major events.

The J.L. Hudson Co.'s annual Thanksgiving Day Parade will start at 9:30 a.m. at Woodward and Putnam. About 500,000 spectators are expected to line Woodward Avenue to watch the 45-minute parade. A crowd of 50,000 is anticipated at the Detroit Lions-Denver Broncos football game. Kick-off time is 12:35 p.m. at Tiger Stadium.

Travelers planning trips by air will find flights to Florida, California, Las Vegas and other popular warm weather destinations generally booked solid between Nov. 26 and Dec. 2. Only limited hotel and motel accommodations still are available in these areas for the holiday weekend.

Weather permitting, several Michigan ski resorts plan to open some slopes by Thanksgiving. Skiers should call ahead to make sure a resort is open before making a trip. Resorts that could open for skiing are:

Schools host day's session

Cranbrook Schools recently hosted the Michigan Council of Educational Opportunities Programs in a day-long session at Cranbrook House.

Delegates from 13 educational institutions—all on the college level except Cranbrook—held executive sessions and workshops. The council members administer at their institutions U. S. Office of Education programs Upward Bound, Talent Search and Special Services for Disadvantaged Students.

UPPER PENINSULA—Indianhead Mt., near Wakefield; Big Powder Horn, near Boyne; Brule Mt., near Iron River; and Pine Mt., near Iron Mountain.

West Michigan—Sugar Loaf, near Traverse City; Boyne Mt., near Boyne Falls; Schuss Mt., near Mancelona; Crystal Mt., near Thompsonville; Lost Pines, near Harrietta; Ca-

bernet, near Cadillac; and Cannonsburg, near Canonsburg.

Although closed for skiing, these resorts will have lodge facilities open to the public during the Thanksgiving holiday: Cliff's Ridge, near Marquette; Thunder Mt., near Boyne Falls; Swiss Valley, near Three Rivers; Michaywe Slopes, near Chester; and Mott Mt., near Farwell.

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