

Pedestrian Fatalities One Of Chief Highway Mishaps

Not long ago, two pedestrians started to cross a busy thoroughfare in an Oregon city. It was dark, and as they left the curb, one noticed a car approaching, but still apparently half a block away. Deciding they had time to reach the center of the street before the car would reach the intersection, the pedestrians walked on, but before they had taken more than four or five steps, the car was so close they realized their lives were in danger. They darted back toward the curb, but the driver of the car, seeing them at that moment, swung his car in the same direction in an attempt to avoid hitting them. One was killed and the other seriously injured.

This accident is typical of many pedestrian accidents in this state, according to Earl Snell, secretary of state and sponsor of the statewide program for traffic safety, who today announced results of a pedestrian study made recently by the traffic safety division of the state department.

The study disclosed that cars moving at 25 miles an hour, cover ground five times as fast as the average pedestrian under 35 years of age walks, six times as fast as the pedestrian from 35 to 55 years of age and seven times as fast as the pedestrian over 55 years of age.

"The results of this study indicate clearly the danger pedestrians incur when they start across a street when they can see a car

approaching from their left, especially at night," Snell declared. "Many persons simply do not realize the difference in speed of an automobile and the average walker, if the car seems fairly well up the block, they proceed in the belief it is not near enough to constitute a hazard. It was for the purpose of pointing out the difference in the rate of travel that our study was made."

In checking the walking pace of pedestrians, walkers were classified in three general age groups, those under 35, those between 35 and 55 and those over 55 years of age. Investigators checked the time it took these persons to walk across an intersection of a given width by means of a stop-watch. By this means, the average walking rate, as expressed in feet covered per second, was determined. Pedestrians were timed at intersections controlled by traffic signals, at uncontrolled intersections and at different times and on different days.

In the age group under 35, pedestrians took from 11 to 23 seconds to cross a street, the average time for this group being 13.8 seconds. The average time for the age group 35 to 55 was slightly higher, 14.4 seconds while the time for those over 55 years of age was several seconds higher, 19.1 seconds. Expressed in feet per second, the first group walked at a pace of 7.17 feet per second, the middle group walked at a pace of

6.87 feet per second while the older group proceeded at a pace of 5.18 feet per second.

Compared to the pace of a car going 25 miles an hour and covering 36.6 feet per second, it was found that the car traveled five times as fast as the younger pedestrians, six times as fast as the middle-aged group and seven times as fast as the older group.

The significance of these figures, Snell pointed out, lies in the revelation of the distance a car will travel while a person on foot is taking two or three steps. For the older group, for example, the study shows that while the average pedestrian was walking 15 feet, a car traveling at the speed of 25 miles an hour would cover 108 feet. In other words, a car traveling at this speed would constitute a hazard to an elderly pedestrian starting across an intersection while the car was still over 100 feet away.

In view of the fact that approximately three-fourths of the pedestrian fatalities in Oregon involve elderly persons, the difference in walking time of the two age groups also is significant, Snell said. The difference of approximately six seconds in the walking pace of persons under 35 and those over 55 may well mean the difference between safety and danger on a busy thoroughfare, he declared.

During the first 11 months of this year, a total of 120 pedestrians died in traffic accidents in this state. Eighty percent of these fatalities occurred at night and in about 60 percent of the accidents, the pedestrian involved was committing some such unsafe action as crossing the street between intersections, walking on the wrong side of the highway, stepping out from between parked cars, starting across the street when approaching cars too near for safety and improper walking at intersections.

The secretary of state's office has started distribution of pedestrian protection cards, pointing out the dangers of unsafe walking and driving practices as they apply to the person on foot, and urging both drivers and pedestrians to avoid those actions which may lead to traffic accidents. These cards are suitable for display as small posters, or may be passed out to individuals or placed in cars.

Distribution throughout the state is being effected by police chiefs, sheriffs, city officials, safety council members, service clubs and other groups interested in the traffic safety campaign. As a further means of stressing the need for safe driving and walking practices during the holiday season, these various groups are cooperating with Snell's office in conducting local campaigns which include radio talks and speeches before various groups, pointing out the dangers and suggesting ways of avoiding accidents.

A short movie trailer, featuring the voice of Secretary of State Snell and showing the dangers of careless pedestrian practices during the winter months, is now being shown in many Oregon theaters.

Principal efforts of the state safety campaign during the month of December are directed toward cutting down pedestrian accidents and preventing other traffic crashes common during the holiday season, it was said.

Methodist Episcopal Church

Dr. George W. Bruce, Minister

Sunday church school, with Allen O. McGee as general superintendent, meets at 9:45 a. m. each Sunday. In any church the Sunday school is the vital spot. Here is built the youth of today, the manhood of tomorrow.

At 11 o'clock the adult choir will give the Christmas cantata, "King of Kings," by Daniel Protheroe. This is a very beautiful and appropriate cantata for the Christmas season.

At 6:15 p. m. the Epworth and Wesley Leagues meet for worship. At 7:30 o'clock will be the evening sermon on the subject "Christ or Not." The young people choir will sing the anthem, "Angels We Have Heard on High."

The prayer meeting is held Wednesday evening at 7:30 and the lesson for next Wednesday evening is the eighth chapter of the book of Revelation.

CHURCH UNIVERSAL WILL HOLD SERVICES SUNDAY

The Church Universal will hold Sunday services at 278 Idaho street, according to Philip Scribs, preacher. From 10 to 11 a. m. he will talk on "Behold, for paltry gain you have sold out the temple of the Lord Jesus Christ." "Come, I will not always call to the hearts of men." The public is invited to attend.

● Mrs. Charles Mack Sunday returned to her home in Klamath Falls following a visit here at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Rose.

● Mr. and Mrs. Jim Purves of Hilt visited here last week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Callahan.

● Mrs. Gerald Donnigan of Rollo, Mo. arrived recently for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Orpha Milhoan.

VALUES in TOYS

SEE OUR MANY

WHEEL TOYS ★ DOLLS
GAMES ★ TRAIN SETS
SEALED-BEAM FOG LIGHTS
and other Auto Accessories

ASHLAND'S NEW TOYLAND!

WESTERN AUTO SUPPLY

Taylor R. Williams, Authorized Dealer

Furnishings

for the Home



Make Ideal Christmas Gifts —for All the Family

WE HAVE A FINE VARIETY, INCLUDING

OTTOMANS OCCASIONAL CHAIRS
END TABLES SMOKING STANDS
FLOOR AND TABLE LAMPS

AND MANY OTHER ITEMS!

WICK'S FURNITURE

297 East Main Street

Phone 8761



GOING HOME TO HELP SANTA THIS CHRISTMAS?

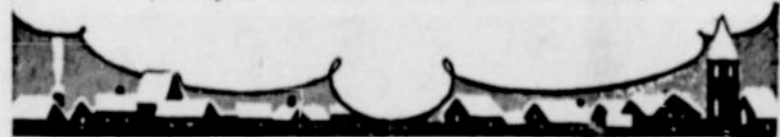
Are you planning a trip home this holiday season? If you are, then NOW is the time to have your brakes checked, your motor tuned up, your headlights adjusted, those dented fenders straightened out. There is just time to check your car for safety, for performance and for appearance before that "big trip" and we will be glad to help you prepare for a trouble-free drive, flash starting on frigid mornings. We can care for your car from tires to battery, radiator to paint. Take time now to be safe and sure over the holidays—you'll be glad you did! (Our Weaver Safety Lane tests your brakes accurately and instantly, without charge—another of our modern services for motorists.)

★
CLYDE
L. CATON
GARAGE
XXXXXXXXXXXX
II
II

Phone 5311

CLYDE L. CATON GARAGE

AT THE KLAMATH JUNCTION
(Siskiyou Boulevard and Indiana Street)



Please the Whole Family with ELECTRICAL GIFTS

Electrical gifts are among the most utilitarian that Santa can bring to any home! Toasters, coffee makers, radios, lamps, refrigerators, irons, curling irons, dozens of fine, useful gifts are being offered by your electrical dealers in a price range from a few dimes up. See them on your shopping tours and give a practical gift—an electrical gift!

Ashland Light Department

"Your SERVICE Department"

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

the ideal gift

Truly, they are gifts for joyous living! You'll be delighted at the beauty of the new, more convenient, more economical appliances YOUR ELECTRICAL DEALER is showing for Christmas. You couldn't select more appropriate, more thoughtful and more useful gifts. See the electric appliance display at YOUR ELECTRICAL DEALER today!



COPCO

● Subscribe for The Miner today.