

15 YEARS AGO (1981)

Michigan's Essential Insurance Act will be good or bad news for motorists, depending on where they live, their ages, marital status and gender. The new law, which took effect Jan. 1, outlaws the use of sex or marital status in determining rate structures. It also places limits on the practice of charging more or less based on where a person lives.

Independence Township is ranked as the sixth fastest growing township out of 23 in Oakland County, according to the latest set of unofficial tallies released from the 1980 census. A comparison of the first set of unofficial figures released in July to present statistics shows marked increases for the township and constant figures for the Village of Clarkston.

The fourth house to be condemned in Independence Township within the past month awaits demolition. At a prior condemnation hearing, the homeowners were given 60 days to make repairs. Besides improper support beams, the building has no water or heat and "the inside is a mess. It's unoccupied," says James Hock, ordinance officer for the township building department.

25 YEARS AGO (1971)

Employees of the Hawk Tool and Engineering Co. on W. Washington in Clarkston report to work on Monday, Jan. 4 and find the doors locked. According to company spokesperson Allen Hawke, the employees were asked to work Dec. 28, 29 and 30 but when they didn't show up, the company felt it necessary to notify them by telegram that they had lost their seniority. A meeting scheduled by the federal mediator takes place Jan. 6. "We hope it will be successful," Hawke says.

A man is in critical condition in Pontiac General Hospital after suffering a gunshot wound to the head. Roger Southerland, 25, and two other men, Eddie Price, 26, and George Bennis, 23, were hunting Saturday, Jan. 2, when a dispute arose. Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy William Elliot arrived at the Felix St. home of Southerland and found him holding a shotgun. When Elliott asked Southerland to put down the gun and he didn't, Elliott attempted to strike Southerland with his revolver. The gun discharged, striking Southerland in the head. After a thorough investigation, no charges were placed against Elliott.

50 YEARS AGO (1946)

News from "By The Way": Despite bad weather,

sickness and strikes, Santa Claus called on the children in this area. Everywhere you can see new sleds, toboggans, skis and skates, gaily colored scarves, mittens and sweaters ... Last week we forgot to mention that little Marsha Anne Marshall was happy when Santa gave her a tiny Springer puppy ... The Clarkston News family wasn't forgotten, either. Cards and gifts by the score came from the boys in the service who are far from home. Words fail to express our appreciation ... The flu epidemic in Clarkston seems to be subsiding. The severe cases are under control and many of the children and teachers have returned to school ... The building permits issued in Clarkston in December were few but the outlook for 1946 is good. As soon as material is more plentiful, many people plan on building.

The Clarkston Coal Company has a new owner and operator, Herbert R. Beach, who needs no introduction to the folks in this district. He has lived in Clarkston for about 25 years and married Winifred Holcomb nine years ago. The coal company, now 27 years old, was formerly owned by George Marshall, who purchased the business from Miller and Beardslee several years ago. He and Mrs. Marshall are contemplating going to Florida at the end of this month.

60 YEARS AGO (1936)

Highlights from the first part of the year: Jan. 1—The first day of the year is greeted with plenty of snow. Guests who attend the Miller reunion at the George Miller home enjoy a real sleighing party ... Jan. 12—The house on the Sam Croop Farm on Depot Road is destroyed by fire ... Feb. 9—Village caucus is held in the council chambers. Casper Warden declines the nomination as village president and David McClelland accepts ... March 28—Clarkston High School's senior class has "Skip Day" and enjoys the day in Detroit ... May 29—Commencement exercises are held at Clarkston High School ... June 1—Two magazine salesmen misrepresenting the Clarkston School are given a rather warm reception and escorted to the prosecutor's office by several Clarkston residents ... June 3—William Gassick buys the shoe repair shop from Eli Fisher ... June 12—About 15 freight cars jump the track and topple down the bank at the rear of the cottages on Maceday Lake ... June 27-28—Edward Seeterlin is sued for breach of promise by Nellie Bly. The trial takes place at Clarkston High School. The play is sponsored by the PTA. (To be continued next week.)

Heritage Hunt II by Virginia Block

For all those using "Family Tree Maker" discs to create your personal histories, "Broderbund," Banner Blue Division of Novato, Calif., sends information on their "World Family Tree" program.

While our computer is too old to even use "Windows," it's still useful for what we need, and we do have the Family Tree Maker in DOS (whatever that means). We are among those labeled illiterate in the high tech world of modern research methods, but find live people more sociable and appreciative.

The family scrapbook that used to exist in every family was second only to the family Bible as a source of information, containing family members' pictures, newspaper clippings and even dried flowers, bits of hair woven into a pattern or "watch fob," an occasional letter and lots of memorabilia.

We are the recipient of a wonderful scrapbook that contains historical material as well as information on the John Smith-Rebecca Bradford part of their Philo Merry-Emiline Reed lineage. Since Lake Orion was the home of Philo Merry, and Pontiac was the area where the Bulman, Baudrie(y) families tie into the Smith lines, we really feel that many of you will be happy to learn of this gift of knowledge for our records.

The names of the Rodenbo, Thorpe, Dickinson,

Lundy and other families appear with materials found in these scrapbooks, both the historical and the personal family ones. Sharing this with us adds another dimension to the Cheal family history already in our collection.

Jim and Ruth Ann Smith, in town from Arkansas for the holidays, were sent to us by Jim's Aunt Gladys Cheal.

They brought us the scrapbooks and we were happy to be able to offer much help from the Oakland County 1860 Federal Census on about five lines they were researching.

We are indebted to so many of you who have given us the support needed to expand our program of family searching. We appreciate your many expressions through holiday greetings, of thanks for our help, and we are pleased to know we can be of help. Sharing is what we are here for.

As we strive to better serve the needs of our readers, we will continue to upgrade our efforts, and hope the worst day of 1996 is equal to the best day of '95, for everyone.

Send your queries to us and we promise to offer our best to get you over your "stone walls." Happy hunting.

People Poll

By Eileen Oxley

What's the worst gift you got for Christmas?

J U D Y MCLAUGHLIN, WATERFORD: Probably it would be another Christmas towel. I have a stack and you just can't put them all out. Some still have the tags on. There are just too many. Year after year, after year, after year...



AMY VANTINE, CLARKSTON: My worst thing for Christmas was probably the Ace of Base tape. It was too fast. You can't understand the words very well.



MATT PRUCHER, CLARKSTON: The worst? A fruitcake.



MATTHEW LEACH, MT. MORRIS: VR Trooper stickers. From Santa, I guess. I just wake up and they're wrapped.



ASHLEY ZETTEL, CLARKSTON: A Barbie from Santa.

