

Snow May Up Traffic Toll Over Week End; Extra Caution Urged

By UNITED PRESS

The devastating effects of the winter's first major storm threatened today to raise the total of highway deaths during the New Year's week end.

The lethal blast which roared out of the Southwest Tuesday, wound up with a barrage of snow, sleet and freezing rain in the nation's Northeast late yesterday.

At Least 57 Deaths

It left a wake of at least 57 deaths and heavy snow covers in much of the nation's mid-section.

The snow, along with slush and ice-slicked roads, created traffic hazards from Wisconsin through Kansas and into Texas and Oklahoma, where drifts had marooned thousands of motorists for a time.

Six Ashland Young People Get Fines After 'Beer-Bust'

Six Ashland teenagers appeared in district court this morning and were fined on charges growing out of a pre-Christmas "beer bust." Each of the six was fined \$50 and court costs on charges of illegal possession of alcoholic beverages.

A seventh person, picked up in connection with the case, was arraigned in district court yesterday on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a 16-year-old boy by giving the youth beer. The man, Aaron Francis Gentry, 25, of 42 1/2 Third st., Ashland, was bound over to the grand jury and bond was set at \$1,500.

Fined in Court

The teenagers fined in court today were Darriel Ray Hargis, 18, a Navy man, whose home is at 405 Liberty st., Ashland; William Henry Church, 19, of 968 East Main st., Ashland; Stella Gloria Bell, 19, of 357 Walker ave., Ashland; William Judson Hayes, 18, Ashland; Richard Allen Therres, 19, a Navy man whose home is at 2349 Highway 66, Ashland, and a 16-year-old Ashland youth.

Five other younger juveniles have been turned over to county juvenile authorities.

In ordering the fines, District Judge Rawles Moore said "I am not going to require restitution. I think the families of those involved should voluntarily go to the owner of the property and pay for the damage done. It is usually done that way." Damage to property in which the party was held without the owner's knowledge or consent is estimated at \$100.

Bob Smith Elected Active Club President

Bob Smith was named president of Medford Active club at the semi-annual election of officers held Thursday at the Jackson hotel. He succeeds Bob Stewart.

Smith is chairman of the 1955 Jackson County March of Dimes campaign and is associated with Central Supply of southern Oregon.

Other officers named were Earl Fichtner, vice-president; Russell McKechnie, secretary; Charles Dorrel, treasurer; Tom Reeder, historian, and Bill Duhaime, activator.

New members of the board of governors are Stewart, Russell DeForest and Joe Clark.

The new officers will be installed early in January.

'Joe Must Go' Club Guilty of Violations

Baraboo, Wis.—(U.P.)—Circuit Judge Bruce Beilfuss today found the Joe Must Go club guilty on 21 counts of violating state laws and fined the anti-McCarthy organization a total of \$4200.

Dist. Atty. Harlan Kelley said he would issue warrants charging all officers and directors of the club with similar offenses.

The club, which sought unsuccessfully last spring to remove Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy from office through a recall election, was charged with contributing money from its funds to local Joe Must Go units and with paying for advertising material used in the recall drive.

Sergeant Obeyed; Guardsman Discharged

Pirbright, England—(U.P.)—Guardsman Jonathan Pilkington deserted the Irish Guards eight years ago because "the sergeant-major told me to get out of his sight, so I did," he told a court-martial.

Pilkington said he did not try to hide but lived openly under his own name and became a professional rugby player, boxer and wrestler and offered press clippings to prove it.

The National Safety Council predicted before the storm hit that traffic accidents would kill 240 persons in the nation between 6 p.m. tonight and midnight Sunday.

Police and safety officials throughout the nation pleaded with motorists today to take it easy on making New Year's whoopee or—if they don't—to let someone else take over the steering wheel.

Extra Police Forces

Many state and city police forces were ordered out in full strength to patrol streets and highways as the new year begins. Orders were given to be especially tough with drunken drivers.

Police in the San Francisco Bay area counties set up road blocks to screen out "hilarious holiday drivers." Maximum police strength was ordered at Los Angeles, where 1600 drunks were arrested during the Christmas week end.

The safe driving pleas didn't dim Americans' plans to welcome in the new year in style.

Celebrations Differ

Merry makers with money to spend could cavort in swank night spots where the bill started at \$25 a person and kept going up. Others planned to take part in mass gatherings such as the traditional jamboree in New York's Times Square, while thousands more will attend the annual football bowl games tomorrow.

Another great body of Americans, however, will welcome in the new year with prayer.

In Chicago four hour "watch night" services were scheduled in Methodist and Catholic churches and in synagogues.

Sheppard Assured Of Time Extension

Cleveland, O.—(U.P.)—A defense claim of "newly-discovered evidence" insured convicted wife-killer D. R. Samuel Sheppard today of at least another nine days in the county jail here rather than behind the cold grey walls of the Ohio penitentiary in Columbus.

William J. Corrigan, chief defense counsel for the young osteopath convicted of the July 4th murder of his pregnant wife, Marilyn, refused to reveal the nature of the "new evidence" at Thursday's hearing on three motions dealing with a new trial demand. One report said it was a claim that new information had been uncovered about a suspect previously cleared by Cleveland police.

Common pleas judge Edward Blythin ruled the defense case will be heard Saturday morning, Jan. 8. The 31-year-old brain surgeon will remain in the county jail here until the hearing.

Gloria Vanderbilt, Sinatra Attend Show

New York—(U.P.)—Gloria Vanderbilt Stokowski, who announced yesterday she had left her 67-year-old conductor husband, Leopold Stokowski, attended the opening of a new Broadway musical last night with crooner Frank Sinatra.

The willowy, 30-year-old heiress to five million dollars spent most of yesterday denying a new romance was the reason for the breakup of her nine-year marriage to the internationally famed musician.

She also spent at least a part of last night explaining there was no romance between her and Sinatra.

"Please don't misunderstand this," she said as she arrived with Sinatra for the opening of Truman Capot's new musical "House of Flowers." "I don't have anything to say now. Give me a break, please."

Lumber Firm Agrees To Hourly Wage Boost

Forest Grove—(U.P.)—The Diamond Lumber company of Forest Grove and Tillamook said today it agreed to the 7 1/2 cent hourly wage increase recommended by the seven-man governor's fact-finding panel.

Roy Gould, general manager, said a new agreement effective from Jan. 1, 1955 to April 1, 1956, had been negotiated with the CIO woodworkers local here for 112 employees, and with the independent plywood workers union at Tillamook for 346 employees.

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Babson's Forecasts

(Continued from Page 1)

bankruptcies, Washington will frown on large mergers and consolidations.

32. GENERAL REAL ESTATE SALES. The time is already past due when real estate prices should have been falling. Only a fear of World War III and easy credit have prevented this. Therefore, I forecast that a downturn in prices cannot long be postponed.

33. URANIUM CRAZE. The greatest speculation will take place in the seeking and trading of land with uranium prospects. This is now centered in Colorado, Utah, and vicinity; but I forecast it will spread in a limited way to many other states and even to "offshore" property. It could exceed the gold rush of 1849. Another demand will be for woodlands which can be bought for a few dollars per acre.

34. COMMERCIAL FARMS. These have suffered a decline in price as a result of the slump in agricultural prices and farm income. Unless more will be done politically for the farmers next year, I forecast that the recent decline in commercial farm prices may continue during 1955. Subsistence farms on the fringes of larger cities should hold up well in price as migration toward the suburbs continues.

35. VACANT LAND IN CITY AREAS. With the exception of parking lots, city vacant land should experience a continued slow reduction in price during 1955; but no marked change in suburban vacant land, except for parking. I am very bullish on land anywhere suitable for parking.

36. BUSINESS PROPERTY. I foresee little hope for improvement for such property in the larger cities during 1955. Business property in the suburbs has not been so inflated, and therefore will not be so vulnerable to declines and high taxes.

37. INDUSTRIAL BUILDING. The construction of new industrial plants gives every indication of continuing to mark out a downward course during 1955. I forecast that the brightest spot on the construction horizon for next year is the prospect for increased municipal construction—schools, hospitals, etc.

38. RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION. The building of new homes has held at very high levels during 1954. Although I expect the trend of new home prices to be downward during the year 1955, they will still persist at very high figures, at least during the first half of the year. New homes will continue to be the choice of purchasers, even though older homes give better values.

39. TAXES. The Eisenhower administration has clearly recognized that expanding business and increased expenditures for plant and equipment are the true sources for rising employment and more jobs. I forecast a continued aid during 1955 will be to have taxes aid business—and thereby help employees to more and better jobs.

40. INCOME TAXES. I forecast there will be no further relief, in 1955, of the double-taxation feature on dividends or of the 25 per cent capital gains tax. Furthermore, corporation income taxes will not be permitted to decline as scheduled next spring. I forecast that, unless business slumps more than I anticipate during late 1955, there will be no reduction in personal income taxes next year, except to correct some technical errors. Any relief for the individual "small" taxpayer will be saved until the election year, 1956.

41. POLITICS. The really big political news of 1955 will not be made by the laws that will be enacted, but by the tremendous preparations for the 1956 presidential campaign. Those who claim that President Eisenhower is at heart a liberal and will get along well with the Democratic Congress should remember the lessons of politics.

42. WORLD WAR III. In my opinion, the initiative in international affairs still rests with Russia. The Kremlin is not yet ready for an all-out attack and no one in the West wants World War III. Malenkov is now pushing a "Peace Offensive." I am referring here to the year 1955—over the long term, I still feel that a major holocaust is inevitable, but I forecast no World War III in 1955.

43. FOREIGN AID. Our foreign efforts during the year will continue to aim at plugging the leaks and building new dikes against the flooding tides from the East. I forecast we will work hard to build up Europe, with Germany as the core; but Russia will make spectacular gains in the Far East, particularly in India.

44. FOREIGN COMPETITION. As Germany rearms and the Brussels Treaty Organization goes into gear, I forecast further improvement in Europe. Competition from European manufacturers will, however, intensify. Reciprocal trade deals will be pushed. I would not be surprised to see a decline in our exports in 1955 and an increase in imports.

45. CHURCHES AND CHARITIES. I forecast that the spiritual awakening which started in 1954 will continue into 1955 with an increase in church members. This is a very important sign. Gifts to charities will also increase, due to the more liberal allowance on taxes, up to 30 per cent, provided 10 per cent goes to churches, schools, or hospitals.

46. TRAVEL AND SPORTS. I forecast more money will be spent on travel and sports in 1955. This is becoming an important new industry and should especially benefit Florida, California, Arizona, New Mexico, the Great Lakes region, New England, and the Northwest.

47. NEW METALS AND ALLOYS. Next to air conditioning, I expect great growth in the use of new metals and alloys. I forecast the rare-metal stocks will be sought in 1955 as were the oils in 1954.

48. ADVERTISING. I forecast business spending in this field will increase further in 1955. It is not only the salvation of individual businesses, but is the best stimulant for national prosperity.

49. POPULATION. I forecast the population will continue to increase during 1955, with a growing percentage of young people between 18 and 22. This means a greater demand for clothing, college education, and especially for new school buildings.

50. CONCLUSION. Develop Faith, Meditation, Health, and Good Works—with more attention to your family—to create reserves for real trouble which some day will come. Go to church!

Term Registration Monday at College

Ashland—A reminder that registration for the winter quarter at Southern Oregon college will take place on Monday, Jan. 3, has been issued by Registrar Mabel W. Winston.

Registration during winter term is expected to be about 700, Mrs. Winston said.

Among the courses being offered this winter will be 15 evening courses. They will meet for the first time on the day of registration at their regular meeting times. Among those courses being offered are ceramics, painting, education, first aid and history courses, all of which meet requirements for secondary provisional teaching certificates. Other evening courses include philosophy, creative writing, orchestra, several physical education courses, and Spanish.

A total of 177 courses are among offerings of the college, with the possibility of more being added to meet the demand.

Lionel Barrymore's Nurse Willled Estate

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Florence Wheeler, 40, who nursed Lionel Barrymore during the veteran actor's final illness, today was named sole beneficiary of his \$25,000 estate.

Attorney Gordon W. Levey, who submitted the will for probate in Superior Court, said the estate was comprised mostly of music royalty agreements, art works, books, an automobile, and a small acreage at nearby Chatsworth, Calif., scene of Barrymore's death Nov. 15.

Listed as heirs-at-law in the will were Ethel Barrymore, actress-sister of Lionel; his nieces, Diana and Dolores Barrymore, and nephew, John Barrymore Jr.

Miss Wheeler, with whom Lionel lived for the past 18 years, also nursed Irene Fenwick, the actor's late wife, before her death.

Midget Fire Engine Too Small for Blaze

Nottingham, England—(U.P.)—Five-year-old Peter Gill wanted to try out the midget fire engine he received for Christmas, so he set fire to his home Thursday.

The fire proved to hot for Peter to handle and two firemen put it out before much damage was done.

Peter's father said "He still has the fire engine, but he knows what will happen if I ever see him with another match."

Pack of Cigarettes Per Day Shortens Man's Life Six Hours, Scientist Says

Berkeley, Calif.—(U.P.)—A University of California biophysicist claims a man smokes his life by six hours every time he smokes a pack of cigarettes.

Dr. Hardin B. Jones told the American Association for the Advancement of Science Thursday that a man who smokes a pack of cigarettes a day smokes the risk of taking nine years off his life.

Jones said he based his conclusions on a study of mortality figures of American men.

He said he took into account not only deaths from lung cancer but from other causes, such as heart disease, diabetes and other metabolic diseases.

Older by Nine Years

He said his studies showed that a smoker's age at the time of death average nine years less than that of non-smokers.

"A pack-a-day cigarette smoker is, of any age, physiologically older by nine years than his non-smoking friend," Jones said.

In New York, however, the Tobacco Industry Research Committee took sharp issue with Jones' statement and charged it "is not supported by scientific proof."

Timothy Hartnett, chairman of the committee, said Jones "bases his conclusions on various statistical reports that themselves are still open to serious scientific question."

"Dr. Jones' reported assertion that smoking cuts nine years off the average life span contrasts strangely with the increasing life expectancy of Americans," Hartnett said.

"The federal Health Service reported just this week that the lowest death rate

in the country's history is being set this year.

No Conclusive Evidence

"The fact remains that there still is no conclusive evidence that cigarette smoking causes any serious human disease," Hartnett said.

Jones also told the Science Association that radiation from dental and chest X-rays and X-rays used in shoe stores tended to shorten the human life span.

One roentgen of radiation absorbed into the human system would take five days off the average person's life, he said. A roentgen is a unit used to measure radiation.

FTC Accuses Six Insurance Firms Of False Claims

Washington—(U.P.)—Six more insurance companies stood accused by the Federal Trade Commission today of false and misleading advertising in the sale of accident and health policies.

The FTC said the firms advertised that their policies remain in effect as long as the policyholder pays his premium when actually the policies are renewable only at the company's option.

Firms Listed

The accused firms are the Sterling Insurance Co., Chicago; Combined Insurance Co. of America, Chicago; Professional Insurance Co., Jacksonville, Fla.; Service Life Insurance Co., Omaha, Neb.; Postal Life and Casualty Insurance Co., Kansas City, Mo.; and Guardian Insurance Co., Dallas, Tex.

The FTC estimated the companies have a total annual premium volume for accident and health insurance at more than \$25,000,000. Each company was given 20 days in which to file an answer to the FTC charges.

The commission last October issued similar complaints against 17 insurance companies following an extended investigation into the type of advertising employed in the insurance field.

PLUSH FISHING SHACK

Wadena, Minn.—(U.P.)—The three Merickel brothers have the plushiest ice fishing shack on Otter Trail Lake. They installed a television set, four insulated glass windows, a bed, lights, a cook stove and a heating stove. Naturally, there also are holes in the floor—they're to fish through.

Portland Bus Fare Hike Recommended

Portland—(U.P.)—City Commissioner Nathan A. Boody said today he will recommend to the city council that fares charged by the Portland Traction Company be increased from 15 to 20 cents. He suggested sale of tokens three for 50 cents.

The PTC last month requested permission to raise fares a straight 20 cents, without the special rate on tokens. Boody's recommendation would be equivalent to a 16 2/3 fare.

Gordon G. Steele, president of the PTC, said "if that he recommendation and the city council approves it we will accept it and energetically endeavor to make it successful."

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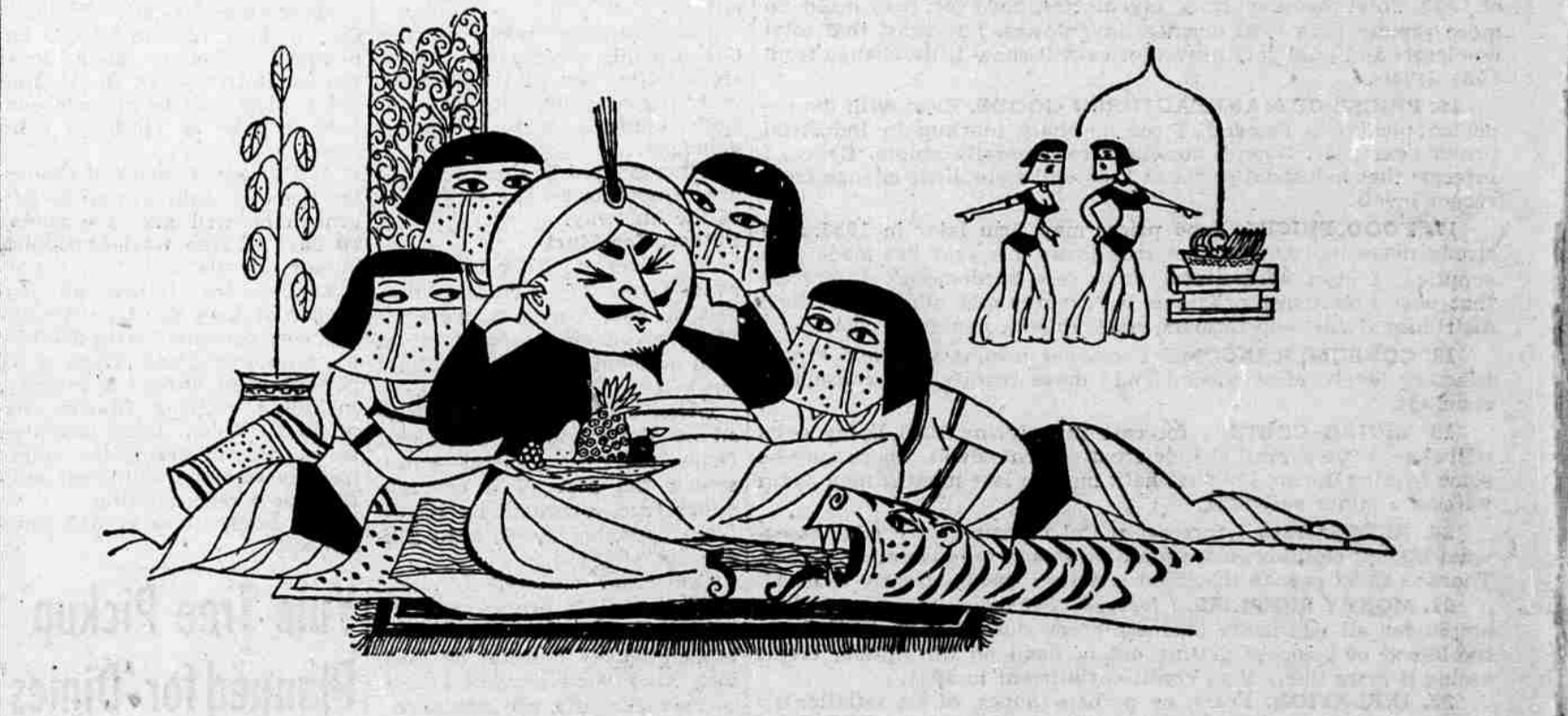


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