The News-Review

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WHERE DANGER LIES

By Charles V. Stanton

A rash of traffic accidents always leads to a flood of proposals to limit speed of motor vehicles. The great majority of people seem to feel that lowering speed limits would reduce accidents.

There are no statistics, as I understand it, to prove that conclusion. Lower speeds, it is true, will reduce *fatalities* but not necessarily *accidents*.

A report by the *Oregon Statesman*, Salem, is that it queried traffic agencies in all 48 states regarding traffic figures and "reluctantly reached the conclusion they just didn't prove anything."

Some states had the basic rule and some hadn't. Some had 70-mile limits; some had 55-mile limits; some had varying limits for night and day, wet and dry. But in very few of them was there the same method of reporting accidents and fatalities. Some didn't demand reports of mishaps without personal injuries. Others did not keep records of accidents, even fatal ones, other than those on out-city highways. Still others had no composite of the tolls even from all state sources. It would have been impossible to present a fair picture because of such great variation.

The only conclusion to be reached, says the Salem newspaper, is that each state is searching for methods to reduce highway speeds.

New Rule Suggested

The *Statesman* proposes retention of Oregon's "basic rule" but would superimpose upon it "a law providing that posted speeds are legal speeds, not merely 'indicated,' and that any one exceeding them is subject to prosecution on the basis that he was going so many miles an hour, not just on the basis of whether his driving seemed 'safe and prudent' at the time."

Oregon's existing 'basic rule' permits a driver to operate the motor vehicle at any "safe and prudent" speed. The basic rule has much to recommend it. A driver may be in violation of the rule if he travels not more than 10 miles per hour under conditions making 10 miles an hour an unsafe rate of travel. On the other hand, the driver may whiz over the pavement and not be in violation of the rule, provided he is not endangering lives of others.

The rule, however, is that an operator driving at more than 55 miles per hour must bear the burden of proof if charged with improper driving.

The basic rule, it seems to me, is far better than a fixed speed limit. Yet, because accidents are more apt to carry fatalities if they involve high rates of speed, the proposal by the Salem newspaper has many factors in its favor.

Road Conditions Bad

One point, however, bearing on the proposal, either was overlooked or was not mentioned in the analysis by the Salem paper. I am convinced that one cause of so many accidents on Highway 99 is the present condition of the road which, despite the many improvements, must be described as dangerous.

This results from the fact that on many parts of the road there are four lanes, or a divided highway. There are then many sections of two-lane road. It is evident, looking at the sites of some of the serious accidents, that motorists have become confused by the frequent changes from four to two-lane roads and back again.

The Baldock freeway between Salem and Portland has a posted speed of 70 miles per hour. A considerable volume of traffic moves at a much higher rate of speed. Yet that stretch of road, a divided highway, has the lowest accident rate of any road in Western Oregon. This experience proves that speed is not the principal factor in accidents.

But around Salem, and here in Douglas County, where the motorist is constantly switching from four-lane to two-lane roads, we are piling up a most deplorable accident toll.

It is my opinion that as soon as Highway 99 can be made a divided highway throughout its length, the rate of accidents will be greatly reduced.

I fear that the proposal by the Salem paper, making posted speeds legal speeds would cause a driver much trouble and expose him to frequent arrests because of the many speed changes that would be required and the fact that the driver would be so intent on looking for speed signs that he might fail to analyze the traffic stretching ahead of him.

Daily Bible Reading

Message
Roseburg Ministerial Association

[illegible] Matthew 5:1-[illegible]

In this portion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sets forth the spiritual principles which should be characteristic of each Christian. If one's character is composed of these principles, he is truly blessed, or happy as the new translations make it read. Happiness, as mentioned here by Christ, is not dependent upon circumstances surrounding a person but upon what a person is within. It is those who are poor in spirit, that mourn, are meek, hunger and thirst after righteousness, and possess the other characteristics mentioned, who are truly happy. Christ has not promised to give unto one the things which will make him happy, but he does create within one the condition which will enable him to find happiness everywhere.

Jesus continues with the Sermon on the Mount by telling his disciples they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt was used during the time of Christ largely for its preserving abilities. Christ is thus indicating to His followers that they are to be influential in preserving life on its highest spiritual and moral plane.

He also warns them that salt which has lost its potency has no value. Thus when those who are His followers lose the vitality of christianity, their influence for spiritual good is lost.

Christians are the light of the world and should be illuminating the pathway for all to follow. Christ points out to His disciples, and to us today, that if they are to show the way to a world in spiritual darkness, the light, which is their good works, must be brought out into the open for all to see.

Recently the statement was made that the church in America is enjoying its greatest prosperity and largest membership of all time, but its influence on American life is at an all-time low. If this is true, could it be that our lights have been [illegible]? Or is it because we have little in good works to show? Christians who possess the characteristics of happiness, it would seem, [illegible] have the preserving qualities needed to influence the world for good and should possess the qualities which produce good works for all to see.

Rev. Laurence Pine,
Pastor, Green Community Church

Reader Opinions

Roseburg's Christmas Parade Is Criticized

My, that was some Christmas parade Roseburg had!

I'll bet they're raving far and wide about it! You had to look quick or you'd miss it entirely.

There were about three floats, weren't there? Where were all the bands, beautiful floats, Christmas balloons and Christmas music and carols?

I can't understand why, when we can spend so much time, effort and money for a rodeo parade, we can't have a nicer Christmas parade. Doesn't Christmas mean anything to anyone anymore? I thought Christmas was supposed to be the biggest thing in a Christian's life. That's what we celebrate it for, isn't it?

I attended a big Christmas parade in Columbus, Ga., two years ago. The whole town participated to start off the Christmas season with this beautiful parade. Heading the parade was the traditional Santa Claus in his sleigh with reindeer. Most important, each church was represented with a float depicting the nativity scene or part of the Christmas story. They had beautifully colored flood lights shining down on them. The schools of the town participated with costumes, floats and bands. There were even Mardi Gras balloons representing children's classic fairyland stories.

Now this wasn't a big city. They were about the size of Eugene. They did spend a lot of time and effort to make their Christmas parade a success.

Just think how big one could make our parade for Christmas if all of the schools, churches, organizations and bands were represented and really worked at it!

I am thankful for the churches that did participate this year and that won the prize money. I'm sure they can use the money to good advantage. And I'm sure the merchants were thankful for the big turn-out to watch the parade this year.

Let's hope that next year we have something more to watch.

Mrs. Robert A. White
[illegible] N.W. Ellen St.
Roseburg, Ore.

Azalea Resident Glad To Get Library Books

It is a wonderful thing to have a place from which to get books. Roseburg is my home and I have been getting books from the library for more than 15 years.

Now I live in Azalea. I cannot go to Roseburg or other towns to get books, as my husband must use the car in connection with his job and only has a couple of hours off in daytime. I appreciate being able to get books from the bookmobile.

There are all kinds of books in the bookmobile — not just fiction and travel, as someone claimed. The bookmobile carries good reading for all ages. So I certainly think the tax money going to maintain the bookmobile is money well spent.

I know many families here at Azalea that would not have a chance to go to a library in town and would not have access to books were it not for the bookmobile. Let's keep the bookmobile. We need it.

Mrs. Ruth [illegible]
Box 17[illegible]
Azalea, Ore.

—Hal Boyle—

By BRIAN BELL
For HAL BOYLE

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — When the world-wide organization of Girl Watchers Inc. sets up formal operations its headquarters should be here.

True, the semi-honorable pastime whose devotees are legion is practiced with verve in other more publicized centers—Rome, Paris, New York. However, the Argentine male takes a back seat to no one in open, frank, unbridled admiration of the female face and form with the accent on the latter.

In New York when a pretty model in a tight fitting dress swings down Fifth Avenue carrying her hat box, she has admirers. Men glance covertly at her as she passes. Some even take second glances. However for the most part the looking is done shyly and slyly. In European lands the visual approach is more direct.

But in Argentina—

When a "chica" (slang for baby, the cuddly one of all ages) comes strolling down the street it is literally a traffic stopping occasion. The approaching Argentine starts looking at the limit of his vision. The usual spotting distance is 30 yards but a far-ranging young expert can foray as far afield as a city block.

When the feminine quarry is 25 feet away the Argentine starts the long look. It begins at the toes and sweeps slowly up to the head; then returns equally slowly with a last, penetrating, soulful glance into the lady's eyes.

Blissful Ignorance

To all this the senorita pretends blissful ignorance. Her gaze remains fixed about two inches above the heads of the gaping crowd.

The inspection doesn't stop as the girl passes. The Argentine slows his walk staring back over his shoulder for perhaps 20 paces. He then reluctantly swings his gaze forward to spot the next subject.

It is not unusual when an especially outstanding specimen goes by for the Argentine to stop dead in his tracks, do an about face and look until she is lost from sight. People are constantly bumping into each other. In fact an especially curvaceous delicacy can block walking traffic almost completely.

Something To Look At

The Argentine girl is something to look at.

It's too bad the stores can never fit them. There seem to be no large sizes. The "chicas" must always settle for a sweater two to three sizes too small. The skirts give their limbs no freedom at all. The usual unseen garments are often conspicuous by their absence.

Americans here have a field day. Once they forget stateside taboos, they really enjoy the scenery. No more pretending they aren't looking when they are. No more feelings of frustration at not getting a long enough look. Here they can—and do—stop, look and and look.

"That's probably why the Argentines don't get any more done than they do," an American remarked. "They spend all their time looking at the girls."

And would you work either if you could really look at the girls?

—Bruce Biossat—

This time last year the historic alliance between the United States and Great Britain was in the worst shape in decades. It seemed impossible that the breach over Suez could be closed for years.

But as the important NATO parley in Paris approaches, the old ties have been substantially restored.

Britain very likely has not forgotten past differences. Yet it has nevertheless put them aside in the interest of the larger cause of saving human freedom.

MUCH OF THE free world took fright when Russia launched its earth satellites. The United States, berated for boastful attitudes when it was ahead, was hammered with even greater vehemence for falling behind.

Britain, however, stood by us staunchly. To emphasize her steadfast support in our adversity, Prime Minister Macmillan came to Washington to meet with President Eisenhower. Out of their talks grew the plan for the high-level NATO talks at Paris.

American and Britain were able to get together, too, on an arms aid plan for Tunisia. Although that angered France, it further warmed Anglo-U.S. relations.

[illegible] as this country speaks of placing intermediate range ballistic missiles on foreign bases, only Britain has thus far indicated willingness to allow the defense measure. It will do so, of course, at heavy risk.

These and other manifestations of Britain backing have led key Americans to look with new favor on a nation that had begun to downgrade sharply after the Suez fiasco of 1956.

In the tense days since Sputniks I and II sailed aloft, we have had no firmer friend on this globe than Britain. That the ennobled alliance has been given new health is excellent news for all free men who would resist the endless encroachments of dictatorial Russian communism.

HO[illegible]

How dependent the West is upon a few leaders who serve as symbols of solidarity has been sharply dramatized, first by the illness of President Eisenhower and then by German Chancellor Adenauer's attack of influenza.

Historians never can quite assess, and perhaps never shall, the extent to which men or the forces that act upon them govern the course of history.

But none questions that the patterns of living are altered in important particulars as leaders are changed.

In this age of trouble, men's hopes for a better tomorrow tend to cluster around the human symbols of that promise. Thus, too, they personalize their difficulties by looking for scapegoats.

When their human symbols serve them well, men do not like to part with them. There is always the fear that he who comes after may not fill the role. The known, with all its flaws, is accepted with far greater confidence than the unknown.

That is why millions in the free world pray for the restoration to full health of Mr. Eisenhower and Chancellor Adenauer, two of their greatest symbols of hope for the maintenance of freedom, the preservation of peace and the attainment of justice on this earth.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page 1)

Russian targets and back to the American base from which they took off.

Thus they are important to us for OUR OWN defense.

But—

Keep this clearly in mind:

While we are defending ourselves from these foreign bases WE ARE ALSO DEFENDING OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN EUROPE AGAINST ATTACK BY THE KREMLIN COMMUNISTS.

That includes the French, who are talking about whether or not they will PERMIT us to build bases on French soil.

So much for the present.

Let's take a look now at the future.

We presently need foreign bases from which to launch bombers at Russian targets.

The time is near when we will need foreign bases from which to launch intermediate range missiles at Russian targets.

But—

The time is not far off when we will have INTERCONTINENTAL RANGE missiles that can be launched at Russian targets from our own soil—thus eliminating our need for American bases or foreign soil.

Speed the day!

Personally, as one American citizen, I'm getting tired of PAYING FOR THE PRIVILEGE of defending everybody in the world against Russian communism.

TAX LEAGUE MEETING

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — An organizational meeting will be held in Salem Saturday by the Oregon Non-Partisan Tax League.

Representatives from nine or ten counties are expected to attend.

CHRISTMAS RUSH

PORTLAND (AP) — The Christmas rush began for the Portland police department Wednesday.

They were trying to find the thief who stole 150 Christmas trees from a lot here.

WIDE AREA BURNED

COOS BAY (AP) — The Coos Fire District Wednesday said fires raced over 4,564 acres of its area in the past year, the highest number since 5,372 acres burned in 1952.

Oregon Winter Livestock Ranges Are In Good Shape

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon's winter livestock ranges are the best since 1953 as a result of good growing conditions and adequate moisture, the state Crop and Livestock Reporting Service said Thursday.

Hay and feed grains are plentiful at prices below last year's, the service said.

Cattle and sheep are in good condition.

American State To Investigate Murphy's Case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Porter (D-Ore) said Wednesday the Organization of American States will be asked to inquire into the year-old disappearance of an Oregon flier in the Dominican Republic.

The congressman said the decision was one of several reached at a recent meeting of persons interested in solving the 1955 disappearance of Gerry Murphy of Eugene.

The basis of the request, Porter said, will be that Murphy's disappearance is "an unresolved controversy between the United States and the Dominican Republic in view of the official explanation by the Dominican Republic Government of Gerry Murphy's death and the official rejection by the United States Government."

Dominican authorities have said Murphy was slain by a fellow employe of the Dominican Airlines and that the employe later committed suicide.

Porter said recommendations reached at the meeting were withheld from announcement earlier to avoid exerting any possible influence on a jury hearing charges here against John Frank that he had represented the Dominican Republic in this country without registering his employment. Frank was convicted earlier this week.

In addition to seeking consideration of the Murphy case by OAS, Porter said, participants at the meeting decided also to ask the State and Justice departments to release any information not now needed in connection with the Frank trial and to ask that the Justice Department agree to Dominican Republic terms for the questioning of General Arturo Espaillat in the Dominican Republic.

[illegible]

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota Motor Sales Co. of Tokyo has been granted a U.S. license to open an outlet in California, a company official said Thursday.

[illegible]

LONDON (AP) — The Aga Khan who will be 21 Friday, was received by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace Thursday.

United States Trip To Moon Scientists' Goal

NEW YORK (AP) — A United States expedition to the moon is one of the objectives of an all-out national effort to pioneer in outer space proposed by 27 of the nation's top scientists in rocket and satellite research.

The scientists said human progress and national welfare made it imperative the United States carry out scientific exploration and eventual habitation of outer space.

They said the present state of rocket technology will inevitably lead to attempts to explore outer space by manned expeditions. They asked for an expenditure of 10 billion dollars over the next 10 years for the program.

The scientists, known as the Rocket and Satellite Research Panel, suggested the creation of a governmental body to be called "the National Space Establishment."

The proposal already has been discussed by Dr. James R. Killian Jr., special assistant on science and technology to President Eisenhower, one scientist indicated.

Scientists on the panel include Dr. Wernher von Braun, former German rocket expert, now director of development operations for the Army ballistic missile agency, Huntsville, Ala.; Dr. Joseph Kaplan, chairman of the U.S. committee for the International Geophysical Year, and Dr. William H. Pickering, director of the jet propulsion laboratory of California Institute of Technology.

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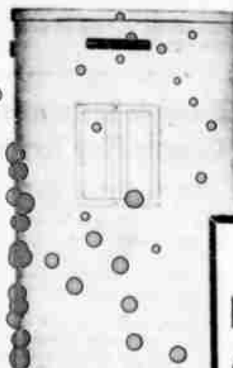

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