

Studded Tires Called Ruinous To Highways

By W. W. EDGAR

Unless their use on the highways is checked, studded tires could cost the State of Michigan nearly \$250 million in the next eight years.

This doleful news was made by State Rep. James Tierney (D-Garden City), chairman of the House Highway Safety Committee.

He received such a report from the engineering division of the State Highway Department revealing the extent of the damage that has been done on some of the major expressways.

"WE FOUND AREAS on the I-696 freeway at Oakland Lake Road in Oakland County that had ruts more than a quarter of an inch deep.

"To repair these would require re-surfacing to a depth of about two inches, and the cost of such a program would just bankrupt the Highway Department."

Rep. Tierney explained that the federal government now pays about 90 per cent of the cost of the highways exclusive of maintenance.

"If we were to re-surface all of our roads, the cost would

use up almost all — if not all — of our federal grant, and the highway building program could be stalled."

INSPECTION OF I-696, a heavily-traveled freeway, revealed that metal studs had broken through the surface and had dug down through the stone and gravel and into the softer sand base in many instances.

The constant travel in this area caused them to cut deeper ruts than in most areas. The ruts are increasing in length and becoming much wider — making them a real menace to the traveler.

"We used a straight edge," Rep. Tierney explained, "and it really was surprising to see the extent of the damage done by the studs."

According to the engineers report, studded tires improve safety only on glaring ice. They claim that studs enable a car to stop quickly under those icy conditions, but that they require an extra 20 feet to stop in snow and rainy conditions.

Some of the real danger, the report states, comes when the ruts fill with water, causing the cars to act like hydroplanes and become more difficult to handle.

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Meanwhile, usage of studded tires has declined in Michigan since last year, says State Highway Director Henrik E. Stafseth.

A new MSHD survey shows the proportion of cars and small trucks using them has declined from last winter's 15.2 per cent to 11.8 per cent this winter. Some 520,000 vehicles used them.

The department speculated the decline may be partly due to publicity given Tierney's bill.

Percentage of users declined in most southern and urban counties. Wayne dropped from 10 to 5.3 per cent, Oakland from 12.1 to 10.9, Washtenaw from 11.7 to 10.9, and Kent from 21.1 to 16.9.

Increases were reported in Ingham, 13.3 to 15.4; Roscommon, 21 to 26; and Lapeer, 13 to 16. Upper peninsula county rates often went beyond 30 per cent.



REP. JAMES TIERNEY (D-Garden City) shows ruts made by studded tires on I-696 in Farmington Township are as deep as a quarter.

CUTTING RUTS is not the only damage done by studs. The engineers point out that the studs help to erase lane markings and remove anti-skid material.

As chairman of the House safety committee, Tierney sponsored a bill that passed the House last Fall, but has yet to win Senate approval.

Under terms of this bill, pneumatic tires equipped with metal studs may not be used after May 1, 1972 and not before Nov. 1, 1972 and May 1, 1973.

"We hope to get Senate action when the State Legislature re-convenes," he commented, then adding, "And don't forget that we've had more windshields shat-

tered by stones thrown up from these ruts than ever before."

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Madonna Sets Art Exhibit

An annual student art exhibit and a reception will be held in the art department of Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia, Sunday, April 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Also showing concurrently will be the senior art exhibit, work of graduating students. Works in various media, such as drawing, oil painting, water color and acrylics, and utilizing different styles and techniques will be displayed.

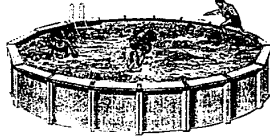
The exhibit can be viewed Monday through Wednesday, April 17-19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. There is no admission fee.



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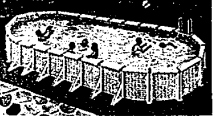

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