

Long Heat Waves Are Major Threat To Elderly Residents Over 60

ANN ARBOR — A University of Michigan scientist says that "a killer of a heat wave" can be more than an expression; it often poses a real threat to human life.

According to Dr. Stanley H. Schuman (M.D.), there is strong evidence that prolonged summer heat waves cause a striking number of deaths.

Medical and engineering advances can prolong life and protect persons in homes, cars, and industries from unusual heat stress. Thus many people are surviving despite low physiological tolerance for high temperatures and humidity, he says.

While these people are clearly in jeopardy during severe heat waves, the actual extent of the problem is still unknown. Dr. Schuman explains: "Heat illness or heat stroke has never been a cause of death noted frequently on routine death certificates."

Recent studies show "remarkable rises in mortality in large urban populations from periods of sustained, but not necessarily record-breaking, heat," according to the U-M researcher.

"Dr. Schuman, an assistant professor of epidemiology, and James T. Oliver, principal statistician of the Detroit Health Department and assistant professor at Wayne State University, collected data on the number of deaths which occurred in 108 United States cities on days with "unusually high temperatures" during the past three summers.

"They compared this information with mortality statistics for periods with normal mean temperatures and discovered, for example, that some 4665 "excess deaths" occurred during June and July, 1963.

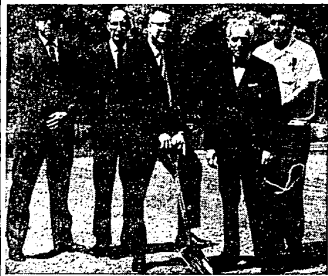
Dr. Schuman pointed out that these unexpected deaths often resulted from cerebral strokes.

"Over the past 10 years, strokes have consistently accounted for about 10 per cent of the deaths in Michigan, but in periods of heat stress during 1963 and 1964, the number of such deaths in the state rose to 15 per cent.

However, this is not exclusively a problem for the elderly, according to the U-M epidemiologist. "Preventable deaths will continue to occur . . . among youngsters engaging in competitive sports, among military recruits, and among summer workers."

Dr. Schuman also notes the possibility that the recent increase in the use of diuretics and other hypotensive drugs may predispose elderly persons to strokes during sudden changes in weather.

to explore this physiological-pharmacological aspect of heat waves.



MERRIMAN ROAD WILL be improved in Livonia during the next three months, and getting off to a start of construction last week were, from left: W. P. Meyers, Field Engineer for the State Highway Dept.; W. J. Wong, Assistant County Highway Engineer; Mayor Harvey Moeke; S. Elfsitz, County Highway Engineer; and J. E. Kinville, Project Engineer.



Amelia Earhart Group Meets

The 28th anniversary of Amelia Earhart's mysterious disappearance on an around-the-world flight attempt in 1937 will be observed in Redford by the Detroit chapter of a national group formed in her honor.

The 1st Annual Commemorative Meeting of the Amelia Earhart Squadron's Detroit City Flight will be held Saturday, July 3 — just 23 years and a day after the famous aviatrix was lost near the Howland Islands in the Pacific.

"Our meeting is just one of a number that will be held across the country that weekend by the squadron," reports Ken Fermyole, 824 Appleton, Detroit Flight Leader. "This is one means of keeping alive the deeds of the daring lady who accomplished so much during her short life, and that is a major objective of the Squadron."

Leaders and assistant leaders from flights in nearby areas scheduled to meet with the Detroit group at the Redford home of Acting Adjutant Louis Bloch include Mr. and Mrs. Robert George, Livonia.

Farmingtonites Celebrate 30th Business Year

The Re-Nu Tool Co., which is located at 1444 Joy Road, is celebrating its 30th year in business. President of the Company is Sam J. Graham, of 2603 Brookdale, in Farmington. Another Farmingtonite, Mrs. Alice Warner Brown, of 3080 Nine Mile Road, is the company's secretary-treasurer.

Re-Nu employs 20 people, and specializes in sharpening and reconditioning 11 types of cutting tools — carbide and high speed — and also completely manufactured special tools.

Alice Brown is herself a tool engineer. She was the third woman to become a national member of the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers. And she was the first woman to attend Carborundum's School for Customer Education.

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