

Christmas Traffic Fatality Toll Shows Need for Super Highway Program

Albany, N. Y.—(U.P.)—The need for pushing at top speed the national super-highway program was tragically underlined by the huge traffic fatality toll

over the Christmas week and program director Bertram Tallamy said today.

The scientifically engineered new expressways are somewhere around half of the national average.

The saving in life, personal injury and property damage that will result from development of a fine new highway system will be very great indeed, Tallamy said. "The terrible loss of life

during the past week points up the urgent necessity for expediting the super-highway program."

Tallamy, who goes to Washington next month to coordinate the \$51 billion project through all 48 states, noted that so many accidents occur on the arterial routes in and around big cities. He said the new program would give special attention to improving those routes as well as the far-flung ribbons of inter-state highways.

Safety officials have predicted the new highways will save the lives of some 3,500 persons a year.

Tallamy said the new 41,000-mile network would, of course, attract more and more motorists to take to the road with a resultant rise in the opportunity for accidents.

51st Year

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Second Section

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1956

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Medford Busiest 'Upstate' Airport

Portland — (U.P.) — Statistics have established Portland International Airport as the busiest terminal in the Pacific Northwest in 1956. The port had 23,500 aircraft departures compared with 18,341 at Seattle-Tacoma.

Statistics released by the Civil Aeronautics Administration revealed, however, that the Seattle-Tacoma airport served more departing domestic passengers than the Portland airport.

Statewide, Oregon airports handled 443,769 passengers and 51,241 plane departures from 14 airports during the year. Portland accounted for 71 per cent of those.

Medford, Pendleton and Eugene were the busiest upstate airports in that order. Portland was among 39 "medium hubs" in national air passenger travel listed by the CAA and Medford, Pendleton and Eugene were listed among 93 "small hubs."

Mrs. Earl Miller Heads Coffee Klatches

Mrs. Earl Miller, 617 Park ave., Medford, today was named chairman of the coffee klatches in Jackson county for the March of Dimes, according to Jerry Gelineau, county MOD chairman.

Mrs. Miller will be a guest of Mrs. Robert Holmes, wife of the Oregon governor-elect, at a party for all coffee klatch chairmen, to be held in Salem next month.

It will be the new chairman's duty to offer assistance where needed by chairmen throughout the county in organizing coffee klatches with receipts to go to the March of Dimes.

London — (U.P.) — Queen Elizabeth II, in her annual Christmas message Tuesday, called for deeper bonds of friendship between members of the British Commonwealth.

490 Traffic Deaths Predicted During Long New Year Week End

By UNITED PRESS

With the shock of the worst holiday traffic toll in history still fresh in the nation's mind, safety experts predicted another 490 Americans will be killed needlessly during the New Year's week end.

The National Safety Council said it is counting on the "shock factors" of the all-time record Christmas holiday traffic slaughter to help hold down the toll this week end.

The 490 figure is only 70 more than the normal rate of 420 deaths for a four-day period in December. The New Year's holiday begins at 6 p.m. Friday and ends at midnight next Tuesday.

All-Time Record Smashed

A United Press count showed 713 persons were killed in traffic crashes during the four-day Christmas holiday, smashing the previous all-time record of 609 set during last year's three-day Christmas holiday. The toll also was well above the Safety Council's advance estimate of 660 fatalities.

Safety experts and law enforcement officials said they will continue their "all out" efforts to save the lives of New Year's celebrants, but apparently there was little more they could do.

Police officers, who gave up their holiday and worked themselves to the point of exhaustion, said they had done their best to prevent motorists from killing themselves. They blamed the motorists themselves for the Christmas massacre on the highways.

Pleas Go Unheeded

Safety officials said their constant pleas for caution in newspapers and over radio and television stations went unheeded by the motoring public.

Authorities in some states said they were through with showing violators any sympathy, and during the New Year's holiday they will drive home highway sanity with a rigid law enforcement program.

In California, which had the nation's worst Christmas traffic toll with 72 dead, Highway Patrol Commissioner B. R. Caldwell said "there's very little more we can do physically." He said his men "knocked themselves out" trying to control holiday traffic. We have little remaining sympathy for violators and there will be even less during the New Year's period," he said. "Motorists who commit any violations can expect to be arrested."

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Birmingham, Ala.—The Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth, integration leader, in calling a halt to a mass attack on Birmingham's transportation racial barriers after 21 Negroes were arrested:

"I see no reason for us to fill the jails up. We have accomplished our purpose in getting these people arrested."

Montreal—A financial adviser to Marie Dionne, on the closing of the flower shop she had opened seven months ago as a memorial to her dead quintuplet sister:

"... She's been having trouble with it. She just didn't give it the personal promotion and attendance."

Columbus, Ohio—Zoo Superintendent Earl Davis, on the "screening" of visitors to view the first gorilla born in captivity:

"We wouldn't let anybody who sneezes within a mile of that gorilla."

Hollywood—Actress Jeanne Crain, in denying she plans to marry aircraft executive Homer Rhoads:

"Mr. Rhoads is a gentleman I met through my husband during our marriage. I have no romantic interests in Mr. Rhoads or in anyone else."

New York—Comedian Jimmy Durante, on being honored by the city of New York for his contributions to the entertainment industry and charitable and public service activities:

"When they told me that they were writing out a citation, I immediately ran outside to see if I was double-parked."

Laurine's Carpet House, Bill and Gail Laurine, Bob Marshall and Helen Lugnet, wish to extend our sincerest thanks to the people of Southern Oregon. For it was you who made our corporation an overwhelming success in the short time we have been in business. Words cannot express our appreciation, so please have a Happy New Year!

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