

**EMPLOYEE RETIRES**  
**PORTLAND** — The Portland Traction Company's oldest motor-man retired this week after 47 years of service.  
 He is A. A. Reck, 76, who began operating standard-gauge street-cars here in 1906.

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## State Auto Death Decrease Puzzle To Safety Experts

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.  
**SALEM** — Oregon's traffic safety authorities can't figure out why Oregon is among the top ranking states in reducing its traffic death toll in 1953.

They give the credit to Lady Luck, and keep their fingers crossed in hopes that the good record might continue.

They say there might be some other factors, but they can't prove it.

Oregon's 22.9 percent reduction in traffic deaths in 1953 is either the best or second best record in the country.

While the number of deaths declined sharply, the number of accidents dropped off only slightly and the number of injured persons increased. This makes traffic safety men feel that the hand of fate helped hold down the death rate.

There were 480 traffic deaths in 1952, and 370 in 1953. But Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry's

was running about normal until June 1. Then it took a nosedive for the rest of the year. In the last seven months, the death toll was down from 215 to 219, compared with the same seven months of 1952.

Jim Banks, assistant traffic safety director, says there wasn't any increased enforcement or education that could have caused the drop.

Could weather have been a cause? Possibly. The fall of 1952 was warm and dry, and the fall of 1953 was wet. Maybe people drive more carefully in wet weather.

Could there have been better enforcement? Maybe. The state police added 50 more traffic officers, making a total of 491. However, these officers weren't in the field until last Oct. 1.

Was there better traffic safety education? Probably. Banks and his staff did about the same amount of work as they did in 1952. But Banks says that the 1953 safety drives sponsored by civic organizations, radio stations and newspapers could be a contributing factor.

**Nations Totals Up**  
 Is it a national trend? No. The national traffic death totals are up about one per cent.

So Banks and State Police Supt.

"We do concentrate our efforts on the highways during critical periods, such as on holidays. That is the principle of selective enforcement," Maison said.

Speed generally is considered to be a big factor in fatal accidents. The faster a car goes, the less chance a passenger has of surviving an accident.

**Velocity No Factor**  
 In Oregon, however, of the 27 persons killed during November, speed was considered a factor in only two of the deaths.

In those two accidents, one driver was going so fast he couldn't make a curve. In the other, the fast driv-



**POP-EYED POOCH**—Neighborhood kids in Ottawa, Kan., get a big kick out of "Lady," who, as shown above, just loves to drink pop through a straw. The six-year-old pointer is the pet of Jo Ruth Igel.

### India's Vice President In KRRR Radio Lecture

Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, vice president of the Republic of India and noted statesman, educator, author and religious leader will lecture on "The Ancient Indian View of Man" Sunday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. as second guest on KRRR-CBS Radio's "Man's Right to Knowledge," educational series broadcast in observance of the Columbia University Bicentennial. He will be presented by Columbia University President Dr. Grayson Kirk, chairman of the series.

Sir Radhakrishnan, one of the drafters of the Indian Constitution, disavows the continental psychology that Asians and Europeans are distinct peoples. He recognizes religion as a common feature of the different peoples of Asia, and points out that the religions adopted by the Western peoples are all derived from Asia.

er was on the wrong side of the road.

So police say there are many angles besides speed. But just what the answer is, the traffic safety men would like to know.

### Non-Support Charge Placed Against Man

David C. Moore, 28, Roseburg, was lodged in the county jail Wednesday after arraignment in district court on a warrant charging non-support.

Judge A. J. Geddes set bail at \$4,500. Moore was returned here from Eugene by a deputy sheriff, according to Sheriff Cal Baird.

The criminal complaint was filed by S. J. Felt of Roseburg. It alleges Moore failed to support a 6-month-old child.



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