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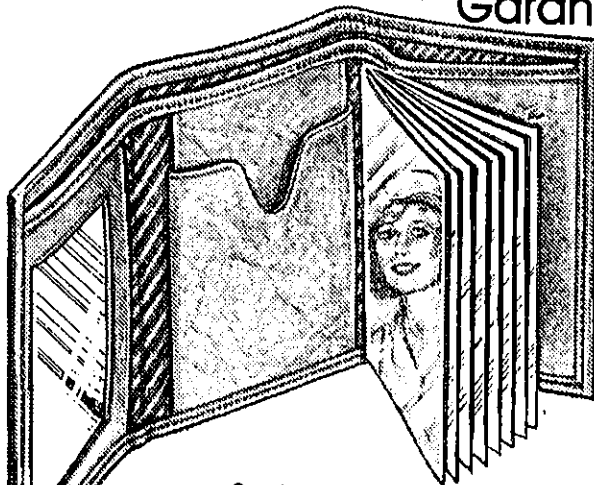
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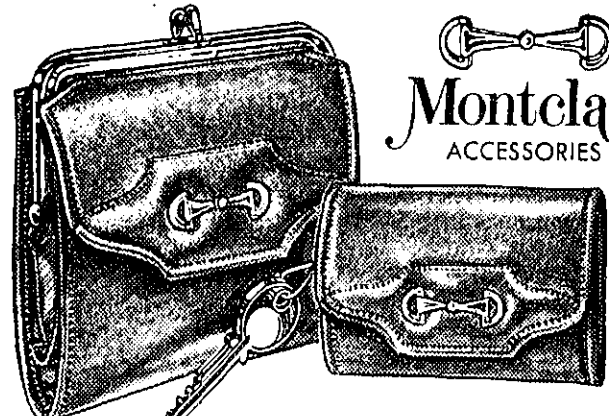
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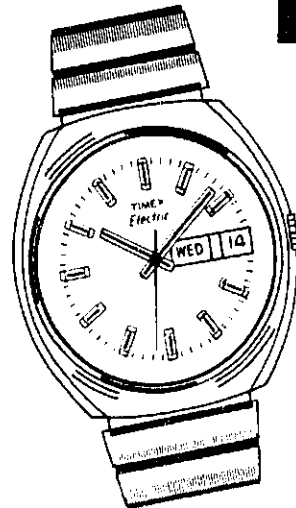
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Dec. 2 snow storm caused nightmare west of Cass City

It was like the ultimate crash scene in a Hollywood car chase movie, only it was for real.

Between the hours of 2:40 and 7 p.m. Tuesday of last week, during the snow storm, there were 20 accidents recorded by Police Chief Gene Wilson and the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department on the stretch of M-81 in the vicinity of Spence and Crane Roads, within about two miles of the west village limit. Only two persons required hospital treatment.

Wilson was the only police officer out there. Officer Don Miller was at the west village limit from about 4:30 p.m., turning back motorists who wanted to head west on M-81.

The chief told drivers involved in accidents to come to his office the next day so he could make out the proper reports. Some persons reported their accidents to the sheriff's department.

Fred Martin, Bartnik's Service and L & S Standard all had tow trucks at the scene and received praise from the chief. "They did good service considering the weather and the chances they took being out there."

Vehicles were either towed away or pushed out of the traffic lanes and removed Wednesday.

The two persons hospitalized were Leslie J. Messer, 17, of 6200 Hurds Corner Road, Gagetown, and Kathryn M. Louis, 36, of Bay City-Forestville Road, Gagetown.

Mrs. Louis was westbound on M-81 at 3:15, stopped for traffic, and an unknown vehicle ran into the rear of her car. She went to Hills and Dales the next day and was discharged Saturday.

Miss Messer was also headed west, at 3:30, couldn't stop for the car in front of her and the two vehicles collided. She was taken by ambulance to Hills and Dales General Hospital and released the next day.

Wilson said there were accidents that went unreported in what he called the worst such conditions he has seen in his 10 years as police chief.

In many of the accidents that were reported, not all of the drivers are known, including the two involving the above mentioned women.

The other accidents reported were as follows:

Martin H. Chiotti, 45, of Kinde, stopped for a pickup in the road. Another vehicle then ran into the rear of his car and he then ran into the pickup. He suffered possible injuries, not requiring hospital treatment. The accident was at 2:40 p.m.

Also at 2:40, Edward De-Russell, 37, of Caro, headed east, ran into the car of Gregory D. Kuck, 16, of 4767 Cedar Run Road, who had tried to stop.

At 3:15, Mary J. Aumock, 51, of Unionville, headed east, lost control and slid into the path of the westbound car of Thelma Romain, 60, of Caro.

About the same time, Viola Thorp, 40, of Caro, westbound, ran into the rear of the car of Cleo Spaulding, 78, of 3769 E. Caro Road, Cass City. Ms. Thorp received possible injuries.

Suzanne Booms, 22, of Harbor Beach, was headed east at 3:50 when she lost control of her car when another auto pulled in front of her from a side road. Her car spun off the south side of the road, facing west, and was struck by the other car.

Dr. Edward C. Scollon, 44, of 4849 N. Seeger Street, was eastbound at 4 when his pickup ran into a car in the middle of the road that had struck a semi-truck.

Louis Langenburg, 51, of 4197 Koepfgen Road, headed east, ran into the car of Lambert Althaver, 49, of 4618 Kennebec Drive, and an unknown third auto. That was at 4:15.

At 4:30, Richard E. Elsinger, 29, of Bad Axe, was headed east when an unidentified vehicle struck the rear of his car and continued on.

Michael E. Cook, 34, of 6275 Robinson Road, was eastbound when he ran into a car which was parked on M-81 because of the road being blocked by another accident. Owner of the other car was John L. Crandall, 19, of 3165 Green Road.

Also at 5, Charles E. Thiel, 52, of 4940 Gifford Road, Deford, ran into the rear of a car which was disabled on the road. Owner of the other car was Henry Nolan Jr. of 4408 West Street.

At 7 p.m., eastbound James W. Neiman, 19, of 5211 E. Cass City Road, ran into the parked car, because of the storm, of Wayne Albrecht of Caro.

Connie Allen, 31, of 6787 Third Street, was involved in two accidents.

At 3:30, headed east, she ran into the rear of a semi-truck and then another car struck her car, then left. That was a half-mile east of Crane Road.

At 4, a quarter-mile east of Spence Road, her car struck a car that was halfway in a ditch.

Joseph E. Fisher, 31, of Saginaw, headed west at 3:30, stopped for backed-up traffic. His vehicle was then hit by several cars.

Also about 3:30, Mable Wright, 63, of 6551 Elizabeth Street, eastbound, stopped because of other vehicles.

Donald E. Willis, 42, of 6789 E. Main Street, then slid into her car. A county animal control officer, he was driving a county-owned truck.

Also about that time, David L. MacFadden, 32, of Saginaw, found himself the third car from the front in a four-car chain collision. All four vehicles were headed west.

Two other accidents also took place about 3:30. John J. Klug, 29, of Caro, headed east, tried to go around a United Parcel Service truck parked on the shoulder, but his car slid sideways and struck the rear of the truck.

Richard M. Hollis, 20, of 6378 Argyle Road, eastbound, tried to go around a car sitting in the roadway, but his car struck the other vehicle. Owner of the other car was Lorraine Musial of 7570 Gilbert Road.

At 3:45, Joan L. Hercliff, 31, of 4422 Seeley Road, was westbound when an unknown vehicle struck her car in the rear. Her auto then ran into the rear of the vehicle in front of her.

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Some people throw salt behind them when it spills because it used to be believed the salt would hit the devil in the eye.