

Recent Wisconsin Law Is Proving Auto Seat Belts Can Save Lives

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A woman drove the family car along a city street, it veered slightly, a wheel struck the curb and a door swung open. She bounced helplessly to the concrete. Cause of death: fractured skull.

On a country road, a Wisconsin traffic patrol squad car shrieked after a fugitive at speeds close to 100 miles an hour. Another car blundered out of a side road, the patrol car slanted off the road, struck a utility pole, spun through a field and back onto the highway, upside down and a total wreck.

But the patrolman inside crawled out, finished his tour of duty in another car.

Those are two moments when life and death were very close together. Only a seat belt separated them. The woman had none, and died. The officer was belted in and lived.

That summarizes the record of the past six months, since Wisconsin became the first of the 50 states to require seat belts in new automobiles.

"I am proud to have signed the bill into law," Gov. Gaylord Nelson says simply. "It can save many hundreds of lives in the coming years and prevent thousands of serious injuries."

Since the act requires belt installation only in new cars, it has given authorities an effective—if grim—field test of the safety factor worked out previously in limited surveys.

The state has 1,338,876 passenger cars registered. Some 70,000 1962 models have been sold since the law went into effect last October. During the six months ended April 1, 376 persons have died in Wisconsin traffic accidents.

But with five per cent of the state's passenger automobiles equipped with seat belts, only one of the 376 accident victims during the period, according to State Motor Vehicle Department files, was wearing a seat belt.

Record Not Complete

The record is not complete enough to draw any extravagant conclusions. The accident report form still in use by state, county and local traffic officers does not provide space for reporting whether a car is equipped with belts and whether they were in use.

But after passage of the law, various newspaper and radio groups—including the Wisconsin Associated Press Radio-TV Association and the Wisconsin Associated Press Association, an organization of AP-member newspaper editors—undertook a campaign to include such information in news stories of fatal accidents.

The motor vehicle department was flooded, in the first days of the law, with complaints from new car customers. Hardly any passenger cars were equipped with the safety belts before last October, and few dealers had any experience with installations. Prices ranged up to \$40 for the required pairs of belts in the front seat.

Prices Dropping

But the combination of competition and increasing demands have changed that. Most belts still are dealer-installed but the going price for utility belts of approved style now probably is under \$20 for two pairs. Garages and filling station operators are doing an increasing business with owners of older cars at still lower prices, and a metropolitan supermarket chain recently procured a rush of business by offering seat belts at \$4.95 a pair—including installation—as a premium with big grocery orders.

There even is a beginning demand for the shoulder harness type of safety webbing usually worn by race car drivers.



EFFORTS to end the 3-week-old West Coast maritime strike were renewed today by a three-man team of federal officials. The strike has caused Gov. William F. Quinn of Hawaii to declare a state of emergency in the islands. Quinn proclaimed the state of emergency because there was less than a 2-week supply of more than 20 commodities including rice, butter, flour, frozen meats and other grocery items on hand. This aerial view of San Francisco's pier 50 shows seven American President Lines' passenger and cargo liners idled at dockside by strike. (UPI Telephoto)

Supper Is Planned By Eltkon Seniors

By MRS. C. W. HENDERER

Eltkon High School seniors will hold a spaghetti supper Friday at the high school cafeteria to help raise funds for their class trip to Seattle and the World's Fair.

Lions Aid Students

Net profit from the recent Lions Club waffle supper was \$150.24. Individual donations of \$28 added to the total which was credited to the Lions Club Boys and Girls Activity Fund from which funds were advanced to assist students to attend the basketball tournament in Baker.

Lodge Visited

Mrs. Don Harbaugh, Mrs. John McNeil, Mrs. Gene Sneed and Mrs. Hector McInnis all visited the Cottage Grove Rebekah Lodge last week when the state president paid her official visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Weatherly and family of Eugene were weekend guests at the parental Floyd Weatherly home.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beckley and family spent last weekend in Brookings at the home of their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Beckley.

Mr. and Mrs. Hector McInnis spent last weekend in Corvallis at home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Kidder.

Glide School Budget Hearing Scheduled

The hearing on the Glide School District budget for 1962-63 is scheduled at the high school multipurpose room at 8 p.m. April 16, reports correspondent Mrs. Arthur Selby.

The budget calls for total estimated expenditures of \$889,899. The amount outside the 6 per cent limitation, on which a vote will be necessary is \$388,597. Total estimated tax levy is \$426,064, a decrease of \$37,363 from this year's budget.

A second item on which a vote will be taken on the May 7 election day is a two-year special levy of \$106,000 per year for construction of a new elementary school.

The election will take place May 7 from 2 to 8 p.m. in the Glide High School, Deer Creek Elementary School, and Tokete Elementary multipurpose rooms.

Supt. Donald Fluke reports the passage of both budget and serial levy will mean only a small increase in property taxes.

Schools Committee Sets April 16 Meet

The Douglas County Reorganization Committee will meet with the school boards of Umpqua, Oakland and Sutherlin April 16 in the conference room of the County Agent's office of the Courthouse.

Kenneth Barneburg, county superintendent of schools, said the meeting is being called to determine what course of action might be taken to better coordinate curricula in the districts.

The committee will meet with the Umpqua School Board at 7 p.m., the Oakland School Board at 7:30 p.m., the Sutherlin School Board at 8 p.m. and the combined boards at 8:30 p.m.

In an election on reorganization of the three districts into one district, the proposition was passed by Sutherlin voters but rejected by Oakland and Umpqua votes.

Dyson To Speak At Friday Dinner

Ralph Dyson will be the featured speaker at a banquet Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Sutherlin High School.

The PTSA will sponsor the banquet which will honor the school's athletic association, especially the basketball and wrestling teams.

After introduction of the athletes, Dyson, former Athletic director of the school, will comment on the desirability of a suitable fitness program. Dyson is currently consultant to the state of Oregon in its physical education and health program.

Ham will be served, but for those observing the Lenten season, a special dish will be offered. The public is invited.

Net proceeds from the banquet will go to the PTSA scholarship fund, now amounting to more than \$300.

Seattle May Revoke Licenses For Apartment House Owners

SEATTLE (AP) — The city plans to revoke the licenses which permitted the operators of 18 Seattle apartment houses to convert to hotel operations.

During a stormy public meeting attended by state officials, the City Council decided on the action Wednesday.

The meeting was called to discuss rents, skyrocketing in Seattle as the opening of the World's Fair approaches.

Mayor Gordon Clinton also agreed Wednesday to appoint a committee of city and state officials, renters, apartment house operators and others to consider other action to stop evictions and price gouging.

There have been many reports of persons evicted from apartments where they rented by the month so the rooms could be rented at high prices by the day.

Last September, the city passed an ordinance authorizing licenses to transform apartments to hotels. The measure gave apartment operators the right to convert without regard to building and zoning codes.

DIXONVILLE DINNER SET

Boy Scouts and cubs of Troop 45, Dixonville, will hold their annual chili feed Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at the Deer Creek School. Chicken and noodles will also be on the menu.

Evictions began, and a storm of protest arose. Early this year the council repealed the ordinance and asked the holders of 21 conversion licenses to return them. Only three were returned.

Mrs. Margaret Gaskill, an attorney representing the newly formed Seattle Renters Association, pleaded in Wednesday's meeting for a rent control law. She said she had a list of 139 apartments where 8,100 Seattle residents have been evicted to make room for visitors during the fair.

The meeting also was marked by an argument between State Atty. Gen. John O'Connell and A. C. van Soelen, city corporation counsel.

Van Soelen, who contended that the city cannot pass rent control measures without enabling legislation from the legislature, said only one city in the United States, New York City, has enacted rent controls.

Designers Defend Mrs. Kennedy Against Fashion Forum Critics

NEW YORK (AP)—Her official couturier, Oleg Cassini, said today the unfavorable criticism that Jacqueline Kennedy received at the Fashion Forum in Philadelphia was in "appalling bad taste."

Other topnotch designers in the garment district here also rushed to the defense of the First Lady, who twice has been on the world's best dressed lists.

Designer John Moore touched off the controversy as a panelist on the subject of "what is a well dressed woman?" when he declared, among other things, that Mrs. Kennedy's clothes appeared twisted and ill-fitted, and that her skirts were too short. He said that her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, was much more elegant.

"Actually, the people involved should not be dignified by a statement," replied the irate Cassini. He said he had been sickened by the whole incident. "The appalling bad taste involved only showed bad manners, which are

truly a discredit to the industry. I don't wish to comment further," he said.

John Vasdekis, executive vice president of the Cassini organization, also took exception, saying: "Ill-fitting dresses for Mrs. Kennedy are completely out of the question. She has many, many fittings. Every dress we make fits her like a glove. This is a girl who has a very beautiful figure. She would look marvelous in any dress out of a stockroom, but her clothes are made especially for her."

"As for her skirts being short this is her own damned business. With people going to the moon and with atom bombs to worry about, I don't see why her hem lengths are so important. "Elegance is a personal matter. Just because a woman is wife of a king or a president... well, she's still a human being. And she still has the right to please herself."

Bill Blass, designer for Maurice

Rentner, defended Moore's right to criticize, but didn't agree with his views.

"I think both the ladies (Mrs. Kennedy and Princess Radziwill) are extraordinarily well dressed," he said.

Jacques Tiffau, French-born designer with the Monte-Sano dress house, said, "Well, in a way I agree. But what can you say? Who is perfect? Her skirts are a bit too short. Oh, how I would love to dress her. How beautiful I would make her. She is typical of the young generation, so... what is the word... casual?"

"I don't permit myself to judge anyone I don't know," Pauline Trieger said of Mrs. Kennedy. "There may be truth to what he (Moore) says. I've seen her pictures, but you can't judge that way."

Mamie Eisenhower's favorite designer, Mollie Parnis, had nothing but praise for the lady who has taken over the White House closet.

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