

# Traffic Deaths Mount

## Toll Skyrockets To Highest July Mark in History

CHICAGO (AP)—Traffic deaths skyrocketed last month to the highest total for any July in 18 years. The July death toll reported by the National Safety Council Tuesday was 3,340 — up 11 per cent from July of last year.

Traffic deaths during the first seven months of 1955 totalled 19,840, a 4 per cent increase over the first seven months of 1954.

Ned H. Dearborn, president of the Safety Council, commented: "The steady increase in traffic deaths this year is a timely warning for the Labor Day weekend just ahead."

While traffic deaths increased, the number of miles American motorists traveled this year increased by a greater percentage. Travel figures were available only for the first six months of the year. These showed deaths up 2 per cent, while mileage increased 7 per cent over 1954. The mileage death rate — deaths per 100 million vehicle miles — of 5.7 was the lowest on record for the first half of a year.

For the first seven months of 1955, the leading cities in each population group, ranked according to the fewest number of deaths per 10,000 registered vehicles, were:

Over 1 million population — Detroit, Mich., 3.0; Philadelphia, 3.5; 750,000-1 million — St. Louis, 2.4; 500,000-750,000 — Seattle, 1.0; Dallas, 1.8; Minneapolis 1.9; 350,000-500,000 — Denver, 1.8

# Fine Tries To Forget Una Schmidt

PETALUMA, Calif. (AP)—Plagued by memories, young Alford Fine emerged from seclusion Tuesday and told of his marriage to Una Schmidt, who has returned to her first husband.

Husband No. 1 is Airman Danny Schmidt, a B29 gunner shot down in the Korean War, held prisoner for months, and then released. "I still love Una," said Fine as he sat on the steps of his lonely trailer here.

He said he didn't want anyone to feel sorry for him.

"Nothing But Happiness" "I wish them nothing but happiness," he said earnestly. "And that goes for all three—for Una, for Danny and for Danny Jr., who calls me 'Daddy.'"

At Portland, Ore., Mrs. Schmidt said she appreciates Fine's attitude toward her, and added that her return to Schmidt was "the only and right thing" to do.

"I appreciate Mr. Fine's attitude," she said. "He said it was my decision (to decide between the two men) and would be up to me to make it. I also know that there will be no bitterness on either side."

The two men and the woman all are young—Schmidt is 22; Fine 21 and Una 20.

Packing to Leave The Schmidts were packing to leave for a visit with friends in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with college ahead for Schmidt.

Fine told reporters he did not know what he would do. "I'm not bitter about anything. . . I just want to get away from all this and forget it," he said.

Then he related some of the details of his marriage to Una. He said that before they were married they wondered whether Schmidt was alive.

This was in September 1954, Fine said, and the Air Force told them Schmidt would be declared legally dead in January 1955.

No Chances "We went to an attorney," Fine said, "and he advised us not to take a chance."

But he said they traveled to Mexico and got married, "confidently hoping we were doing the right thing."

"I've just got to keep trying to forget her," he said with a trace of bitterness. "I can't seem to get my mind on anything else."

# Washington State Hospital Unit Ready

OLYMPIA (AP)—The new maximum security building at Eastern State Hospital may be ready for occupancy in about two weeks, the state director of institutions announced Tuesday.

Dr. Thomas A. Harris said he expected to move 17 ringleaders of the July penitentiary riot into the facility shortly thereafter.

The building was supposed to have been completed several weeks ago but a last minute inspection showed several weaknesses in the security provisions.

After the prison revolt 18 ringleaders were held in Yakima County jail until they could be transferred to the mental hospital.

Fifteen of them were sent back to the prison when the security weaknesses were discovered. The other three were taken to the state reformatory at Monroe.

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