

'S-D Day' Originator Got Idea Following Serious Injuries in Automobile Accident

Washington—(U.P.)—Safe Driving Day, which the nation will observe Wednesday, was the brain child of a man who was nearly killed in an automobile accident early this year.

Albert J. Veglia, registrar of motor vehicles for the state of California, thought up the idea while he was lying in a hospital

bed last March, the innocent victim of the very kind of traffic smash-up that "S-D Day" is intended to curb.

It was a classic bit of irony that Veglia should have been involved in a bad wreck. He has devoted much of his life to campaigning for traffic safety. Only a month before his own accident,

he represented California at President Eisenhower's White House Conference on Highway Safety in Washington.

Two Killed in Wreck

Late on the afternoon of March 5, Veglia was driving down U.S. Route 40, 12 miles west of Sacramento, the state capital. Suddenly a car which was moving in the opposite direction on the four-lane highway went out of control, crossed the 27-foot parkway strip and crashed into a car directly ahead of Veglia's.

Veglia swerved his own car off the pavement in an effort to avoid the collision but was struck by both of the other cars. His own car was hurled some 75 feet and its top was sheared off. Two women in one of the other cars were killed.

Veglia was so badly injured that he lay unconscious for five days and required 276 stitches in his face and head. He remained in the hospital for three weeks.

According to Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado, an old friend to whom Veglia later went with the "S-D Day" idea, Veglia "had a lot of time to think as he lay there in the hospital."

One of the things which he thought about most was the old bugaboo of public apathy which had always handicapped him and other conscientious public officials who are trying to reduce accidents," Thornton said recently. "He kept thinking: 'Isn't there some way to bring dramatically to the attention of the public the need for halting the slaughter on our highways?'"

The result of Veglia's brooding was the idea of setting aside one day when "everybody, all over the country, would be asked to try to eliminate accidents completely," to dramatize what could be accomplished by attention to safety year-around.

State Communications Network To Provide Report on S-D Day

Salem—(U.P.)—The state communications network, the Oregon State Police teletype service, telephones and radio will be pressed into overtime duty Wednesday to compile returns as quickly as possible of Oregon's efforts to go accident-free on national safe-driving day.

Channelled to Center

All reports of accidents will be channelled to the communications center of the secretary of state's office where final reports will be prepared. Sheriffs, who will act as the central reporting agency in each county, have been asked to forward figures showing number of accidents, fatalities and injuries to Salem as fast as possible.

Reports are to be made at noon, 6 p.m. and midnight from the office here.

Sheriffs will report over the state communications network in Benton, Clackamas, Douglas,

Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Wasco and Washington counties.

Reports will be sent over state police teletype service from Klamath, Matilla and Baker counties, and state police will relay information sheriffs provide by telephone or radio from Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Deschutes, Lincoln, Tillamook and Union counties.

To Forward Information

Sheriffs in Crook, Curry, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Wallowa, Wheeler and Yamhill counties have been asked to compile reports and transmit information at the specified times by telephone or radio to telephone or radio to the nearest of the previously listed counties, who will, in turn, forward the information to Salem.

Sheriffs are expected to gather the information from usual accident report filing agencies—city police departments and branch offices of the secretary of state in addition to their own offices.

Albany Mines Bureau Director Gets Award

Washington—(U.P.)—Stephen M. Shelton, regional director of the Bureau of Mines at Albany, Ore., today was presented one of 18 awards given out by the Interior department.

Shelton was honored for research in utilization of low grade metals. His citation said that as director of region II he "has carried on extensive research in utilization of low grade ores of nickel, chromium, iron, rare earths and other minerals, which has resulted in development of process . . . for producing nuclear grade zirconium for construction of atomic power plants."

He also was cited for "contributions to the bureau's foreign program in Latin America and the Philippines."

Coos Bay Crab Fishermen Return

Coos Bay—(U.P.)—Coos Bay crab fishermen went back to work yesterday after 10 days of idleness over a price dispute, but the period of activity is not expected to be very long.

The fishermen, on Friday, voted to accept an offer of 11 cents per pound, after refusing to fish when buyers reduced crab prices from 12 to 10 cents.

However, industry spokesmen said the offer is good until Dec. 15, when the opening of the season on the northern Oregon and Washington coasts, and in the Crescent City and Eureka areas in California, is expected to lower crab prices again.

Fishermen have asked Sen. Wayne Morse (I-Ore.) to investigate the crab market.

Macao Will Display Products at Seattle

Macao—(U.P.)—The Portuguese colony of Macao will display its products at the fourth international fair at Seattle, Wash., next spring, the government reported today.

The chief item in the exhibition will be fireworks.

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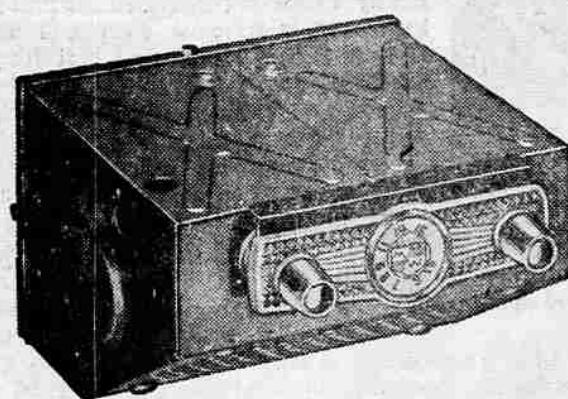
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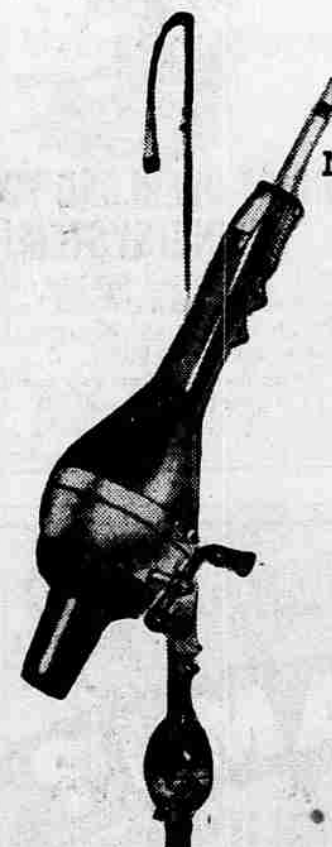
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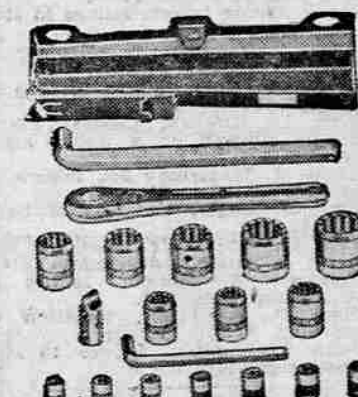
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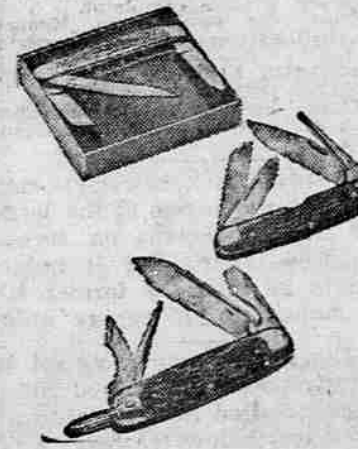
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Retain Sales Tax Proposals Expected

Portland—(U.P.)—A tax researcher told the Chamber of Commerce forum here yesterday that search for more money from taxes may bring the 1955 Oregon Legislature face to face with several retail sales tax proposals.

Several members of the next Legislature were present. Robert H. Hall, chairman of the chamber's taxation committee, said one alternative would call for "junking" Oregon's present method and adopting the "California system" based on a three per cent sales tax. He covered a wide field of revenue

source in his talk, and called attention to the problem facing the Legislature of raising from \$50,000,000 to \$80,000,000 to meet 1955-57 budget requirements.

All Tavern Patrons Claimed in Restroom

Austin, Tex.—(U.P.)—Police tried desperately to find a witness to the tavern gunbattle in which Gabriel C. Guerra, 22, was killed.

"There must have been 50 people in the tavern," reported Lt. Merle Wells. "But they all say they were in the restroom."

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