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SAFER AUTOMOBILES FOR FASTER TRAVEL

But the Drunken Driver Must Be Wholly Expunged From the Wheel.

Chicago.—"We may look forward to automobile travel that is faster and faster, and safer and safer," Paul Hoffman, vice-president of the Studebaker corporation, told the National Safety council at its annual congress here.

The problem of achieving safety on the highways, he declared, was not to be solved by slowing up cars, but by more sensible traffic regulation.

Mr. Hoffman was invited to address the safety congress. His attitude to speed, however, was radical from the council's point of view. Mr. Hoffman commented that "It took courage to link safety and speed on the same program."

"Higher speeds are here and here to stay," he said. "Since 1920 motor traffic has been accelerating at the rate of a mile an hour a year. The public is demanding faster and faster cars. If there is any change it is likely to be an increase in rate. And this is not unreasonable. I believe this demand for speed is basically an urge for better things. To keep up with this public demand, automobile manufacturers have had to make safe cars. They are now more than twice as safe mechanically and structurally as they were 15 years ago."

"In the field of traffic regulation, however, great progress remains to be made. The National Safety congress should direct its efforts to making motor laws as modern as our motorcars."

The reforms Mr. Hoffman urged were the abolishing of top speed limits, already done away with in five states, and careful policing of those sections of the highway where cautious driving is necessary, with rigid penalties for recklessness. The police should judge recklessness not on the basis of how fast a man is driving, but how fast he can stop, said Mr. Hoffman. He advocated licensing of drivers, holding that the revoking of a license for carelessness or inefficient driving constituted a good check.

Mr. Hoffman's views on speed were challenged by Dr. Louis Dublin of New York, chairman of the statistics section of the National Safety Council.

"I am unalterably opposed to the main thesis of Mr. Hoffman's treatise," he said. "There is no earthly reason for speed beyond 50 miles an hour."

Dr. Dublin reported that safety was increasing in all fields except that of automobile travel, which he declared was alone responsible for a rising accident rate. Dr. Dublin made an investigation of the condition of the drivers of private automobiles in a large number of casualties and found that by far the greatest proportion of them had been drinking. No small number were unfit to drive because of physical defects.

As a means of reducing trouble from these causes, Judge Hugh A. Locke of Birmingham, Ala., recommended disciplining drivers. He agreed with other speakers that the examination for a license does little to keep the drunken driver off the road, and does not detect the "road hog," who causes much difficulty to himself and others. But if the license were taken away from these unfit drivers after one offense, he argued, they would not continue undisciplined as at present.

Judge Locke was applauded when he said: "Licenses should be taken away from every driver who drinks."

Malicious Vandalism
 The Weston Leader reports that the Weston school house was broken into and ransacked Wednesday night of last week by vandals, but nothing was stolen. A \$12 stop watch and 75 cents in money in the office of Superintendent G. W. Brace were not taken. A downstairs window and the door of the superintendent's office were jimmied open. The vandals evidently came in a car. School was closed Thursday forenoon while Deputy Sheriff Vayne Gurdane and Chief of Police J. A. King investigated the malicious act.

Dr. McKinney in Athena
 Dr. W. H. McKinney, well known physician and surgeon of Weston will practice part time in Athena, and will be located here in Dr. S. F. Sharp's office. Dr. McKinney will be at his Athena office daily from 1 to 5 p. m., and at his Weston office from 8 a. m. to 12 noon. Dr. McKinney had already built up some practice in Athena, and finds it convenient to now divide his time between Weston and here. The doctor opened his Athena office Monday of this week.

Local Men Soon Will Leave For British Columbia Ranch Project

Charles Kirk, Dudley Rogers and Tom Kirk of Athena, Will Piper and Lloyd Starks of Helix, are preparing to leave for the Crestwood, B. C., reclamation project where they have purchased farm land.

They will go to their new holdings about the first of the coming month shipping household goods, etc., by train. The land which the local men have purchased is a part of a 7000 acre tract in the Creston, B. C., district which has been reclaimed by a diking system, similar to that at Bonners Ferry, Idaho, on the United States side of the river, and which during the past seven years is said to have produced from 50 to 80 bushels per acre for an every year crop.

The British Columbia land was purchased for \$90 per acre, requiring a payment of \$20 per acre down, the balance to be paid in one-third of the crop yearly. On this basis, Wm. Piper has purchased 620 acres, Lloyd Starks 320, Dudley Rogers 650, Charles Kirk 320, and Mr. Kirk and his son Tom will also farm under lease 320 acres owned by Asa Demaris, of Milton.

Tractor equipment will be used in farming the land. E. C. Rogers returned last week from British Columbia, where he made arrangements for the purchase of the farming equipment through the International Harvester company. Marcus seed wheat also has been purchased at Calgary for seeding the crop this spring. Two elevators will be constructed this summer to facilitate marketing the season's crop.

Tariff Rates Raised On Livestock Imports

Washington.—After increasing the tariff on zinc and refusing to levy an import tax on silver, now on the free list, the senate returned to the heart of the tariff bill—the agriculture schedule—and voted increases in duties on live cattle above those carried in the Hawley-Smoot measure.

Eastern and southern democrats clashed over the proposed higher cattle levies, but the final roll call revealed the overwhelming sentiment of both parties for higher protection on farm products. The vote was 72 to 4 for the increases.

Senator Connally, democrat, Texas, sponsored the new cattle rates, which as approved were two and one half cents a pound on cattle weighing under 700 pounds and three cents a pound for those weighing 700 pounds and over. Present duties are 1 1/2 cents on cattle weighing 700 pounds, and 2 cents on those weighing 1,050 pounds and over.

Athena Forfeits Game
 Athena high school forfeited the basketball game to Weston high school, Tuesday evening, by walking off the floor soon after the second period started as the result of alleged partiality on the part of Referee Mays of Pendleton. According to reports here, Mays refereed an unsatisfactory game between Athena and Pilot Rock some time ago, and rather than have his players "fouled" off the Weston court, Coach Miller waived them to the showers, thus automatically giving the game to Weston.

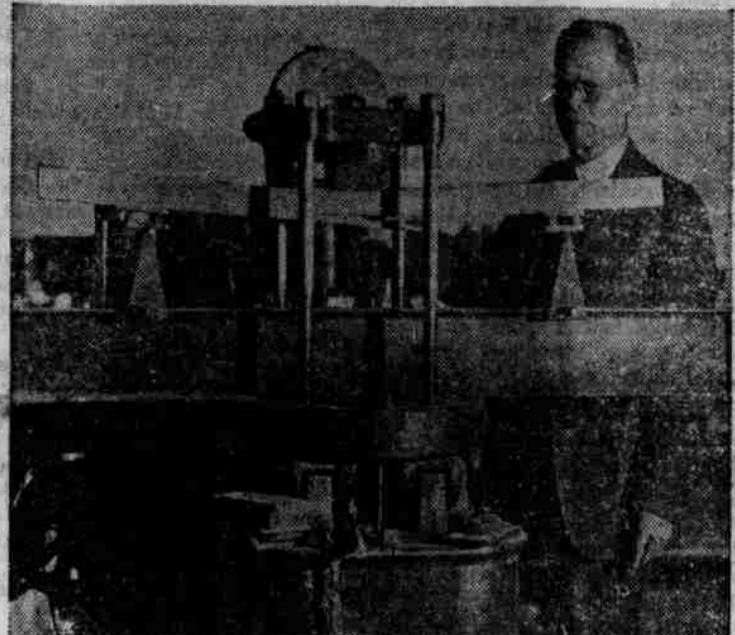
Dislocated Shoulder
 Ralph McEwen, Jr., sustained a painful dislocated shoulder when he was thrown from a horse Wednesday morning at the ranch. Ralph was thrown after some wild horses when his mount stumbled and fell on him. He was rushed to Freewater but it was deemed necessary to take x-ray pictures and he was taken on to Walla Walla. Dr. Cowan after administering ether put the shoulder in place. No fractures were suffered but the patient will wear his arm in a sling for some time.

Captain Alone on Board
 Advice from Portland yesterday were to effect that Captain Graham alone remained on the steamer Admiral Benson, stuck on the sands at the entrance of the Columbia river. Coast guardsmen said the vessel had developed a severe list under the incessant wash of the surf. Guardsmen also reported that the riveting was pulling loose on the amidship plates, and that the engine room was full of water.

Lee Brown Passes
 The East Oregonian reports that Lee Brown, aged 48, died Wednesday morning at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. Kimball, of Holdman, his death being caused by dropsy. Mr. Brown was a life-long resident of this county. His sister Mrs. Kimball survives him.

Building Ranch House
 Chase Garfield is replacing the house that recently burned on Mrs. Templeton's farm west of Athena with a new one, doing most of the carpenter work himself. Mr. Garfield has the place under lease.

Douglas Fir Passes Rigid Test at U. of O.



Douglas fir timbers, after 63 years service in Hayden bridge, near Eugene, were found not only to equal new timbers in strength, but were actually stronger, when tested by E. H. McAllister, professor of mechanics at the University of Oregon. Here Prof. McAllister is shown with the machine which is exerting thousands of pounds of pressure down on the fir beam.

University of Oregon, Eugene.—Douglas fir timbers, after 63 years of service, were found not only to equal new timbers in strength, but were actually stronger, it is stated by E. H. McAllister, professor of mechanics at the University of Oregon, who has completed a research investigation on material taken from Hayden Bridge, a structure erected near Eugene in 1874.

The timbers in the bridge were found to be in an excellent state of preservation, and Professor McAllister's conclusion is that Douglas fir can be preserved in sound structural condition for at least half a century by the simple expedient of covering from weather and providing for a free circulation of air.

More than 200 tests, on machines which exert from 30,000 to 200,000 pounds pressure, were made on the old timbers, while for basis of comparison similar tests were made on both green and seasoned pieces of the same size. Although some of the timbers that went into construction of the bridge would not be acceptable as bridge material under modern grading rules, the average strength was found to be in excess of the average strength of new timber in green condition, while in most cases it was well above the average for unused timber that had been air dried for two or three years.

New Gas Well Tapped and Flowing At Payette

Boise.—Gas of sufficient pressure to blow sand, water and slate 70 feet into the air, was released by a drill in the well of the Idaho-Oregon Petroleum company near Payette, Idaho, but the well was again plugged with sand so quickly as to prevent any estimate of the quantity of gas available, it was announced.

An attempt will be started to open the well again, A. S. Hinks of Payette, secretary of the corporation, said.

Grain Prices Rebound After Hitting Bottom

Chicago.—Grain prices bumped on the bottom of the wheat pit Wednesday—then started a comeback with the aid of the government's wheat stabilization corporation.

Despite the establishment of low record prices for the season in wheat, corn, oats and rye at the opening of Wednesday's market, the close showed fractional gains over Tuesday.

Milton Is Again Victorious

The Milton K. of P. basketball team took another game from the Athena town team Wednesday night by the score of 26 to 24. The locals displayed fine form in the first quarter, by close checking and accurate shooting, the score being 8 to 1 in Athena's favor. However, the score book at the end of the second quarter showed that the teams had evened and Milton had the best of it, score 16 to 14. The next two periods was a tie for the teams, each gathering 10 points, giving the K. of P.'s the game, 26 to 24. Athena plays the Helix "Red Devils" Monday evening at Helix and a following game will be on this floor.

Cox Didn't Come Through

Leo Cox is not the owner of McFadden's Pharmacy, as reported in last week's Athena Press. Through a hitch in financial matters, so it is reported, the deal fell through after stock inventory had been taken, and Mr. McFadden had left for Portland. Cox left the city Thursday evening of last week and failed to return, later returning the store key by mail. Leonard Geissel is managing the store for Mr. McFadden and will be assisted in its operation by a registered pharmacist.

Two Deputies Quit

Two deputies in the office of Sheriff Gurdane have resigned to accept other positions. Jack Folsom goes to work for the J. E. Smith Livestock company, and Hiram George has taken a position with K. G. Warner, sheepman. Sheriff Gurdane has not made appointments to fill the deputy vacancies.

Lambing Under Way

Lambing season has started in the Blue Mountain section near Walla Walla, according to Albert Baker, district forest ranger, with the herds of Bill Martin and Tom Drummheller commencing to lamb first. Supplies for the lambing season are now being taken into the hills to the various lambing camps.

First Over the Top

Robert LaRue, commander of Milton post of the American Legion, has received word that Milton Post No. 24 is among the first in the state to go over the top in membership. The membership is stronger than it has ever been since organization.

Mrs. Phillips in Hospital

Mrs. John Phillips was taken to a hospital at Walla Walla this week by her son Dorvan, where she will remain for several days receiving medical treatment. Mrs. Phillips' Athena friends hope for her speedy recovery.

Mrs. William Booher Died at Home Here Of Heart Failure

Mrs. William Booher died at her home in Athena, early Friday morning of heart failure. Since the death of her husband on Christmas eve, Mrs. Booher had been in failing health, and for a time her sons remained with her. However, she had improved, and her sons returned to their home at Condon, so that her death, which came suddenly was unexpected.

Mrs. Booher was nearly 67 years of age when she passed on. She had been a resident of this county for 25 years, living most of that time in and near Athena. She was born in Henry county, Missouri. She is survived by two sons, Jerry and Elmer Booher of Condon, and a stepson, Jacob Booher, of Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Christian church, of which the deceased had long been a member, Pastor Sias preaching the sermon. Many beautiful floral offerings from friends were in evidence. Interment took place in Athena cemetery at three o'clock.

Cancer Patient Shows Response To Treatment

San Francisco.—Mrs. Gertrude Edwins, who attracted wide attention by her dramatic flight in an airplane from Wenatche, Wash., to receive the newly discovered Humber-Coffey treatment for cancer, continued to show slight gains at St. Mary's hospital here, where a second injection and a blood transfusion were given Saturday, the day following her arrival. A second transfusion is planned for.

Dr. G. K. Rhodes, attending Mrs. Edwins in the absence of Drs. Walter B. Coffey and John D. Humber, now in Los Angeles superintending treatments and clinical work, said Mrs. Edwins already had responded by taking more nourishment, showing more color, and having better pulse.

She was considerably brightened by the arrival of her sister, Mrs. Harry Smith of Seattle, Wash., and by the almost constant attendance of her husband, Irving Edwins, who brought his wife here in a last desperate effort to save her life after reading of the discoveries made by Drs. Humber and Coffey.

McKenzie Chapter O. E. S. met at Masonic Hall Wednesday evening, about thirty members being present.

Degrees of initiation were given to Mrs. Kohler Betts and Fay Pambrun following which brief speeches were made by the candidates. A short program including vocal solos by Mrs. Ralph McEwen who sang "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer and "Little Northern Window" by Dare. Kohler Betts was heard in a humorous song "The Pirate" by Gordon and "Rolling down to Rio" by Kipling. A social hour was enjoyed with Mrs. Marion Hansell, Mrs. Chance Rogers and Mrs. James Cresswell as hostesses. A motif, suggestive of the birthday of Washington was used. Mrs. Charles Kirk who will leave shortly to make her home in Canada was presented with a gift from the Chapter.

Will Look After Farm

J. M. Banister has returned to Weston, says the Leader, and is again occupying the family residence on North Water street. He will be joined by Mrs. Banister, who is now receiving treatment at the College Place hospital following a relapse after partial recovery from pneumonia, so soon as she is fully convalescent. It is Mr. Banister's intention to take personal direction of his wheat ranching operations in this neighborhood.

No Peaches, Halo Apricots

There will be few, if any peaches or apricots in the Walla Walla valley this year, according to the district horticulturist's office. Nearly all the buds were killed by the severe weather this winter, and much of the young wood has been killed. Cherry buds are not seriously hurt, and apple and prune trees came through safely.

K. of P. Convention

Local Knights of Pythias will attend the annual district convention to be held at Pendleton, Monday evening of next week. There will be a number of initiations, resulting in ritualistic competition between the lodges of the district.

Sixth Meningitis Victim

Cerebro-spinal meningitis has claimed its sixth victim at Yakima, since the first of the year, Joseph F. Hamilton, 4, dying after an illness of 36 hours. Of ten cases reported this year, four are well on the road to recovery.

Gone To Klamath Falls

Mose Banister, who has recently been employed at Bryce Baker's Athena Service station, left Athena yesterday for Klamath Falls, where he expects to have a position in a meat market.

Athena Graders Turn In a Fine Record In Their Spelling Contest

The Athena grade school pupils, second to fifth grades inclusive, have turned in an exceptionally fine average record in a spelling contest just closed. Considering the number of words given each grade, the percentage of words spelled is exceedingly high, and the pupils who missed spelling the most words even acquitted themselves in the contest with a record of achievement that they may be proud of. This fact is self evident when it is realized that to the contestants in the second grade were given 185 words to spell, to the third grade 204 words, the fourth grade 252, fifth grade 187. Concerning the contest, Miss Bryant of the primary department, says:

"The spelling contest created keen interest and high enthusiasm among the pupils, with the 3rd and 4th grades coming out victorious. It has developed that the contest helped each child realize his individual responsibility to his class and good sportsmanship was portrayed by the willingness of each one to share his part in maintaining a high class standard.

"As a result of the contest, each class has raised its average in spelling over 50 per cent. In the six weeks preceding the contest, over 100 words were missed by second grade pupils, while this term only five pupils spelled words incorrectly, and a total of only 47 words were missed by the entire class during progress of the contest.

"Words which were incorrectly spelled, those written carelessly, or those retraced or erased were counted as being wrong—this to impress on the mind of the pupil requirement of neatness in writing. Thus the contest not only increased accuracy in spelling, but it had a strong tendency to create habits of carefulness and a stimulation of thought before action.

"The teachers and pupils agree that a spelling contest is not only interesting and entertaining, but helpful. The losers are enthusiastically calling for another contest for the next six weeks' term."

Contest Results

Below is a list of the pupils participating in the contest, total number of words given, name of pupil and number of words incorrectly spelled:

Second Grade, 185 words—Iva Mae Booher, missed 0; Mary Lou Hansell, 0; Robert Mayberry, 0; Helen Rogers, 0; Bobby Zerna, 0; Armina Coppock, 2; Geraldine Garrett, 13; Maurice Johns, 14; Orville Peterson, 1; Louise Ringel, 8; Winifred Wilson, 6; Lawrence Ball, 1; Leon Mayberry, 2.

Third Grade, 204 words—Eugene Miller, missed 2; Donald Jones, 1; Maabell Clemons, 4; Clarence Montague, 0; Gloria Garfield, 0; Helen Alkire, 0; Billy McFadden, 2; Arthur Kilgore, 1; Emma Jane Kilgore, 4; Sheldon Sheard, 9.

Fourth Grade 252 words—Wilma McIntyre, missed 3; Paul Kibby, 1; Billy Johns, 1; Barbara Huffman, 3; Dale Jenkins, 5; Woodrow Wilson, 5; Frances Alkire, 0; Beverly Barrett 0; Natalie Miller, 0; Marjorie Martin 0; Billy Hansell, 0.

Fifth Grade, 187 words—Virginia Eager, missed 1; Melba Montague, 2; Ruth Street, 2; Glenn Moore, 2; Dayle McLean, 2; Joyce Pinkerton, 2; Tillman Taylor, 5; Walter Banister, 4; Gayle McLean, 5; Gale Moore, 5; Carl Ball, 5; Teddy Miller, 7; Ira Alkire, 3; Bryan Kibby, 19.

Open Elk Season

At a recent meeting of the Pilot Rock Rod & Gun club, the members expressed themselves in favor of a short open season on elk this fall. Recommendations for an open season of the last four days of the deer season for Umatilla, Baker, Union, Walla and Grant counties were offered by the club in response to a request for an expression on the subject made by W. A. Gilliam of Baker. The club proposed a limit of one bull elk with forked horns, resident license \$5, non-resident license, \$50. It is estimated that there are approximately 5000 elk in Umatilla county and 12,000 in the above mentioned five counties.

EXTRA PAY FOR SOLONS KILLED

Court Says Members of the Legislature Not Entitled To Extra \$5.

Salem.—Members of the Oregon legislature are not entitled to the extra \$5 per day expense money which they voted themselves at the last session.

The supreme court, in an opinion written by Justice Belt, holds that "such allowance for personal expenses is, in effect, additional compensation which the constitution expressly forbids."

"It seems to the writer," Justice Belt declares in his opinion, "that much ingenious reasoning is required to reach any other conclusion." The opinion of the supreme court affirms a decree handed down by Circuit Judge L. H. McMahan of Marion county granting an injunction restraining Hal E. Hoss, secretary of state, from issuing warrants in payment of the \$5 per day expense money.

"We are not unmindful that the compensation fixed by the constitution, in view of changed conditions, is wholly inadequate and tends, in our opinion, to defeat good government in that the poor man, although well qualified, is often thus precluded from rendering this important public service," Justice Belt concluded. "However, the inadequacy of compensation is a political and not a judicial question."

"In construing a constitution provision we seek to ascertain and give effect of the people who adopted it," Justice Belt points out. " * * * the constitution must be viewed in the light of the spirit of the times when it was relative to the matter of compensating those who represented them in the legislature. * * *"

"Counsel concede there is a plain and specific constitution limitation against additional compensation, but it is argued there is no limitation, expressor implied, relative to expenses. The mileage of 'three dollars for every 20 miles' allowed in going to and returning from the capital was in the nature of a personal expense paid directly to the legislator. Having thus enumerated this item of personal expense, we think there is a strong implication against the allowance of additional personal expenses. If the framers of the constitution intended to allow other personal expenses, such as room rental and meals, it is reasonable to assume that provision would have been made therefore."

Justice Belt points out that this view of the constitutional provision for compensation of Oregon's lawmakers was accepted without question by the state legislature "until the passage of the first resolution for incidental expenses in 1927."

"Such an interpretation by the legislature extending over a period of time in excess of half a century should and does have great weight with the court."

Similar situations arising in both Kansas and Oklahoma, which states have constitutional provisions relative to compensation of legislators similar to that of Oregon, Justice Belt points out, were decided adverse to the additional compensation.

Justices McBride and Rossman dissent from the majority opinion, although not preparing any written opinion containing their views of the subject.

Cockburn Will Run

Mack Cockburn, former county commissioner, was in Athena Wednesday from his home at Milton. Mack let his friends know, both republican and democratic, right off the reel that he was a candidate for representative from Umatilla county, subject to the decision of the republican voters in the primary election. Mack is a fella who is more or less non-committal, but he left a hunch over here that if elected, he would go down to the legislature with the sole object of doing the very best he could for Umatilla county and the state of Oregon.

Observed Anniversary

Pythian Lodge Knights of Pythias observed the 66th anniversary of the founding of the order with a social meeting at Castle Hall last evening. A banquet dinner was served at six o'clock, the members of the local lodge, their families and invited guests participating. After dinner, an informal program was enjoyed by those present.

These Bought Caterpillars

Venard Bell, of the Page Machinery company of Walla Walla and Pendleton, since last week has delivered caterpillars to the following well known wheat raisers: McBride Bros., a sixty; Frank Coppock 30, Fred Gross-Louis Kren 30, Carl Hudemann 30, Frank Lafave 30.