

Speeding Motorists Turn 2-Day Holiday Into Highway Horror

United Press International

Speeding, careless motorists turned a carefree weekend into the blackest two-day Memorial Day holiday in history. Slaughter on the nation's highways mounted far above the previous record of 251 persons killed in a 54-hour Memorial Day holiday in 1953.

The death toll also climbed far over the National Safety Council's pre-holiday estimate that 260 would die in traffic tangles.

A United Press International count at 9:30 a.m. (p.d.t.) showed at least 300 killed in highway accidents. An additional 101 drowned and 63 others died in miscellaneous accidents for an over all total of 464.

California recorded the heaviest toll on the highways with 27 dead. Ohio counted 22 killed, New York 20, and Tennessee 14.

The National Safety Council blamed the record slaughter on "extremely heavy travel and a rash of multiple death accidents."

The council, which had hoped one of the most intensive police crackdowns in history would hold down the toll, called the figures "tragic and shocking."

Almost six persons were killed in traffic every hour on the average during the holiday period from 6 p.m. Friday to midnight Sunday.

"There's a whole upward trend in highway deaths that's been going on since the first of the year," the council said. "For some reason the toll just started going up again."

Last year, during a three-day Memorial Day week end, United Press International counted 243 deaths in traffic.

5 Death-Free States
Only five states and the District of Columbia escaped death on the highways this holiday. The states were Delaware, Idaho, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington.

Indiana's holiday toll was boosted by two high fatality traffic crashes. A young mother and four of her children were killed at Crown Point, Ind., Sunday when their car was struck by a Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train at a crossing obscured by high weeds.

Near New Bedford, Ind., three men were killed when their car traveling at high speed skidded into the path of an oncoming car. Four persons were killed and three others injured in a two-car head-on collision at Northampton, N.Y.

However, the record traffic toll could not be blamed on an increase in multiple fatality crashes. In most cases, the count mounted by ones and twos—there were just more accidents.



EOC COEDS REIGN OVER EVENSONG

Josie Ward (center), Forest Grove, was named Eastern Oregon College Queen of Knowledge and will reign over traditional Evensong ceremonies June 8. Members of the Evensong Court include (left) Betty Roudebush, La Grande; Kay Beeson, Enterprise; Linda Woodhouse,

Baker; Queen Josie; Jeanie Edmison, Bend; Janis Robertson, Forest Grove; and Patsy Carpenter, La Grande. Miss Roudebush is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Roudebush, and Mrs. Carpenter is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Evans, La Grande. (EOC Photo)



NEIL ANDERSEN
New Sports Editor

Neil Andersen New Observer Sports Editor

The La Grande Observer today announced the appointment of Neil Andersen, 1959 University of Oregon graduate, as sports editor. He will take over the Observer's sports page June 15.

Anderson replaces Buck Buchanan, who is joining the staff of the DeKalb, Ill., Chronicle this month. Buchanan had been with the Observer since April, 1957.

The new editor attended Roosevelt high school and Lewis and Clark college in Portland where he participated in both track and football. He will receive a bachelor's degree with a major in journalism from the university in commencement exercises Sunday, June 14.

Anderson will bring his wife, May Lou, and daughter Karen to La Grande with him.

Chlorine Gas Leak Injures 53 Persons

EUGENE, Ore. (UPI)—Fifty-three persons, most of them children, were hospitalized Sunday when a tank of chlorine gas sprung a leak at a crowded resort swimming pool.

All but 15 were treated and released. Hospital attendants said none of those who remained in the hospital was in serious condition.

The resort, McCredie Springs, is about 54 miles east of here. It includes cabins and the pool, which is fed by mineral springs.

Police said the leak developed in a connection on the tank which feeds chlorine into the swimming pool. The connection broke when an attendant attempted to tighten it.

Chlorine sprayed across the pool and fumes were carried by the wind into adjoining bath houses.

State Police Officer Harold Taylor, off duty at the time, was able to turn off a valve at the top of the tank, stopping the flow of gas.

Four ambulances and a fleet of private cars brought the 53 to the hospital. Attendants said none of those affected was knocked out by the gas.

Taylor said he was at the resort office when the manager, Bernie Anderson, burst into the room and told him quickly what happened. The officer ran to the pool about 200 yards away.

"There was a blue-green haze covering the whole area," he said. Taylor checked the bath house, found everyone had fled, and then found a wrench and shut off the valve.

Taylor was one of those hospitalized, as was Anderson. Most of the victims were Oakridge residents.

WEATHER

Fair through Tuesday; high both days 82-88; low tonight 40-45.

Farm Bureau Supports Sales Tax Enactment

The Union County Farm Bureau has gone on record supporting the enactment of a state sales tax and the deferment of property tax payments by property owners until the tax base is broadened by the state legislature.

In adopting this stand the county organization accepted a resolution suggested by the North Powder Farm Bureau center.

Bill Trindle, chairman of the group requesting the adoption of the resolution, last night told the group the action was being taken "to bring out the fact that people voting for services and high education expenses do not have to face the payment as do real property taxpayers."

Ed McCanse, who spearheaded the resolution through the North Powder Farm Bureau, last night said he feels that a sales tax would be a more "equitable tax."

He said, "if you have the money and spend it you would automatically pay your share of taxes."

Farm Bureau members attending the meeting apparently agreed that broad income tax would be a more fair method of revenue "than taxing persons for buying property."

Farm Bureau officials said three insurance companies have been contacted and expressed cooperation "in going along with deferment of payment" of property taxes. Farmers with mortgages would have to consider the effect on their loans, Farm Bureau officials said.

M. Gale Beals of the Mt. Emily Lumber Company in La Grande told the group that his company is "in complete sympathy" with the action taken by the organization. Beals said his company believes that "the sales tax in Washington is a more equitable method than Oregon's property tax."

C. T. Milles, Federal Land Bank manager for this area, said "The Federal Land Bank recognized long ago the Oregon property tax base was way out of sight and has gone from bad to worse."

Sharon Lynne Hodgins Earns EOC Scholarship

Sharon Lynne Hodgins name was inadvertently omitted from the list of students receiving scholarships to Eastern Oregon College.

Miss Hodgins received a full year's tuition paid scholarship from the State System of Higher Education. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Hodgins of La Grande.

Dale S. Bartmess Earns Scholarship

Dale S. Bartmess of Lostine will be one of 51 high school seniors who will attend Portland State College next year on state scholarships amounting to \$618 each. The scholarships cover tuition and laboratory and course fees only, or \$56 per term.

Swimming Pool Opens In La Grande Today

It must be approaching summer in La Grande. The city swimming pool opened at 1 p.m. today and will be open daily from 1 to 5 p.m. including Saturday and Sunday, City Manager Fred Young reported.

Larry Seachrist manages the pool. He was assistant manager last year.

Young said the pool will be held open later in the evenings when "public pressure" warrants that move.

Reds Couldn't Stand It

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A congressional committee has charged Red China with "horrible atrocities," including the torture of Christians who refused communism.

The Communists murdered 30 million people behind the Bamboo Curtain during the past 10 years, according to previously secret testimony made public Sunday.

The witnesses, five Christian missionaries who fled from the Reds, detailed to the House Committee on Un-American Activities alleged atrocities rivaling those of the Nazis.

The Rev. Tsai-Tsai Liu, now pastor of a Baptist church in Taipei, Formosa, said Chinese Christians are sent to "self-confessing" classes to be "re-educated" by the Communists.

If the classes are not successful, he said, "physical force is used."

"They stop the noses of the people and pour water into their mouths," Liu said. "Every time the person breathes, he swallows water."

Another witness, the Rev. Samuel W. S. Cheng, now a church mission leader on Formosa, said "at best" the Communists preach "modernism" in Christianity.

"They take away the divinity of Christ and point out he was a good carpenter, a good example for the working people to follow," he said.

"At the worst," he said, "they substitute Lenin the Father, Stalin the Son and Mao Tse-Tung the Holy Ghost" for the Christian trinity.

Cheng said the sister-in-law of a member of the Chinese Nationalist House of Representatives was tied to five horses by the Reds.

"One horse was tied to her neck," he said, "and the other horses were tied to her arms and legs and they went in all directions."

"The biggest horse ran and it just tore her body into pieces. The blood streamed all over the public square and the people shut their eyes and cried. They could not stand to see it."

The testimony painted a grim picture of life in the communes, where family units are completely broken up, separating wives, husbands and children.

The missionaries told the committee the Chinese people are resisting the commune system by destroying livestock, burning crops and fighting from the mountains as guerrillas.

Library Trustee Dr. Lee C. Johnson, Professor of History at Eastern Oregon College Has Been Appointed to the Oregon State Library Board of Trustees.



Gov. Mark O. Hatfield announced the appointment.

Two Circuit Court Cases Are Concluded

Two Circuit Court cases were concluded here Friday, resulting in directed verdict in one case and Judge W. F. Brownson still trying to unravel legal problems in the second case.

In a case brought by John R. Knowles against Wayne Coleman involving the April 1, 1957 purchase of a tractor by Knowles which was repossessed by Coleman, Judge Brownson directed the 12-member jury to bring back a verdict by Knowles. The amount of the judgement set by the jury was \$6,456. The judge ruled down the bench that the conversion of the equipment by Coleman was without legal foundation and Brownson then instructed the jury to set the amount of damages to be rewarded Knowles.

Judge Brownson is studying legal arguments before rendering a decision in a case involving the determination of a property line. Mae Watson initiated the case against William Jeffers involving the exact location of a property line between the Watson and Jeffers property on the Island City highway.

Mrs. Watson, now of Portland and a former La Grande resident, built a garage on what she believed was her property, but on land which Jeffers planned a house trailer lot. The case was heard by Brownson without a jury.

Members of the tractor case included George Challis, foreman; Vernon Cockrell, Ray P. Barnhart, Russell Hug, W. Cameron Miller, Lawrence R. White, Juaneta Campbell, Melvin F. Schmore, George L. Carnes, Dale L. Carlson, C. H. Tuttle and Albert Brazille.

OFFER DAM PAYMENT

CAIRO (UPI)—United Arab Republic officials said today East Germany had offered to participate in the second construction stage of the Aswan high dam. The officials refused to elaborate on the offer. The Soviet Union has agreed to construct the first stage of the project.

Billy Addresses Crowd Of 65,000

SYDNEY, Australia (UPI)—Evangelist Billy Graham addressed a crowd of 65,000 Sunday at Brisbane's Exhibition Ground. It was the largest religious assembly in Queensland's history.

After the meeting 2,500 persons stepped forward to make "decisions for Christ."

It was Graham's final meeting in Australia before leaving for Zurich, Switzerland, where he will rejoin his wife.

Graham estimated 3,250,000 persons attended his crusade in Australia and New Zealand with 140,000 making decisions.

Local Police Matron Retires From Force

Mrs. Betty Alexander, city police matron for the past three years, has retired from the police force to stay at home and take care of her family.

Mrs. Alexander, a former circuit court reporter here, resigned "with regret" and the resignation was accepted Friday by Chief O. E. Reeve, also with "considerable regret." Mrs. Alexander has been replaced in the police office by Mrs. Barbara Crook.

British Prestige Shaken By Report As Talks Reopen

TIMES SAYS LLOYD IS TO BE REPLACED

GENEVA (UPI)—The western Big Three opened a new week of secret talks with Russia today, staggered by London reports that British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd soon may be replaced.

The report, published by the authoritative Times of London, shook British prestige at the Foreign Ministers' Conference table and raised fears of new Soviet moves to split the West. It came at a time when a break appeared possible over the East-West stalemate over Berlin.

Officials here and in London denied the Times dispatch. But the newspaper's reputation as a highly respected and generally well-informed publication with solid pipelines into the government gave the report great import here.

As one diplomat put it, it was sufficient to "yank the rug" out from under Lloyd.

Some observers feared Russia's Andrei Gromyko would react by toughening still further the already tough Communist line here to see if the Times report indicated a major shift of British policy.

Lloyd himself met with Secretary of State Christian Herter, French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville and West German "advisers" William Grewe for an hour this morning to discuss conference strategy.

French circles said, however, that the Times of London report was not discussed at the ministerial level during this previously scheduled western consultation.

Then they drove to Gromyko's villa for the first session of their four week here—a secret meeting aimed at working out an arrangement on Berlin that would preserve the status quo there and permit a summit meeting.

Despite Western optimism there seemed little common ground for a German settlement or even a Berlin arrangement that would permit the United States, Britain and France to remain in West Berlin.

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev gave no reason for optimism when he said in a speech Saturday night in Tirana, Albania, the Western plans were totally unacceptable.

"We have no reasons to make any concessions since our proposals were not made for bargaining," Khrushchev said. The Western plan "does not contain a single element for negotiation."

The Allies' only hope was that this was one of Khrushchev's propaganda statements which was not to be taken at face value but made to strengthen Russia's position at the Geneva talks.

Partly as a result of this, the Western Allies were consulting among themselves about just how much progress was necessary to justify summit talks. They were divided on this.

President Eisenhower has said he would not attend a summit meeting with Khrushchev unless substantial progress was made at Geneva. British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan wants summit talks regardless of Geneva.

Quilt May Belong To Missing Family

PORTLAND (UPI)—A water-soaked quilt which may belong to the missing Ken Martin family of Portland was found Sunday in the Columbia river near Bradford Island, just below Bonneville Dam on the Washington shore.

Deputy John Brown said it was to be shown to relatives of the Martin family today to determine if it came from the station wagon driven by Ken Martin when the family vanished last Dec. 7.

Search For Pair Is Called Off By Coast Guard

NEWPORT (UPI)—An extensive Coast Guard search for two brothers missing in the surf three miles south of the south jetty of Yaquina Bay was called off late Sunday. Missing are John Clark, 47, and Kenny Clark, 50, of Albany.

A Coast Guard cutter and a 40-foot patrol boat, along with a beach patrol, searched from Saturday afternoon when the men were reported missing, until late Sunday with negative results.

The brothers were fishing with two companions, Harris Poore and Frank Nightengale, also of Albany, off the surf in a 15-foot outboard skiff. Poore and Nightengale left the boat about Saturday and the Clark brothers went back to sea.

Late Saturday afternoon, their damaged and capsized boat was sighted by a Yaquina Bay resident who reported it to the Coast Guard.

Thrills and Spills

Carol Perry is about to be thrown off a disagreeable calf during contests at the Maverick's playday Sunday.

Carol was one of several La Grande youngsters who took part in the afternoon events. She took a hard fall but came up smiling. The calf? He was perfectly satisfied with his work.

(Observer Photo)



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(Observer Photo)