

The News-Review

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THE SUICIDE URGE

By GEORGE CASTILLO

It doesn't appear possible that it would be necessary to ask someone to make an effort to save his own life. But that, in effect, is the purpose of the second edition of "Death Row," scheduled Saturday in Roseburg.

Practically every means of communication possible has been used in recent years to plead with people to use their heads when they drive. Probably no campaign has ever been so intensive and long.

Judging from the statistics of deaths on the highway, the result has been far from satisfying. Highway accidents in the nation took more than 40,000 lives last year. This is more than 110 people dying every day on the highways.

In Oregon, a Portland newspaper recently indicated the possibility of the "bloodiest year in history" on the state's streets and highways. The state's traffic death toll on Nov. 1 had reached 357. This 10-month figure was the highest in five years. Then in the first five days of November, highway carelessness took 11 more lives. Wednesday, it stood at 413. With another month like this, the state could surpass the 482 count marked on the grisly record in 1946.

County Not Lagging

Douglas County isn't lagging in its "share" for the record. Already 26 have died on the county's highways. Six of those were slaughtered in six days.

What makes the figures so disconcerting is that practically all the deaths and injuries could be averted. Police officers say that the law is broken in more than 90 per cent of the accidents occurring on the highways. Too much speed, drunkenness, passing with insufficient clearance, failure to obey traffic signals are among those violations most prevalent.

But this mass love of suicide appears to feed on statistics of injury and death.

If drivers are not afraid of death, one would think the threat of money loss might hit a responsive chord. But Vestal Lemmon, general manager of the National Assn. of Independent Insurers, says this isn't even true.

He reports that automobile insurance companies are actually losing money. Two of the contributing reasons, he said, are increase in number of accidents and greater severity of accidents. He says rate increases are now necessary.

Drivers Brave

Obviously neither death nor loss of money puts a fright in this bravest of all humans, the American driver, so "Death Row" is designed to convert the cold statistics into terms of human blood and sheared metal.

Members of the Highway Lifesavers and "Back the Attack" groups, as well as police agencies, are hoping the sight of the ghastly effects of accidents will have the impact that words apparently don't fashion.

A more opportune time couldn't be selected for the "shock" treatment. The saddening show on Southeast Jackson Street will be held just before the year-end holidays when weather, early darkness and crowded highways combine to compound the danger. Also, it follows on the heels of a heavy rash of highway deaths. Perhaps, "Death Row" will furnish the flash of safety consciousness that saves a life.

In 1951, the worst year in Douglas County traffic annals, "Death Row" was staged just after the 43rd death of the year. It was November, and no more deaths occurred during the year.

It's difficult to know if "Death Row" was the reason, but some indications are that it helped.

In any case it can't be any less effective than the many efforts now being exerted while drivers continue merrily snuffing out their lives.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page 1)

people a deep and abiding respect for scientific progress. We must mobilize our scientific brainpower. Not just for today. Not just for tomorrow. For a long time to come.

It will be quite a job. If we are going to develop among our people the deep and abiding respect for scientific progress that will be necessary if our nation is to remain secure, we must go clear back into our schools and interest our young people in SCIENCE.

That is going to mean some revolutionary changes in our educational system.

Little Rock breaks into the news again.

The last 225 U.S. paratroopers left there will be air-lifted out of Arkansas this week. When they leave, 900 Arkansas National Guardsmen, federalized by President Eisenhower, will take over the job of protecting nine Negro students at Little Rock's Central High school.

Well, that's good to that extent. If, in order to prevent riots, ANY school in the United States has to be guarded by troops it is better under our system for it to be guarded by LOCAL troops.

But— It is a shame that any school in the United States has to be guarded by troops in order to prevent riots. It shouldn't have been necessary in Arkansas. It shouldn't be necessary anywhere in our country.

Why did it happen?

The answer is simple. Somebody—or MANY somebody—put politics ahead of patriotism.

If the politicians who are counting votes and looking forward to the next election would keep their hands off the segregation question, the natural decency of the American people would settle it much sooner than it can be settled with bayonets.

Reader Opinions

Camas Valley Aiding Cancer Stricken Persons

This year we of Camas Valley have had it brought home to us what a terrible disease cancer is. On one of the shortest pieces of road in the valley, two breadwinners residing there are gravely ill with cancer. I hear there is a neighbor on Camas Mountain also suffering from cancer, making three in a very small community.

Camas Valley is a great little place, in that nearly everyone is willing to help when help is needed.

A community benefit dance for one of the stricken families was held two weeks ago and netted \$433. Thanks go to Wesley Smith for heading the fund drive and to Virgil Grant and his boys and the many fellows who sat in the band to make the music.

This Saturday we are having another community appreciation fund dance. This time it is for Elmer Sundquist and it is a very deserving event.

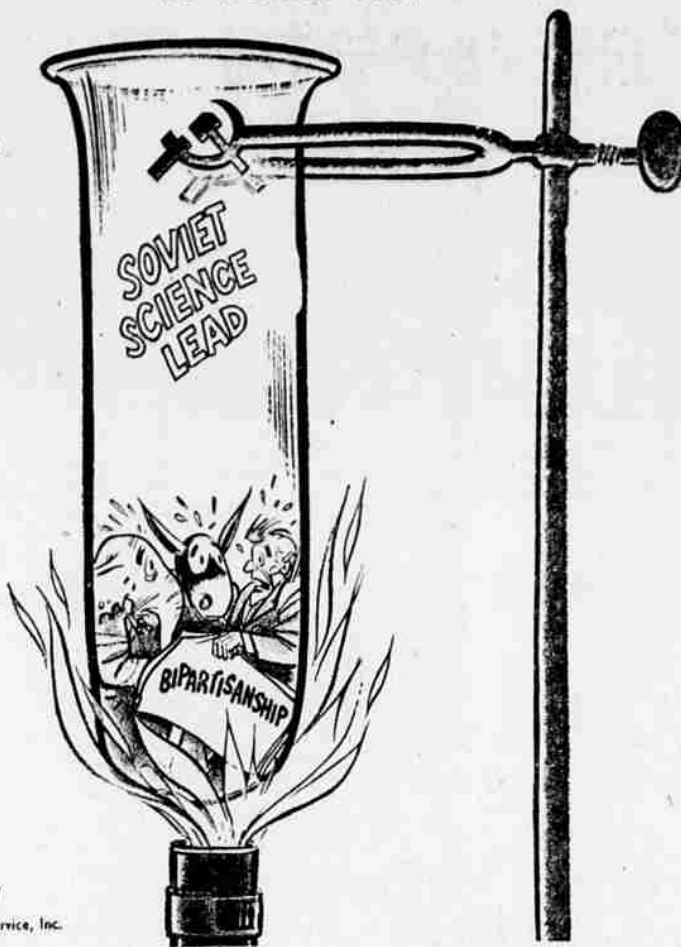
"Sunny" is a banjo player and has played without charge for every benefit dance held in Camas Valley in the last ten years and has also played at the old Ten-mile dance hall with the "Hoot Owls" orchestra.

"Sunny" lost a lung to cancer this spring. Now he is in Douglas Community Hospital in an oxygen tent.

So any of his friends who read this and would like to help out, while going to a good dance for a good cause, are invited to the Vets Hall in Camas Valley this Saturday, Nov. 30.

Bruce Priest
Camas Valley, Ore.

"Never Mind How We Got In—How Do We Get Out?"



—Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK (AP) — This is a lonely town for people who are alone. You may think every town is lonely for people alone but this is the town I know.

Believe me, the bigger the town, the lonelier the lonely are. A man alone, the only human being on a desert, may feel lonely. But he will feel more lonely among 8,000,000 human beings, if he has nobody to talk to.

If you have nobody to talk to except a cactus plant and the cactus plant won't talk, you may feel sorry for yourself. But you don't take it personally. If you can find nobody to talk to among 8,000,000 human beings, you do take it personally. This is the worst kind of loneliness — painful, profound, abiding.

I have made sort of a study of loneliness in this town — along the streets, in the libraries, in the public parks, in the restaurants, and the case studies which follow have the single virtue of fact. They are real. No novelist dreamed them up. A reporter found them.

To the library at 42nd St. — that's the one with the lions in front — a man called Harold came almost every night, after work. He made a slight pretense of consulting technical journals but mostly Harold came to talk with the ladies at the information desk.

Rapport For Lame Pigeon

They came to know him as gentle, well-spoken, well-dressed, cultured and as a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Harold also was a hunchback.

He came to talk but he came also to feed the pigeons on the front steps. Especially, a lame pigeon that hobbled over the steps. Harold seemed to feel a special rapport for the lame pigeon.

He talked about his aunt and uncle in Boston. He lived alone in New York. Then one day he told the girls at the desk that his aunt had died. Then his uncle died, and Harold went up to look after their personal effects.

Two weeks later, the girls at the information desk read that Harold had died. It was one of those stories. He had jumped or fallen from his 12th floor apartment.

—Bruce Biossat—

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The new, spirit-inspired interest in doing something to promote increased education of scientists and engineers in the United States — instead of just talking about it — reduced eventually to questions of statistics and money.

The big pitch now is that it is going to take many millions of dollars to build more college and laboratory facilities and to pay professors higher salaries.

But the new U.S. Office of Education study on Soviet Russia's school system shows plainly that the United States is now spending a lot more for higher education than the U.S.S.R.

The U.S. has 1,900 accredited colleges and universities awarding degrees. Over 3,000,000 students are enrolled in these institutions, or about 25 per cent of all college-age youngsters.

Russia has only 763 colleges and universities with a full-time enrollment of under 1,300,000 and a part-time enrollment of 600,000. This is about 10 per cent of college age youth.

OVER 354,000 DEGREES were granted in the U.S. last year. Russia has no comparable degree system but statistical reports indicate 225,000 graduations a year — 175,000 for full-time students, 50,000 for part-time and correspondence course graduates.

Total federal, state, local and private expenditures for all education in the U.S., with 170 mil-

70 to 75 per cent of the Russian students receive this stipend. The Russians claim the figure is higher — 85 to 90 per cent. The total budgeted outlay in 1953-4 was just under six billion rubles, or about a billion dollars.

Now this is admittedly subsidizing higher education in a great big way. Introduction of such a system in this country would probably meet violent opposition from the heads of privately endowed colleges and universities. But it gives the congressional advocates of legislation for federal scholarships for exceptional students a strong talking point.

Still another argument in favor of these scholarships is that the cost of college and university education in the U.S. is now so high that many families can't afford it.

Automats Offer Example

But the sharpest etching in loneliness you'll find in New York is at the automats, the coin caterers. Mostly people who come in to eat at an automat are out in 30 or 25 minutes. The widows and the old maids take longer.

I have it on the word of one automat manager that, having nothing else to do, having sat in the park or caught a movie or watched the afternoon TV in their hotel room, they can't resist coming to the cafeteria for dinner as early as 5 p.m. Then they try to stretch it to 9 or 10.

I sat near three such old ladies one afternoon. First, they got their silverware and napkins, and then they spread extra napkins as table-mats—you'd think it was the Waldorf. Then they talked. Then they got their tomato juice. Then they talked. Then they got their main course. Then they talked. Then they got their dessert. Then they talked. Then they got their tea.

"I hear Frank had a heart attack. And he has such a good job, the cashier at the Hotel Pierre."

"That's too bad. (pause). You know this tomato juice is improving."

"Soon, it'll be time for me to wear my green coat," said one of the old ladies, rubbing arthritic fingers, trying to maintain her dignity with no place to go, nothing to do.

"Doris said a swell man took her out. I'll find out what a swell man he is, I'll find out."

The tone implied she hoped to find out the man wasn't so swell.

Sylvia bought a new hat and a new dress. Her children had her out last Sunday. They paid for a cab both ways.

This brought a long pause until finally the third woman, who wore a bird's nest hat, sighed. "I think," she said, "I'll get some dinner."

Daily Bible Reading

Message By

Roseburg Ministerial Association

TEXT: Psalms 90:1-17

This psalm has been credited to Moses, the great law-giver and leader of Israel. If this be true, and we have no clear-cut reason to doubt it, then this psalm represents the oldest of the 150 so catalogued. Bible scholars place its writing sometime during the 40 years the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, as recorded in the 13th and 14th chapters of the Book of Numbers.

Realizing this episode took place some 3,500 years ago, one may be made to question: "That's a long time ago, what meaning could there possibly be in these words for us today?" In the first place, the author reminds us that although it is a long time, relatively speaking, since our life span is a brief "three score years and ten" (see verse 10), yet this thing we call time means little to God of whom he declares "a thousand

years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night" (see verse 4). And again, "from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (see verse 2).

Surely in God's eyes, "people haven't changed" in these past "three or four days" (see verse 4), and so the message is as pertinent as if not more so, in this 20th century age of space giants as it was in the days of the "sons of Anak" (see Numbers 13:33).

God's call to us is the same as then, saying: "Return ye children of men!" (see verse 3). He urges speed upon us reminding us that life passes quickly at best. Our lives are likened to the "grass of the field" (verses 5-6) and "to a tale that is told" (verse 9). And so he prays: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom" (see verse 12). As with the children of Israel (see verse 8) God has set our iniquities before Him and our secret sins stand out in the light of His countenance. A speedy return will bring mercy (verse 14) and the establishing of the work of our hands (verse 17) but continued rebellion can only result in our being turned to destruction (verse 3). Surely God has set before us a way of life and a way of death. Which will you choose? "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

Robert D. Hempel, Minister
First Church of the Nazarene

GI Bill Opposition Hit By Neuberger

CORVALLIS (AP) — Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said Wednesday the Russian satellite launchings will erase much of the opposition to revival of educational benefits of the G.I. Bill of Rights.

The senator, who has been urging revival of the veterans' educational program in a series of speeches throughout the state, told a Benton County Democratic luncheon meeting that "No program in our history accelerated so rapidly an outpouring of young people trained in technical fields as did the assistance provided in the GI Bill."

Discussing the state's economy, Neuberger said the current slump was due to "High interest, tight-money policies... choking off new supplies of low-cost power... and steady advancing railroad freight rates."

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UF MAN DIES

SALEM — Claude A. Kells, 74, executive secretary of the Salem United Fund and former general secretary of the Salem YMCA died at a local hospital Wednesday.

Kells had undergone surgery Oct. 21, and had been hospitalized since then. He had improved, however, and had been scheduled to return home Tuesday.

Swifts are the fastest of all birds. They have been clocked at 200 miles an hour.

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