



'Old US-16' still in use

US-16 (left) disappeared from the state highway map when the I-96 freeway (right) was opened from Detroit to Muskegon in 1962. Now part of the road systems of several counties, the old highway continues to serve drivers who want a more picturesque ride through rolling farmland and outstate cities. The I-96 freeway, however, is far safer — it had 339

accidents its first year in use compared to 895 accidents on the old road in its last year as a U.S. highway. Moreover, the freeway carries triple the traffic load — 46,500 vehicles per day average in the stretch between New Hudson and Novi. (Source: Michigan Department of Transportation)

Fires claim 332 lives last year

There were a reported 70,004 fires in the state last year which claimed 332 lives and caused an estimated \$208.1 million — a new high — in property damage, according to the State Police fire marshal division.

The death toll, six less than in 1977, included two firemen. High death record was in 1976 when there were 359 fatalities.

The property loss total was about

\$10 million more than the previous record high of \$198.2 million in 1976.

Fire departments during 1978 responded to 210,943 alarms. In addition to the 70,004 fires, these included 58,284 rescue runs, 48,516 non-fire emergencies (power lines down, gas leaks, spills, etc.) 24,742 false alarms and 10,297 other non-fire runs.

The fires involved 7,022 commercial buildings, 18,141 dwellings, 16,932 mo-

bile properties, and 27,909 other classifications.

Investigators reported 6,095 arson fires last year which caused losses totaling \$24.9 million. In addition, 6,298 fires reported in which arson was suspected, caused an estimated \$17.1 million damage.

The State Police statistics are based on information from 1,000 fire departments in the state.

Driver error is major safety hazard

Driver error is a major safety hazard on Oakland County roads.

That's what more than two-thirds of county residents said in a survey conducted recently for the Oakland County Road Commission.

Sixty-nine percent of 900 voting-age residents randomly chosen for the phone survey chose driver error most often from a list of safety hazards which included potholes, road design

defects, poor markings and signals and vehicle defects.

Inadequate roads that don't have enough lanes were listed as the main cause of traffic congestion rather than too many vehicles on the roads (55 percent to 52 percent). Residents of Avon, West Bloomfield, Waterford and Bloomfield townships most often blamed inadequate roads for congestion.

Residents rated county roads below interstate, state and local streets. Road commission spokesman Dennis Pajot said 91 percent of the county's roads are in townships.

The road commission's job performance was rated "fair to good." Signs and road signals received the highest rating, followed by snow and ice control, concern for the environment, road construction and road maintenance.

UM poets arts academy inductees

Two University of Michigan poets are among 15 artists recently inducted into the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

Josef Brodsky, U-M poet-in-residence, a Russian emigre, and English prof. Robert Hayden have been admitted to the honorary organization which selects 50 of its 250 members for distinction on the basis of their achievements in the arts. Vacancies in the corps group are filled annually.

Brodsky, who is also a faculty member of the U-M department of Slavic languages and literature, was exiled from Russia in 1972.

During the 1960s he was tried as a "parasite of the people" and sentenced to five years hard labor in Siberia because he had declined to join the government's writers' union. Public outrage over the sentence won Brodsky a less severe term on a collective farm. Soon after arriving in the United States, Brodsky was invited to come to U-M.

No cake flour?

When the recipe book calls for cake flour and you just have regular flour on hand, deduct two tablespoons of flour from each cup of all-purpose flour and add two tablespoons of corn starch to bake a cake.

Weeklies increase

U.S. weekly newspapers recorded record circulation of more than 40.2 million, and the number of weeklies jumped from 7,466 to 7,673.

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CORRECTION

On June 7, 1979, C.B. Charles advertised an Auction to benefit Meadowbrook. It read "Proceeds will be used for maintenance and preservation of the Meadowbrook estate buildings and grounds."

It should have read "Meadowbrook's proceeds will be used for maintenance and preservation of the Meadowbrook estate buildings and grounds."

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