

Rural Traffic Deaths Decline

Detail accident reports for 1948 reveal the percentage of Oregon traffic deaths occurring on rural roads and highways has decreased for the first time in five years.

The secretary of state's office reports that urban area deaths increased from 92 in 1947 to 102 in 1948, while the rural toll was declining from 347 to 313. All of the 1948 saving of life is thus credited to rural traffic.

The secretary's office pointed out that the opposite was true a year ago when nearly all of the decrease in deaths from 1946 to 1947 was credited to cities and towns. Any improvement in the rural death toll takes on added importance because it represents three-fourths of all traffic fatalities, he said.

Most lethal type of accident on the open highway was collision between vehicles, which brought death to 113. Running off the road was close behind with 81 deaths, and pedestrians killed in rural areas accounted for 46. In cities and towns, pedestrian accidents led in deaths with 50. Collisions between vehicles resulted in 30 urban deaths.

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Reds Bar News Out of Peiping

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — The State Department is studying the action of Chinese Communists in barring all foreign correspondents from gatherings and transmitting news from Communist-occupied Peiping.

This was revealed by State Department Press Officer Michael J. McDermott who said the ban also extended to the United States information service news file in Peiping. This activity, he said, has been discontinued pending possible later modification of the Chinese position.

Oliver Edmund Clubb, American consul general in Peiping, informed the State Department he had received a mimeographed communication signed by both the director and vice director of the Peiping Military Affairs control commission ordering the news blackout.

Clubb said he understood the same official notification went to the 12 foreign correspondents assigned to Peiping.

Japanese Red Refuses Action

TOKYO — (U.P.) — Japan's top Communist Tuesday refused to follow the lead of Communist leaders Maurice Thorez (France) and Palmiro Togliatti (Italy) in declaring their followers would aid the Russian Army if it entered their countries "in pursuit of an aggressor."

Kyuichi Tokuda said "war between the United States and the Soviet Union can not be considered possible" and for that reason "there is no reason to speculate" on the probable action of Japanese Communists.

Tokuda made his views public in an interview after the English-language Nippon Times quoted him that "our Communist Party will fight against whatever foreign nation invades our nation."

The plump, smiling boss of the Communists offered no explanation for his view that a Russian-America war was not possible. But he said "Japan is not menaced now by any Pacific power and will not be after withdrawal of the occupation forces."

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Judge Called To Red Trial

NEW YORK — (U.P.) — Senior Judge John C. Knox of the Southern District Federal Court was called Tuesday as a witness by 11 Communist leaders in their challenge of the jury selection system.

Knox, appointed to the federal bench more than 30 years ago by President Woodrow Wilson, was characterized by the Communists' attorney as the "father of the rich men's jury system" which they allege discriminates against negroes, women, Jews and workingmen.

The stern, outspoken judge was ordered to bring with him a copy of a speech he made on Jan. 22 at Allentown, Pa., in which he defended the jury system.

The Communists, charged with conspiracy to teach and advocate the overthrow of the U. S. government, challenged the constitutionality of the grand jury which indicted them when they were brought to trial six weeks ago.

Since then attorneys for the Communists have paraded witnesses before Federal Judge Harold R. Medina in an attempt to prove that the method of selecting jurors in the district is discriminatory against minority groups.

Medina, wearied of the Communists delaying tactics, ordered their attorneys to complete testimony on the challenge Tuesday, so that he can rule on their motion with no further delay. He has indicated he will rule against the Communists, calling for the main trial to begin next Monday with the selection of jurors.

Smoking as Cancer Cause Discussed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (U.P.) — A group of distinguished doctors discussed the effects of cigarette smoking as a possible cause of cancer in a smoke-filled room last week, the result was a stand-off.

Ernest L. Wynder, medical student at Washington University, St. Louis, submitted a preliminary report on 200 men proved lung cancer which indicated that smoking may have been one of its causes.

But Dr. Egon Lorenz of the National Cancer Institute reported that a year-long study he had made of trying to produce cancer in mice with cigarette smoke was entirely negative.

The reports were submitted at a panel discussion on lung cancer, one of 13 panels at which leading cancer scientists and specialists considered all phases of the malignant disease at a national cancer conference.

Wynder's findings were sponsored by Dr. Evaris Graham of Washington University and Dr. Herbert C. Maier of the Cornell University medical school.

Wynder reported that "95 1/2 per cent of the 200 men with lung cancer were heavy smokers, consuming a package of cigarettes or more a day."

He said that only one was a non-smoker. He said that all but three per cent inhaled, and that those who did not, consumed at least two packs a day.

Lobster Valley Bill Goes To Senate for Transfer

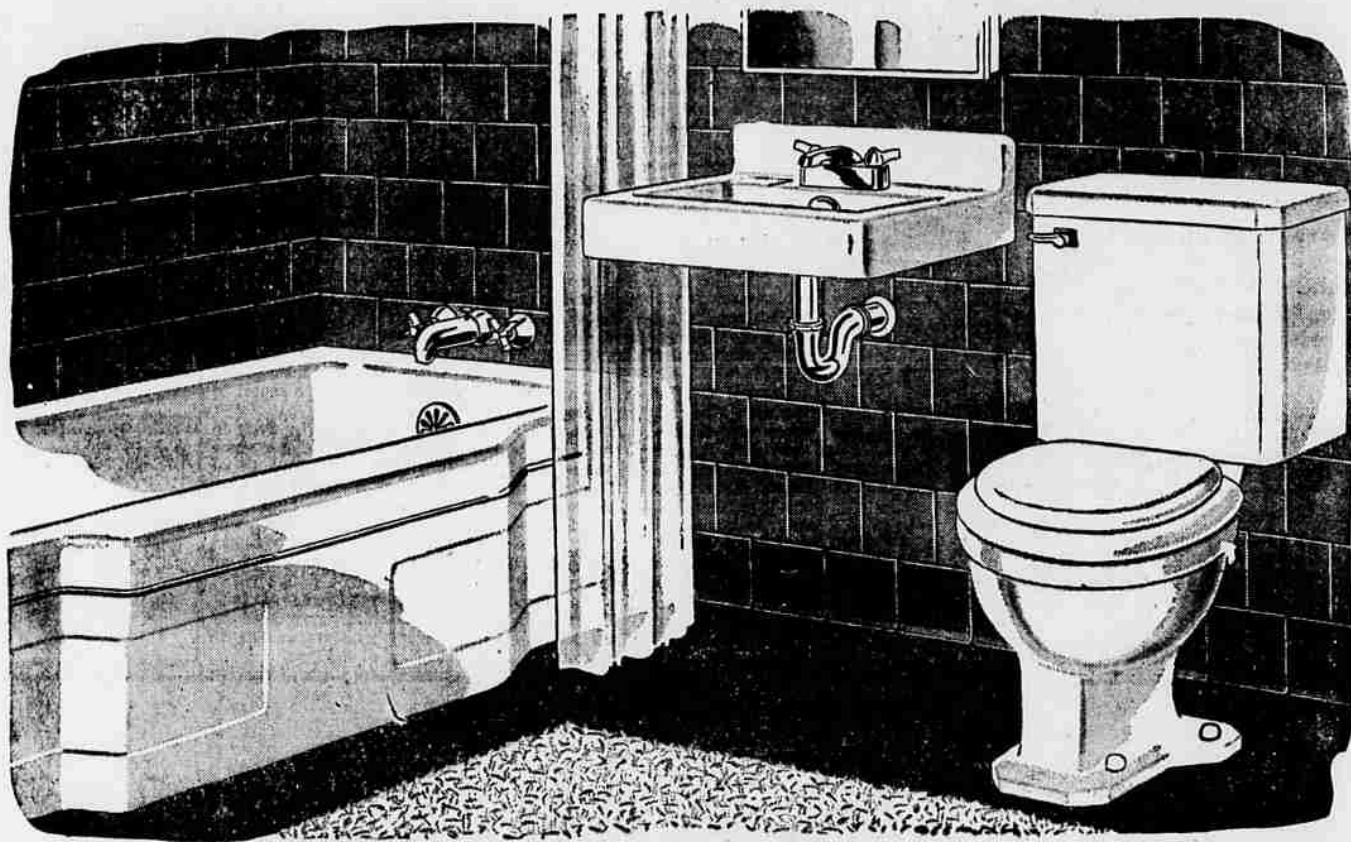
SALEM — (P) — Bills to transfer Lobster Valley to Benton County were introduced in the Senate Monday by Sen. Russell Gardner, Newport. Lobster Valley, which is southwest of Alsea, is in Lane and Lincoln Counties now.

Senator Gardner said the bills would improve the educational facilities of Lobster Valley high school students. "Under the present situation," he said, "these children must travel 65 miles each day to Waldport High School on the coast."

Montgomery Ward

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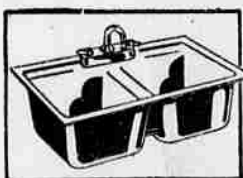
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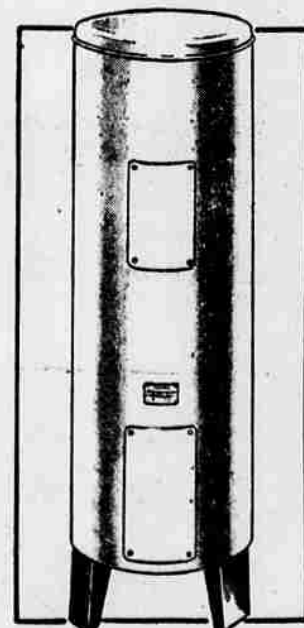


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