



Holiday Death Toll Reaches 320; NSC Lowers Prediction

Traffic Claims 238 Lives by Noon Today

By UNITED PRESS Traffic deaths for the New Year's holiday period today were running at about half the rate of the recent Christmas holiday, which set an all time record.

A tally by United Press at noon PST showed 238 persons killed in traffic accidents since 6 p.m. Friday. There were 25 deaths in fire, 4 in plane crashes, and 53 in miscellaneous mishaps, for an overall holiday death toll of 320.

Texas led the nation with 25 traffic deaths, followed by California with 20. There were 18 in Pennsylvania, 13 each in Ohio and Michigan, and 10 in New York state.

The traffic toll was running a little more than half the rate for the four-day Christmas holiday. At the same hour Christmas Eve, there had been 432 highway fatalities.

Despite the steady rise in the number of traffic deaths, the National Safety Council withdrew an earlier prediction that the death toll might set a four-day holiday safety record.

Ned H. Dearborn, council president, said he remained hopeful that the nation's drivers would continue to show increased caution and hold the death toll below the council's original prediction of 490 deaths.

The record New Year's death toll for a four-day period was set in 1952-53 when 417 persons met death. This year's prediction was 83 higher than that mark.

During the three-day holiday last year 364 persons died in traffic mishaps.

Many traffic experts had based their individual predictions on the "shock value" of last week's end when 712 persons died in an unparalleled Christmas slaughter.

"But the worst part of the long holiday is ahead of us, New Year's Eve," Dearborn said. "We urge everyone to double his caution. And above all, don't drive if you drink. The best way to celebrate 1957 is alive."

Mayor, Councilmen Take Oaths of Office

Mayor-elect John Snider and new members of the Medford city council were sworn into office at a special meeting at noon today in the city hall. Earl Miller is retiring mayor.

New councilmen are Al Bradford, Robert Van Sickle, Jimmy Dunlevy and Ed Hall. Retiring from the council were Harold Frye, Jack Fitzgerald and Dr. Arnold Depner. Snider also was a councilman.

A plaque was presented to outgoing Mayor Miller by Snider in recognition of his service as councilman and mayor from 1950 to 1957. Mayor Miller also presented Harold Frye with a plaque for his 16 years as a councilman from ward three.

Outgoing councilmen Fitzgerald and Depner also received plaques.

The new council will hold the first official council meeting of the new year at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Heppner, Ore. (U.P.)—Bradley D. Fancher, district attorney of Morrow county since 1945, announced his resignation over the week end.

Services will be held by many of the local churches. Services at the Church of the Brethren, 345 North Mary st., will begin at 8 p.m.

Party, Communion At 8:30 p.m., members of Eastwood Baptist church will hold a party followed by communion services. "Greet the New Year with God" will be tonight's theme at the church at North Keene Way dr. at Ridgeway ave.

Games and refreshments will be included in the evening's program as well as cartoons and religious films. Communion service will be held at midnight.

The First Baptist church watch night service will start at 10:45 p.m. After a social time when a film will be shown, a brief devotional service will be held.

Three speakers will bring messages to the congregation of the Foursquare church, East Jackson and Biddle rd., starting at 8 p.m. The Rev. Jack Chase, a

President Outlines Program

Investigators Seek Cause of Accident Which Killed Two

Greyhound, Truck Collide in Wyoming

Rock Springs, Wyo.—(U.P.)—Investigators sought today to determine what caused a Greyhound bus to crash into the rear of a truck, killing two persons and injuring 28 others.

All but 11 of the injured were released from Memorial hospital by early today, but four of those still hospitalized were reported in critical condition.

The two killed in the accident Sunday were tentatively identified as Mrs. William E. Tonar, about 40, Denver, and Gail Demos, 9, Cheyenne, Wyo. Both were pinned in the wreckage of the bus.

The Highway Patrol said it was questioning Collins and Howard in an attempt to find out what caused the accident.

The patrol said the bus was en route from Omaha to Salt Lake City. The truck turned over but the bus stayed upright.

The accident happened on U.S. Highway 30, near the small Wyoming town of Table Rock, 35 miles east of here.

The right side of the bus was ripped out. Both vehicles were virtually demolished, the patrol said.

One of the more seriously injured was listed as Irene Empirado, Los Angeles, but the hospital here said it was so "swamped" with the accident victims it could not say to what extent she was injured.

A Salem, Ore., woman and her two young children were among 28 injured passengers.

Hospital attendants listed Adelaide, Schild, 39, of Salem, as one of 24 passengers aboard the bus who remained hospitalized today.

Mrs. Schild's children, Melinda, 10, and Jerrylyn, 13, were released after being treated for bruises and lacerations.

Three People Held Here by Mistake

Failure to report the recovery of a stolen vehicle led to some pretty exciting moments for three southern Oregon residents here Sunday night.

As the three were driving down East Main st., a city policeman noticed the license number of their car was the same as the license of a car Los Angeles police recently listed as stolen.

Officers also noticed the two men in the car somewhat fit the description of two men wanted for murder of a San Francisco police officer following a robbery there.

The two men, one from Grants Pass and one from Medford, and a Medford woman accompanying them, were held at gunpoint for several minutes until local police got in touch with Los Angeles authorities. It was then learned the car Los Angeles police had listed as stolen had been recovered by a Pine Bluff, Ark., woman, but the recovery had not been reported. It was also learned the trio had no connection with the San Francisco robbery and murder.

After appropriate apologies had been made, the three were released.

Two Youths Confess School Burglary

Two Medford youths, aged 15 and 16, were arrested by city police Sunday on charges of burglary after admitting the theft of articles from Hedrick Junior High school valued at \$5.50.

Police said the two youths entered the school Sunday through an open door and took 11 boxes of candy bars and a case of beverages from a concession stand inside the building.

The theft was discovered by Clifford Wallace Hutchinson, son of the school janitor, it was reported.

Both boys were released to their parents with instructions to appear before juvenile authorities, officers said.



NEW THREAT REPORTED—Brush fires in southern California were brought under control over the week end, but authorities feared serious floods would result from approaching winter rains in the denuded areas. Ten fires swept over some 45,000 acres since Christmas in the Malibu fire, which went unchecked for several days. The Pacific ocean is at the upper right of the picture. —(International)

California Fires Controlled; Bare Land Poses Flood Threat

Malibu, Calif.—(U.P.)—A serious flood threat from mountains denuded of brush faced Southern California today in the wake of a scourge of 10 devastating fires that swept over a total of some 45,000 acres since Christmas.

Firefighters Sunday brought under control the last four fires in the unusual series of outbreaks, which claimed one life, destroyed 67 homes and inflicted more than \$60 million in property and watershed damage. But the fires posed another threat.

Authorities feared serious floods would result from approaching winter rains which could send torrents of runoff water cascading down denuded mountain slopes into inhabited areas. Such floods could prove as destructive or worse than the fire plague itself. In the past, floodwaters in fire-ravaged areas have caused severe damage.

President Eisenhower declared the fire areas a "disaster area" Saturday because of their swaths of destruction.

The weather helped firefighters beat down the last flames of the fire that were among the worst in Southern California history. The fire rash itself was probably the most devastating mountain fire series on record in Southern California.

Air moisture put a damper on the last stubborn flames Sunday and winds which had whipped the flames with gusts up to 70 miles an hour last week had died down.

The U. S. weather bureau said the fire hazard was "as extreme as you can get" during the worst stage of the fires, but now was only moderate.

The weather bureau reported

More Fog Predicted For Medford Area

Medford area residents will have no relief from fog at least until the end of the week, weather bureau officials said today.

They indicated the fog, which has been in the area for several days, probably will lift temporarily this afternoon. Spokes of light fog mixed with smoke are predicted for later tonight.

Fog will be generally lighter Tuesday afternoon, but thick fog is expected to return Tuesday night. It is expected to clear late Friday or Saturday and be replaced by rain showers.

Weather

FORECAST—Increasing and thickening clouds tonight, considerable cloudiness Tuesday, chance of widely scattered light showers. Fog patches in the valley tonight and early Tuesday. Low tonight 38-42, high Tuesday 43.

Highest yesterday 57 Lowest this morning 37 In 4:30 a.m. today 37

Our Skies Tonight Sunrise 7:43 a.m. Sunset 4:18 p.m. The moon is in conjunction with the sun (new moon) 6:13 p.m. Visible planets: Mars, high in south 6:19 p.m. Jupiter, low in east 11:59 p.m. Saturn, rises 3:13 a.m. Venus, rises 6:01 a.m. (all times Pacific Standard)

MOD Receives More Than \$150 Sunday

The Christmas tree pick-up in Jackson county, sponsored Sunday by the Medford Moose lodge for benefit of the March of Dimes drive, brought contributions totaling more than \$150, it was reported this morning.

Total collections in Medford had not been tallied this morning.

Residents were invited to place their Christmas trees by the curb near their homes for pick-up and disposal by lodge members and Boy Scouts. They were requested to attach to the trees contributions to the March of Dimes.

According to John Summerfield, Moose lodge chairman of the project, it appeared that Medford had contributed more this year than last year. A count of Medford contributions was expected to be made this afternoon.

Surpassing contributions made last year were residents of Phoenix, who gave \$25.04; Gold Hill and Rogue River, \$9.90; Butte Falls, \$19.75; and Jacksonville, \$26.32. Residents of Central Point contributed \$24.31, about the same as last year, and Eagle Point residents contributed \$8.27, about the same as last year. Ashland's contribution totaled \$34.15, considerably under the total of nearly \$100 for last year. Talent residents also fell

under their 1955 donations by contributing only \$2.65. There were no donations from Shady Cove or Trail.

Summerfield said about 80 people witnessed burning of the trees at 7 p.m. last night in the Camp White area.

Millard to Hear Ambuehl's Trial

Circuit Judge Orval J. Millard, Grants Pass, will preside at the trial Wednesday of Donald LaVerne Ambuehl, 31, of Crater Lake ave.

Ambuehl is charged with unlawfully dealing in narcotics.

Judge Millard was brought into the case after Attorney Ed Kelly filed a motion in circuit court Friday afternoon asking that Circuit Judge H. K. Hagana be disqualified from presiding at the trial.

Kelly said his motion was based on an affidavit of prejudice filed by Ambuehl after his trial date was changed from Jan. 8 to Jan. 2.

District Attorney Walter D. Nunley told the Mail Tribune the trial was rescheduled so it could take place before he leaves office Jan. 7. He stated that the request for the change was made by police officers.

Kelly said he and his client objected to Judge Hagana's rescheduling of the trial on this basis. Ambuehl's trial is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Balanced Budget, Present Tax Level Base for Program

Meeting With Both Parties Set Tuesday

Washington.—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower today outlined to Republican congressional leaders an administrative legislative program based on a balanced federal budget and maintaining taxes at present levels.

Mr. Eisenhower said his top aides met with eight GOP leaders of the House and Senate for a day-long preview of the program which the President will submit to the Democratic controlled Congress convening Thursday.

The conference in the Cabinet room of the White House, was recessed for lunch, but was scheduled to resume later in the afternoon. Mr. Eisenhower will meet with both Democratic and Republican congressional leaders Tuesday.

Secretary of Treasury George M. Humphrey and Budget Director Percival Brundage briefed the congressional leaders on the tax and budget outlook at the morning session.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said Humphrey and Brundage reported that "continuing economies in the operation of the government, coupled with no loss of a continuation of a balanced budget aid for schools."

"The main subjects under discussion this morning," Hagerty said, "were the budget, the further development of the domestic atomic energy program, school construction, highways, civil rights, and the proposed amendments to the Immigration and Naturalization Act."

Hagerty said Marion B. Folsom, secretary of health, education and welfare, stressed the need for passage of the administration's four-year plan for federal aid in school construction.

Other discussion topics included the new Congress convenes on Thursday—toward which the Democrats again triumphed as they done during the past two years.

Domestic Program Emphasized The emphasis at the White House meeting was on the administration's domestic program. But there was also certain to be discussion, too, of foreign policy, particularly the new "Eisenhower Doctrine" for protection of the Middle East against Communism.

There will be more detailed consideration of that Tuesday, Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.), Mike Mansfield (Mont.) and J. William Fulbright (Ark.), all Democratic members of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, have complained that the administration "leaked" the new Middle East policy to the press before briefing Democratic leaders.

The "Eisenhower Doctrine" is expected to include two main points: A blunt warning to Russia to keep "hands off" the Middle East and a \$500 million economic aid program to draw the Middle East countries into closer relations with the West.

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Villegas told police at first the act was the result of a sudden whim. Later he admitted he picked up the stone in an alleyway outside the museum with the intent of throwing it at the painting.

Damage to Leonardo Da Vinci's great 16th Century masterpiece art expert, "slight" by museum art reports, but they said it might have been "irreparable" if it had not been guarded by a protective plate of glass—the only painting in the museum so protected.

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Paris.—(U.P.)—The Mona Lisa smiled her enigmatic smile today in a workshop at the Louvre while experts touched up the minor damage inflicted by the bearded Bolivian who flung a rock at the painting on a "whim."

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One Killed, One Hurt, One Arrested at Hilts

Hilts, Calif.—An unidentified man was killed, an ambulance driver was injured, and another driver is being sought as the result of a series of events near here Saturday night.

The unidentified man was struck and killed by a hit and run driver about 9:55 p.m. Saturday on Highway 99 near the Hilts intersection, the California Highway patrol reported today.

According to the report, the man had stepped off a bus near Hilts, and gone into a restaurant. He then left the restaurant and approached the highway when the accident occurred.

They were no witnesses and no other marks to indicate the vehicle had attempted to stop, officers said.

The highway patrol was notified of the accident by Lloyd Clark, Stockton, Calif., a passing motorist who discovered the body. Highway patrolmen, Siskiyou county sheriff's deputies and Gilder's ambulance service arrived at the scene a few moments later.

During investigation at the accident scene, an ambulance driver, Tom Colburn, 37, Yreka, who was standing near the highway by a deputy sheriff's car, was hit by a passing vehicle and knocked into a ditch.

Colburn received minor cuts and bruises and was not hospitalized. Driver of the car, Alfred Hassler, 30, Kerby, Ore., was cited for driving while intoxicated and was lodged in the Siskiyou county jail.

11 Killed When AF Plane Crashes

McGuire AFB, N.J.—(U.P.)—The Air Force said today 11 persons were killed and 26 injured when a C-121 Military Air transport crashed and burned while attempting to land at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia Sunday.

An Air Force announcement said 26 injured were in "good condition" at a Saudi Arabia hospital.

There were 37 persons aboard the \$20 million Super Constellation when it crashed at 3 p.m. one mile east of the U.S. air base in Dhahran.

An Air Force team was to fly from the United States this afternoon to investigate the crash.

The four-engine plane carried about 54 persons when it left McGuire AFB Dec. 28 for a journey to the Azores, Tripoli in Libya and Dhahran.

The flight originated from Charleston, S.C., Air Force Base with a crew of 11.

The crew discharged a number of passengers at the Azores before taking off again for Tripoli.

Police Express Hope County's Good Traffic Record Continues; Parties Planned Tonight

Law enforcement officers today expressed hope that New Year's Eve celebrations would not spoil the county's good holiday traffic record.

No major accidents have been reported in the county since midnight Friday when the four-day New Year's holiday began. There were no major accidents here during the Christmas holiday period, which began at midnight Friday, Dec. 21 and ended at midnight Dec. 25.

Stations, Offices to Close Down town Medford stores and city, county and federal offices will be closed Tuesday for the Jan. 1 holiday. A noon edition of the Mail Tribune will be published.

All local night clubs and restaurants will be open tonight, and are planning special entertainments. Many social organizations are planning private parties.

New Year's Eve watch night