

Cass Cityan commutes to Detroit

Trooper Smith urges freeway caution

Crime in Detroit is no different than anywhere else, according to state police Trooper Bob Smith, except that there is more of it.

For two years, the Cass City resident has been commuting 210 miles a day round-trip, five days a week, to the Motor City, where he is one of about 100 troopers

assigned to the freeway patrol.

"You have the same type of crime all over," he said. "It's just that in the Upper Peninsula, you may investigate something every two years. In Detroit, it's an everyday occurrence."

One result of encountering that much crime is that one gets "almost immune to it."

Smith, 32, began his police career with the Summerfield township division of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. He was there from 1972-74. He and his wife, Sharon, are both natives of Monroe county (south of Detroit).

He was a Cass City police officer from June, 1974, to February, 1976, drove a truck for a while, then entered the state police academy in January, 1977.

His first assignment was at the Jonesville post in Hillsdale county. He was there a year, during which time he and his family lived in nearby Litchfield and rented out their Cass City home.

When he was assigned to the Detroit post, the family moved back to Cass City, because the Smiths didn't want to send their children to the Detroit schools, homes here weren't selling that well and homes in desirable Detroit suburbs were "very expensive."

The couple has three children.

"Other than the driving, I

don't mind being in Detroit," the trooper commented.

Depending on traffic conditions, it takes 2-3 hours to make the trip one-way. He drives at a steady 55 miles per hour in order to squeeze the maximum mileage out of his little 4-cylinder car.

STATE POLICE HAVE been patrolling the almost 500 miles of expressways in Detroit for 3½ years now. Prior to then, "If you had a flat tire, you were in trouble."

There still are persons who prey on stranded motorists on the expressways, but they are more "crafty" now. They normally won't prey on motorists who stay in their cars because they know the state police will stop to see if the person needs assistance.

In the daytime, he advised, the expressways are usually quite safe and if a motorist has a flat tire, he or she should get out and fix it.

At night, the situation is somewhat different.

Overall, the best thing to do is to stay in the car with the flashers on. Unless detained, troopers usually go by every 5-10 minutes.

SOMETIMES OTHER motorists will stop to help and sometimes the person in need of help will turn the offer down out of fear the person has ulterior motives. "Sometimes that's good and sometimes that's bad," Smith commented.

A few weeks ago, when he and his partner stopped to help a woman whose car had broken down, they found the man who had stopped was "in just too much of a hurry to leave." The man, who was white, was wearing a business suit and driving a new Cadillac.

They had the dispatcher run a check on the man and found he was wanted on a rape charge.

Then there was the old black man, unshaven and driving a beat-up old pickup truck, who "looked like he hadn't changed clothing in three weeks."

He stopped to assist a white woman who had a flat tire. He removed the wheel, took it to a gas station to get it fixed, came back and put it back on. The man refused payment and said he was "glad to help."

POLICING ACCIDENTS on the expressways can be dangerous and several troopers have been hit by cars.

Smith's patrol car has been rear-ended three times when stopped at accidents, once by a woman who drove over 82 flares he had placed on the road. She was not drunk, but had been talking to her passengers "and not paying attention to what she was doing."

Most accidents on the expressways take place from 4-7 p.m., especially when it is raining or snowing. Under such conditions, it's not uncommon for each two-man team to handle 10-15 accidents in their eight-hour shift.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO talk about being a police-

man in Detroit without talking about race.

Eighty-85 percent of the people he deals with who are in trouble are black, but once stopped, they seldom give him trouble.

In contrast, the trooper finds that 80-90 percent of the resistance he gets from motorists he stops comes from white persons.

He has also found that if someone runs from an officer, it doesn't necessarily mean the person is a dangerous criminal wanted for a major felony. Carrying knives is routine in Detroit, so he routinely asks "give me the knife," and the

person hands it over.

"It's completely different from what I thought it would be down there." He admits that since he seldom has trouble when making arrests and traffic stops, there is the danger that he can get lackadaisical.

THE HAIRIEST EXPERIENCE he has encountered was in January of this year when he and his partner of 20 months, Don Couturier, put an end to the "pillowcase gang." The gang committed robberies in suburban areas and got its name because it dumped all its loot into the sheets and pillowcases it pulled off the beds.

Set open house at skill center

Tuscola county residents will be able to see where some of their taxes go at an open house Sunday at the Tuscola Area Skill Center and Highland Pines School.

The two facilities operated by the Tuscola Intermediate School District opened earlier this fall.

Open house hours are 1-5

Methodist women pick officers

Sixteen United Methodist Women of Salem United Methodist church attended the monthly meeting Monday evening at the church.

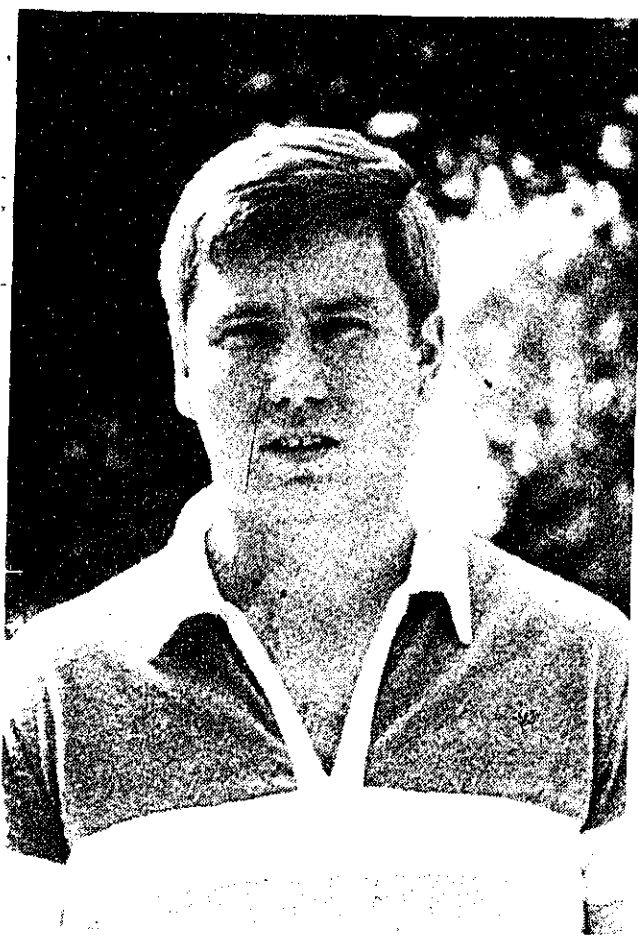
Mrs. Stanley Kirm presided over the business meeting. Mrs. Charles Tuckey reported that \$265 was raised during October in special offerings in the church, to be used for mission work in Kenya and the Dominican Republic. Proceeds of \$40 from the silent auction, at the close of the meeting, will be added to that amount.

Members approved a slate of officers who will assume their duties in January. There will be a joint meeting at the church Nov. 17 for retiring and new officers. New and re-elected officers for the coming year are: president, Mrs. Jude Patnaude; vice-president, Mrs. Ron Nicholas; secretary, Mrs. Ron Geiger, whose office is currently being filled by Mrs. Clyde Weir, and treasurer, Mrs. Maurice Joos.

The lesson on "parables of Jesus, glimpses of the new age," was given by Mrs. Robert Tuckey.

The Christmas meeting, open to all women of the church, will be Dec. 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Charles Tuckey.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting by Mrs. Walter Jezewski, Mrs. John Ryba and Mrs. Clyde Weir.



BOB SMITH

Sang Parks granted citizenship

Cass City has two new United States citizens, Dr. Sang H. Park, MD, and his wife, Myung.

The residents of Cass City since July of last year received notice last Wednesday that they had been granted citizenship, effective Oct. 22.

That was too late, Mrs. Park noted, for her and her husband to register to vote in Tuesday's election, but they will vote in the next election.

Linda Albee helped the Parks prepare for their citizenship test, which they took Sept. 15 in Bay City.

Harold and Ethyl Whitaker went with the Parks to Bay City to testify to their being good citizens.

The Parks returned to Bay City Oct. 14 to take part in an oath of allegiance ceremony.

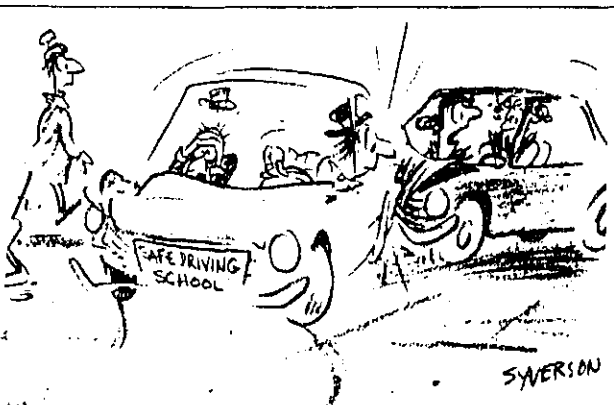
Dr. and Mrs. Park, 34 and 31 respectively, have two sons, Eddy, 4, and Jimmy, almost 2, both of whom are citizens because they were born in this country.

The couple came to this country from South Korea in June, 1974, two months after they were married.

Park, an obstetrician-gynecologist, received his pre-medical and medical training at Seoul National University. He interned for two years at St. Joseph's Hospital in Towson, MD., near Baltimore.

For the next three years, prior to coming to Cass City, he was chief resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Misericordia Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y.

The Parks live at 6719 Main Street.



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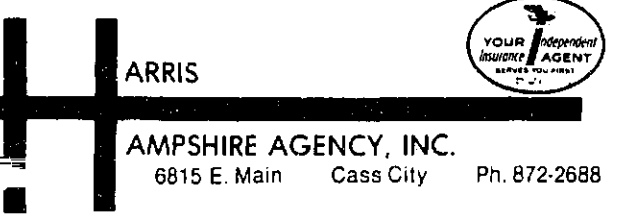
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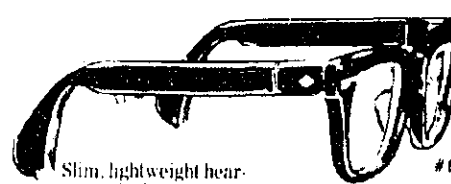
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