

Fewer Oregon drivers convicted in traffic cases in 1979

Fewer Oregon drivers were convicted of traffic law violations in 1979, according to statistics released recently by the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division.

DMV reported that it received 629,103 court abstracts—notice from courts of conviction for a traffic infraction—during 1979, compared to 670,181 abstracts received during 1978. The six percent decrease was the first decrease noted by the division in nine years.

While the total number of convictions was going down, however, the number of drivers convicted of driving while intoxicated went up during 1979. A total of 22,230 drivers were convicted of driving under the influence last year, a 10½ percent increase over 1978. The number convicted of their second DUI offense within five years showed the greatest increase—up 28½ percent. The number convicted of three or more DUI charges within five years went up nearly 20 percent, and first-time DUI convictions were up 5½ percent.

The effects of Oregon's mandatory automobile liability insurance law were again

evident in 1979, the division reported. Mandatory license suspensions for uninsured drivers involved in accidents

dropped nearly 22 percent. The division also pointed to two other statistics, both based on the number of times

insurance companies report that policies listed by drivers were not in effect, as indication that the mandatory insur-

ance law is having a positive effect. The denial rate on insurance policies listed by drivers

involved in accidents were down from 2.5 percent in 1978 to 1.7 percent last year. The denial rate on insurance

certifications given during registration renewal declined from 8.8 percent in 1978 to 8.1 percent in 1979. Certifications

are verified on a random sample program that checks the registration renewals each month.

Police Report

Donald Curtis Maxwell, 203 B.S.E. 5th Wilson Trl. Ct. in Irrigon, reported to the Morrow County Sheriff's Office that he recovered the Honda Z50 1974 motorcycle that he reported stolen a week earlier.

In other sheriff's news, the 1970 Chevy Nova that was reported stolen last week by Deborah Franke, Box 383 in Irrigon, was found in the possession of David Franke, who had taken it with the permission of the car's registered owner Lloyd Franke. Sheriff Fetch advised Franke that it is a civil matter.

Roy D. Plant, 710 Mt. Hood Drive in Boardman, reported a theft of a \$50 battery, \$35 in gas, and two locking gas caps valued at \$15 from his car while it was at the Hillview Christian Center.

A 1972 Ford Van owned by John Cleaver of Nyssa was recovered. The driver's compartment had been burned.

Warrants were issued for Edward LeCompte of Battleground, Wash. for menacing when he worked at the PGE coal-fired plant; for Ricky Lee Johnson, Wilson Rd. Trl. Ct. C-3 in Boardman, for contempt of court; for Calvin Lynn and Alvin Leroy Thomason, Gerald Rhea Ranch in Lexington, both for contempt of court; and for Hector Guerra, Locust Mobile Home Ct. in Irrigon, for passing a school bus at an intersection.

Sheriff reports state that Donald Cyril Gallogly, 1902 S.E. Court in Pendleton, was arrested and lodged in Hermiston for driving while under the influence of intoxicants. It was his second arrest on that charge.

Michelle Tarrance Chamber, Rt. 1 Box 45 A in Boardman, reported tools valued at \$450 were taken from a 1954 pickup at the PGE Mancamp.

Mark Tommeraaen and Paul Cook, both of Colorado, were involved in a one-car non-injury accident. On Interstate 80 in Boardman, The 1972 Van they were in slid on the snowy and icy road off the road.

The snow and ice caused another wreck 19 miles N.E. of Lexington on Highway 207. A 1977 AMC Pacer driven by Ricky Lynn Smith, P.O. Box 793 in Umatilla, with Butch Metteer of Umatilla as a passenger, was involved in the non-injury accident. It collided with a 1970 Buick Grand Sport driven by Daniel Allen Burton of Hermiston with passengers Mark L. Burton of Hermiston and Stephen P. Braddick and Allan C. Cooper of New Zealand.

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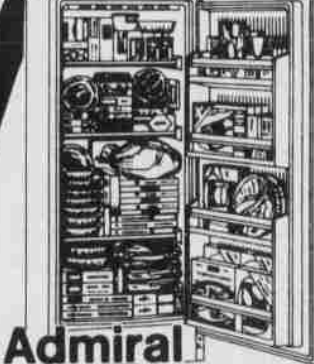
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