



ENJOYING BIG PARADE in Plymouth were these foreign exchange students from Laos and Costa Rico who display flags of their native lands. There were 42 AFS students, who were visiting in Plymouth, who joined in the procession. Pa-

rades aren't anything new for these students but they appeared to be getting a big bang out of an American celebration.

(Observer photo by Doug Johnson)

Boating Dangerous As The Highway

Boating is the slow-paced pleasure rapidly becoming as frustrating and potentially dangerous as a trip on a congested highway.

Long summer days and the boating season are here again, and so are the multiplying dangers to the part-time sailor, water skier, and motorboat captain, according to the United States Coast Guard.

Six more Michigan residents lost their lives last year in boating accidents than were killed in 1967. Pleasure boating is tragedy and loss of life for 94 persons on Michigan lakes, rivers and waterways last year. The 279 serious boating accidents recorded last year by the Coast Guard in Michigan resulted in 127 persons being injured.

And \$14,000 worth of boats were reported destroyed or damaged.

Some of this economic loss was covered by insurance. But the insurance information institute warns boat owners to check with their insurance agents before putting their boats in the water to determine if their craft are covered.

THE COAST GUARD points out that nearly 60 percent of all boating accidents are collisions with other craft or stationary objects in the water. More than 50 per cent of all boat accidents are labeled by the Coast Guard as the fault of the craft's operator.

A majority of the deaths occur when the boat, an open motorboat in 55 per cent of the cases, capsizes and one or more of the occupants drown. The greatest amount of property damage results from fire

and explosions caused by improper ventilation while fueling, faulty installation of engine and equipment, or just plain inexperience of the operator.

About 16 per cent of those hurt were burned in an explosion or fire aboard the boat, the Coast Guard reports.

The number of vessels involved in accidents tends to reach a peak in early July, the Coast Guard states. Then the number of accidents rapidly decreases as boat owners tend to become more careful.

But deaths have two peak periods in the past. With the warm weather in May, the number killed jumped to nearly 15 per cent of the yearly total in 1968.

Then there was a period of slight decrease before fatalities again reached a yearly high of 15 per cent in July, the Coast Guard indicates.

Follow These Tips If Caught In Storm

What should you do if a violent summer electrical storm catches you in your car?

Unless the storm causes poor visibility, there is no need for a motorist to stop his car, according to the Automobile Club of Michigan.

If you are forced to pull over and wait out a storm, one of the safest places to avoid lightning is in your car and in the open.

Rubber tires insulate a car and keep the current from grounding the vehicle, so there is little danger that lightning can harm passengers, the auto club advises.

IF YOU DECIDE to pull over

and wait for the storm to pass, these safety suggestions should be followed:

● Don't park under a tree or pole. If struck by lightning, it might fall on top of your car.

● Try to avoid parking under overhead power lines strung along the roadside. During severe storms many of these lines are knocked down.

If a wire does hit your car, you are safe when you stay inside. Since you can't tell the condition of the wire, sit tight and wait.

● Avoid touching any metal parts inside the car. If you must summon help, use a wooden or plastic object to activate your horn.

BBB Urges Patrons To Read Contracts

Failure to read a contract, to understand its provisions, and neglecting to shop around before actually signing a contract, are major contributors to customer problems in the home improvement industry — according to a recent nationwide survey of Better Business Bureau.

Of the 77 bureau cities included in the survey, 46 per cent indicated that people do not usually read and understand a contract and its obligations before signing it. Seventy-one percent reported that people either do not shop around at all or do very little shopping for estimates on home improvement work before signing a contract.

In some instances, the survey showed some people will sign a contract and then shop around for estimates. This would particularly apply in cases where fly-by-night salesmen high pressure prospect customers into signing a contract with the promise of a "once in a lifetime deal".

RESPONSES FROM bureau executives participating in the survey indicate that the use of bait advertising, particularly in the sale of aluminum siding and oil shingle roofs, is an area of concern, particularly as it relates to a few, but very active firms.

Bait advertising is an attractive, low-priced but insincere ploy to sell. When the customer responds to the advertisement, he finds that the merchandise is unavailable or underpriced and the salesman proceeds to switch the customer to much higher priced merchandise.

In most cases of bait advertising, the eventual selling price is generally considerably higher than the prevailing market price through reputable contractors.

As to actual complaints handled by BBBs after contracts had been signed and the home improvement work done, poor workmanship represented the most significant area of customer complaint. Another major source of customer dissatisfaction, the survey indicated, was unfinished work.

Seventy-five percent of reporting bureaus indicated that itinerant workers (particularly those operating from a truck offering to repair, re-surface driveways, etc.) were a source of serious consumer complaint and very often could not be reached later to satisfy the customers' legitimate gripes.

BETTER BUSINESS Bureau executives made these six points which consumers should follow in their home improvement purchasing:

- 1) Understand a contract and its obligations before signing it.
- 2) Shop around — not only for price — but also for the quality of the work involved.
- 3) Know the reputation of the contractor before signing any contract. Check with neighbors, the BBB, or ask the contractor for the names of persons for whom he has done home improvement work.
- 4) All work to be done should be written into the contract with specifications.
- 5) Understand the financial arrangements which you are making and distinguish between interest charges and financing charges.
- 6) If the work is guaranteed, make sure that the guarantee is in writing. If a salesman promises you "extras", have these provisions included in writing in the contract.

Shelley New Plant Manager

Kenneth R. Shelly has been named plant manager of Ford Motor Company's Dearborn Engine Plant, Robert R. Cosner, general manager of the company's Engine and Foundry Division, announced.

Shelly, previously assistant plant manager, succeeds C. J. Aughey who has been named manufacturing manager for the division's newly created Industrial Engine and Turbine Operations.

He lives at 33678 Colony Park Drive, Farmington, with his wife and three daughters.

New CPA's

Three Overland men have been granted certified public accountant certificates by the Michigan State Board of Accountancy.

New CPA's are Harold E. Vroman of Farmington; Kenneth C. Duran and James P. Rumpas, both of Livonia.

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