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DRIVER EDUCATION

By Charles V. Stanton

Motor vehicle operators in the 15-to-24-year age group are Oregon's most dangerous drivers, reports the Traffic Safety Division of the Secretary of State's office. Drivers in that classification, it is reported in a recent bulletin, were involved in 28,532 wrecks last year. These accidents resulted in 126 fatalities.

Drivers between ages of 30 and 39 years had more accidents than the younger group—30,788—but only 101 fatalities resulted.

Records show conclusively that speed is the primary factor in fatal accidents. Passengers in slow moving cars are less apt to be killed or seriously injured than those in speeding cars. Thus statistics gathered by the Traffic Safety Division indicate that the teen-agers and drivers in their early 20s, drive faster on an average than do older operators.

Total accidents and fatalities decrease in proportion to age of drivers, statistics show. The 40 to 49-year age group was responsible for 22,827 accidents and 77 fatalities. Drivers 50 to 54 years of age had 9,067 accidents, in which 37 fatalities occurred. There was a substantial drop in the 55 to 59 age group with 6,879 accidents and 22 fatalities. A drop to 5,606 accidents with 18 fatalities was listed for drivers 60 to 64 years of age, and 6,442 accidents and 30 fatalities for drivers 65 years of age or older.

These figures indicate, it is claimed, that driving experience, teaching greater caution and less speed, lessens accident prevalence as drivers grow older.

Best Drivers Have Worst Record

One factor is missing in the report. The bulletin fails to show the percentage of drivers in each age group—a factor essential to proper comparison.

The statistics do furnish positive proof, however, of the relationship between speed and fatalities.

While the lack of percentage figures prevents comparison, the high rate of accidents in the teen-age group is of serious concern.

There can be no argument that insofar as the mechanical operation of motor vehicles is concerned, the 15-to-24-year-old group has the decided physical advantage. The young driver has quicker reflexes, keener eyesight, better coordination. His prevalence to accident therefore must be ascribed to poor judgment, overconfidence, negligence, carelessness, recklessness or plain foolhardiness.

As motor vehicle operators gain experience they have fewer fatalities. The fact that the age group beyond teenagers had more accidents but fewer fatalities than the youngsters indicates the value of experience.

Reductions in both accidents and fatalities in progressive age groups reflects not only the value of experience, but also improving judgment, as well as recognition of deteriorating coordination, eyesight, etc., and compensation therefore by greater driving caution.

Training Program Shows Value

We gain driving experience only by driving. There is no substitute for experience. Education, however, can serve as a partial substitute.

Many high schools today are conducting training courses for students. Records show that young drivers who have completed training classes have a far lower accident record than others of their age group.

Possibly there is a partial answer in that fact to our high rate of motor vehicle accidents. It probably would be too expensive to require that no person should receive a driver's license until he had successfully completed a course of instruction by qualified teachers. Yet the loss of life and property from motor vehicle accidents might justify such program.

If every driver were made to show a graduate's certificate from a school of motor vehicle driving instead of being given the very superficial test now required, we undoubtedly could materially reduce our highway death toll.

Seraps From the
MENDING BASKET
by
Vahnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

My, hasn't it been hot!

Few clouds in the sky this morning and cooler, praise be! The last two days have been cloudless, with a sun that beat down mercilessly on all my little seedlings without shade, and a house also without shade and not yet insulated. How we missed the coolness of that home in the woods at Seely Creek! We drove down to the coast about six, and listened in on the Republican convention as we rode. Then we saw a good sized turtle in the road and nothing would do but I must stop and exchange greetings with it! How it did bring back not only my childhood but our boys' too!

I was for bringing it home—they make such interesting pets, if one knows their habits and likes. But I don't know if the State of Oregon likes having them picked up. Down in California—no! Well, we left it by the river and resumed the interrupted Republican convention. I'd be disappointed if we drove down "our" highway (38) without SOME variation. We have seen raccoons, sheep, deer, bulls, snakes, goats, pheasants, quail, now I can add a turtle to the list. And the explosion!

We stopped at the cafe at the Y where 101 and 28 join, and just after we settled at a table there was a big bang! Every body stared around, the waitress

looked startled, but kept right on serving people, and the buzz of wonderment kept up for several minutes. Sounded to us as if a car had slammed into the side of the building, that kind of a noise and thud.

Oh—oh, as I write, the telephone men who have been stringing a lot of new shining copper wires, have stopped by the lovely Mrs. Bradshaw's house. . . they have been topping all up and down the line. Don't tell me they are going to top those trees! I see Mrs. Bradshaw out in the yard talking to the man. . . but Bob keeps right on following the power lawn mower. Bonnie must still be asleep! Now the man is climbing the pole where one of those black boxes is. . . he's down now, has slung his climbers into the truck. . . is driving off. Hurrah for our side! My neighbor and I like those trees!

To return to last night (Wednesday) we left the heat behind by the time we reached Echo Resort. Mr. Bradshaw said fishing had been excellent the day before but that day the weather had been "stormy" (over 100 at our end of 38!) and COOL. "Been 72 here," he said, "Better move down this way!" Looked like a foggy ride home, but we left the fog behind. Cooler at home, praise be! Trees, trees everywhere, but nary a tree to shade us! That's what you get for building in a pasture on the south slope of a hill!

Ike's Plank



Loud U.S. Voice Needed To Answer Russia's 'Hate America' Campaign

By WADE JONES

By now the world ought to be used to a Russian veto whenever the Reds find themselves defeated in the United Nations Security Council.

It happened again when the Russians were faced with an overwhelming blast, backed by nine of the 11 member nations in the Council, against Communist charges that our forces used germ warfare in Korea.

The veto by Joseph Malik, the 50th the Soviets have used, was a great surprise to almost no one. And therein lies its greatest danger.

In the U.S., particularly, most of us have probably shrugged off Malik's veto as just what was to be expected—as something like a little boy's reaction to being caught smoking behind the barn.

Unfortunately, not all the rest of the world will shrug off the veto—or what Russia said in explaining it—so easily.

Pakistan, for instance, abstained from voting. The reason, said Pakistan's delegate, was frustration. Either the U.S. had used germs, he declared, in which case the Asiatic people were facing horrible perils; or the Russians were lying, in which case the Asiatics were being bamboozled.

Since a previous Malik veto had wiped out any chance of an impartial investigation of Russia's charges, the man from Pakistan argued, how could he—or the

rest of Asia—tell which side to believe?

Pakistan's frustration is not isolated. Russia is making a louder noise, and getting a bigger audience, than we are in either Europe or Asia.

Leon Dennen, NEA's roving correspondent in Europe and an expert on the devious ways of the Kremlin, reported the other day that Russia's "Hate America" campaign was going great guns because we don't seem to be doing anything to answer it.

We have untold numbers of government specialists, better known as press agents, all over Europe. But, as Dennen concluded after a survey of a number of nations, these U.S. tub-thumpers seem to be keeping virtually mute.

The little people of the world don't pay much attention to what goes on in the U.N. And they do not always understand a Russian veto, as Pakistan's frustration has clearly shown.

What we need is a louder voice, not necessarily in the U.N. and certainly not in the form of silent government press agents abroad.

The Voice of America cannot talk softly—unless we want to be drowned out by the masters of screaming nonsense.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

in both houses of Congress get the idea that it's in the bag.

So I hope the Democrats will leave Chicago at the end of next week with their ticket headed by the best men they've got and with everybody full of fight. Only in that way can we get the kind of political campaign we NEED in this critical year of decision.

If the Democratic national convention of 1952 is really "rough, rugged and wild," it will be wonderful because for two decades Democratic conventions haven't been that way.

They've been RATIFICATION meetings. The nominee has been known in advance. The business of the delegates has been merely to put their OK on a decision already made AT THE TOP. When that was done, they broke up, shook hands and went home.

There are signs that it won't be that way this year. I think that's all to the good. Party conventions that are nothing more than ratification meetings lead in time to DYNASTIES.

Dynasties and democracy don't mix.

For the first time in four conventions—1936, 1940, 1944 and 1948—there will be CONFLICT at the Democratic national convention that will assemble in Chicago next week. Conflict in the sense that there will be present LEADERS WITH FOLLOWINGS. This year it isn't known in advance who will come out on top. In the past it has been known.

That will put COMPETITION back into the Democratic convention. Competition is a good thing—both in business and in politics.

This foreknowledge that there will be competition in Chicago next week has resulted in six avowed candidates—Senator Kefauver of Tennessee, Senator Russell of Georgia, Senator Kerr of Oklahoma, Senator McMahon of Connecticut, Vice-President Barkley of Kentucky and W. Averell Harriman of New York.

In addition, there is Governor Stevenson of Illinois, who is say-

Liner United States Sets East-West Mark

NEW YORK (AP)—The new superliner, the United States, set a new east-west transatlantic speed record Monday. It set a record in the opposite direction last week.

The black-bulld commercial speed queen of the sea at 1:29 p. m. PDT passed Ambrose Light, traditional finish mark for the east-west transatlantic speed test.

She broke the British liner Queen Mary's 14-year-old record of three days, 21 hours and 45 minutes.

Keel Of Superior Aircraft Carrier Of America Laid

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP)—The Navy Monday laid the keel of a giant aircraft carrier whose range and planes can bring within reach the "innermost lairs" of any aggressor nation.

Deputy Secretary of Defense William C. Foster described this as one of the capabilities of the 60,000-ton carrier Forrestal, to be the biggest warship of the world's navies when completed.

Behind his words in an address at the keel-laying ceremony was the fact the ultra-modern, flush-deck carrier is designed to launch and recover atom-bomb carrying planes and heavy, swift jet fighters to provide for its own protection against enemy attack.

The ship, first of two of the class which Congress so far has authorized the navy to build, will cost an estimated 218 million dollars, excluding cost of the 100 or more planes of the carrier.

At normal construction rate, the Forrestal will be ready to join the fleet in late 1954. In an emergency building can be speeded up.

The USS Forrestal when completed will be able to carry the naval air power of the United States to any part of the world to promote security and peace for ourselves and our Allies.

"Let those misguided leaders of enslaved peoples who may contemplate aggression weigh well the fact that not even in their innermost lairs can they escape the devastating force of this mighty weapon."

The defense official did not specify in his speech the expected range of the Forrestal's aircraft. But his mention of the "innermost lair" of an aggressor power suggested targets deep in Russia, now well beyond the 600 or 700 mile operational radius of present-day carrier-based aircraft.

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Reader Opinions

Tax Limitation Drop Advised To Simplify

ROSEBURG—It is unfortunate that so many people will not follow the enlightened leadership of our community. Why should we question an assessment for sanitation just because we are not given a protective maximum charge; and wouldn't it be much simpler to just annul the 6 percent limitation on taxes? Then our leaders would not need to bother themselves with getting permission from us to spend the money which we have earned.

After all, competent authority advised our council, that "the people did not know how to vote with intelligence" on one subject which was up for consideration.

And of course a vote of thanks (excuse please, voting is now passe) must be given for the censorship of expressions regarding a timely subject.

Just because you want some control over the money which you earn; just because you may wish to have a voice in your children's health; just because you may wish to know who has the right to regulate your daily hours of work and play; I say, "Don't be selfish; but, rather give of your time, your money and your rights to those who are more capable of exercising those privileges."

Don't be a reactionary person who says if I can't have a voice in the affairs of my own community, my own family, my own fortune; then, I will vote "no and no and no."

On July 22nd when we vote for the third time, you will do well to follow my advice of doing what I say; but not what I do. And never do as I and 249 others who voted "No" in the recent city elections.

BYRON P. HARMON
Roseburg, Ore.

Mosquitoes Withdraw For Banquet On Porch

ROSEBURG—You're telling me! Yes, I saw that peculiar contrivance spitting smoke and fumes and I rushed madly over to the neighbors, thinking the thing was on fire, only to be deeply humiliated by being informed that it was being used to exterminate mosquitoes. However, the insects simply withdrew to the back porch and held a banquet at my expense.

Consequences? My arms could be mistaken for a checkerboard.

But don't get discouraged. Keep up the good work. In time we'll get 'em.

JENNIE ARTHUR WEST
Roseburg, Ore.

3 Die Fighting Fire In Field

YUMA, Colo. (AP)—Three men fighting a wheat field fire burned to death when a switch in wind direction trapped them 15 miles northwest of here.

The blaze apparently started Friday from a truck exhaust. It spread quickly and eight men harvesting wheat on the Walter Kahrs ranch joined to extinguish it. A sudden change in the wind reversed the fire's direction and the eight attempted to out run it.

A truck sped through the flames and rescued five of the men.

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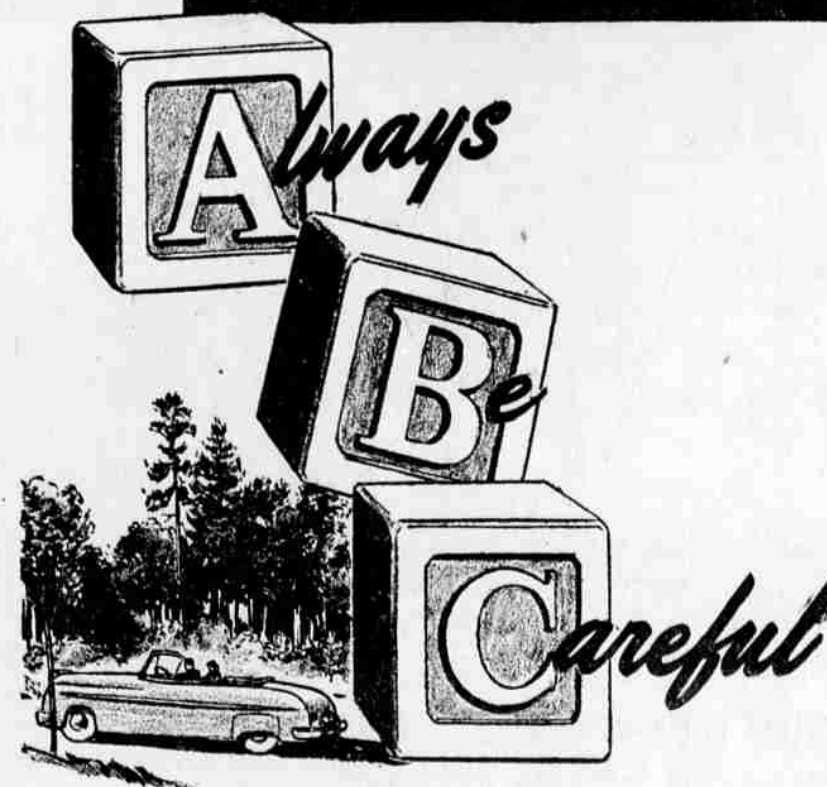


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The ABC's of FIRE PREVENTION



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