

Traffic Accidents

New York - (UPI) - Traffic accidents cost \$7.9 billion during 1961, or an average of \$42.93 for each man, woman and child in the United States, the Insurance Information Institute reported Monday. The toll was the highest in history. The institute also said that fires in communities with populations of 2,500 or more caused a property loss of \$1,209,042,000, also a record.

Average Oregon War II Veteran Making \$6,000

Portland - (UPI) - The Veterans Administration drew a portrait of Oregon's 172,000 World War II veterans today on the 17th anniversary of V-J Day.

Regional Manager R. J. Novotny said the average ex-GI of World War II, based on national figures, is 44, married, has three children, and earns just under \$6,000 a year.

Nearly 98 per cent of the veterans are employed, most of them in manufacturing, trade, transport and construction. Ten per cent in the nation live on farms. Almost 88 per cent still are married to their original wives.

Those who made use of the GI Bill's home loan plan are living in homes costing an average \$14,500.

In Portland, Novotny said, 509 veterans daily can be found in the city's VA Hospital. The hospital treats some 6,000 individuals a year. Another 17,000 receive VA outpatient clinic treatment.

The VA conducts a \$471 million insurance program for Oregon veterans. An educational and training program already has more than 84,000 alumni, including 4,600 engineers, 3,600 teachers, and 1,300 doctors, dentists and nurses.

Oregon ex-GIs received more than \$29 million loans worth more than \$226 million. More than half of the loans have been repaid.

More than \$34 million a year in compensation and pension payments goes to some 49,000 Oregon disabled veterans, and widows, children and dependent parents of deceased veterans.

Anniversary of V-J Day Noted By Domiciliary

White City - John S. Gleason Jr., administrator of veterans affairs, has taken the occasion of the 17th anniversary of V-J Day, when World War II came to an end with the capitulation of the Japanese empire, to summarize the benefits and advantages now handled by the Veterans administration.

Pointing to the normal adjustment made by the ex-GI's of World War II, Gleason made public figures showing that 97.9 per cent of these veterans are employed and 87.8 per cent have been married.

"This settled character of the average ex-GI and the lack of unrest common among veterans in some other nations is, I believe, due largely to the laws passed by Congress," the administrator stated.

"It began before the war had actually ended with the passage of the GI Bill and continues to the present day in a series of laws passed to benefit veterans and their dependents."

The Veterans administration maintains the largest hospital and clinic system in the nation and between 500,000 and 600,000 veterans are patients in VA hospitals in any one year and another 1.5 million are treated at VA outpatient clinics.

More than 7,000 research projects in geriatrics, mental disease, heart disease, cancer and other disabilities are being conducted in VA hospitals and clinics, he noted.

The Veterans administration handles a \$40 billion life insurance business, and an educational and training program that already has more than 11 million alumni and is still in operation. The administration's GI loan program has already made more than 6.2 million loans valued at more than \$54.5 billion. Nearly \$14 billion has been repaid with the loss sustained by the government amounting to a fraction of one per cent.

The VA compensation and pension system makes payments of over \$300 million each month to more than four million disabled veterans and widows and children and dependent parents of deceased veterans.

To handle these programs, the VA has an annual budget of \$5.5 billion and more than 170,000 employees spread through every state in the union, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico and an office in the Philippines.

A total of 18,000 full and part time physicians are connected with the medical program and more than 1,000 dentists and some 14,000 nurses working in the largest organized nursing service in the world.

There are 170 hospitals, 91 outpatient clinics, 67 regional offices, 18 domiciliarys, three insurance centers and the most modern automatic processing equipment to carry out major programs.

According to domiciliary-registrar records, more than half of the veterans on the roll at White City today have disabilities resulting from service in World War II. Percentages are World War II, 53 per cent; World War I, 43 per cent; peace time (service connected) 2 per cent; Korea, 1 per cent; and Spanish American war, 1 per cent.

BIRD LIKES HOT DOG - St. Paul, Minn. - (UPI) - Carl Newton, 66, of Sioux City, Iowa, was bitten by an ostrich. The ostrich at the Como Park Zoo is fond of hot dogs. When the big bird spotted Newton eating one, the ostrich tried to grab the frankfurter from Newton's mouth and nipped his lip.



COOLING OFF—Pretty Anne Spence, 19, "Miss Wool" of Texas, tries to beat Austin's 104 degree temperature by sitting on a 100-pound block of ice while fanning herself and sipping a tall lemonade. Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Spence, is a sophomore at the University of Texas. (UPI)

The Medical Roundup

by Walter Alvarez Emeritus Consultant in Medicine Mayo Clinic Emeritus Professor of Medicine Mayo Clinic (Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

These Women Need Help of Expert

Hundreds of unhappy women, usually past middle-age, write asking me if there isn't something that can be done to protect them from losing a little urine when they cough or sneeze or walk up or down stairs. This is called "stress incontinence of urine."

Commonly it follows a perineal tear during childbirth, but occasionally one hears of it in a woman who has never married but has weak and relaxed muscles in her "pelvic floor." Also, it can be associated with some inflammatory process in the bladder or some neurologic disease, such as multiple sclerosis. Many of the women have trouble with urgency and urinary frequency.

Often they know that they are going to lose a little urine before they do, and this suggests the presence of trouble in the bladder. The inflammatory type of incontinence is sometimes added to that of the stress type. Always before a surgeon operates a urologist ought to look into the bladder with his cystoscope.

At the Mayo Clinic they have so many of these patients that for years Dr. Richard E. Symmonds has made a particular study of their problem, and recently he wrote a very helpful article on it (Journal "GP," May, 1962). He tells first about the several types of a tearing apart of muscles which can lead to stress incontinence, and then the several types of operations that have been designed in an effort to help these women. Some women can be helped by daily exercise of the muscle of the outlet of the bladder.

In a given case it is hard to say to what extent a muscle tear is responsible for the incontinence, because many a woman who has a bad tear does not have any trouble in holding her urine.

Ideal Operation Surgeons do not know all they would like to know about what is called the internal sphincter (the circular muscle which relaxes when one urinates, and then closes). The external or "voluntary sphincter" (tightening muscle) appears to be less important than is the internal sphincter.

The ideal operation for an incontinent sphincter should be one designed to correct at one time all of the existing abnormalities at the outlet of the urinary bladder. It should lift up the dropped uterus, vagina and bladder.

Dr. Symmonds is not in favor of performing operations for minor degrees of cystocele (a fallen bladder) with prolapse (a falling down) of the womb. Often a cystocele can be present with practically no symptoms. Obviously, it is not advisable to perform an operation on a woman who plans to have several more children. Their coming can tear down again what the surgeon has built up.

Factors that influence the surgeon in deciding whether to operate are obesity, or a bad bronchitis with much coughing, such as is likely to tear open the stitches right after an operation.

Unfortunately, it is not easy for even an expert surgeon to decide on just which operation is most likely to give a good result. Much depends on the experience and good judgment of the man. As Dr. Symmonds says, no single operation should be used on all patients with stress incontinence.

To be successful the operation must result in an elevation of, plus an elongation of, and to some extent a narrowing of the lumen (caliber) of the urethra (tube that carries urine out of the bladder). Commonly the initial satisfactory results of the relatively simple vaginal operations for a tear are only temporary.

Several Techniques A cure may require a combination of several vaginal or abdominal-vaginal techniques. Experience has shown that after 10 years many of the women who seemed to have been cured with the old Kelly operation have gotten into trouble again.

Of late, the so-called Kennedy operation, variously modified, has been the favorite one, but Dr. Symmonds has found that perhaps 40 per cent of the patients so operated on, who at first had a good result, after some years have trouble again. Hence, he believes that a more extensive operation should be performed.

When one plastic operation on the vagina fails to cure a patient, there isn't much chance that a second of the same type will cure. Today the surgeon often performs what is called a urethro-vesical suspension which can permanently cure about 85 per cent of the incontinent patients.

The impression left on me by Dr. Symmonds' article is that when a man devotes his life to one small field of surgery, and after years of this type of work still feels that he wishes he knew much more about the subject, a person who needs such surgery had better go to the expert. He is the man most likely to do a good job.

Emphysema should be treated in its early stages, and you should be acquainted with its symptoms. Dr. Alvarez is informative on this disease in his booklet, "Pulmonary Emphysema - A Common Cause of Shortness of Breath." To obtain your copy, send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER Copyright, Hall Syndicate, Inc.

OUR 'DISAPPEARING' WORKERS

The reason the rate of unemployment in our country has just declined an insignificant fraction to around 5.3 per cent of all those able and willing to work is not that our economy suddenly is gaining new strength and a lot more jobs have opened up. The reason is that a lot fewer men and women have been looking for jobs than experts anticipated would be jobseekers at this time.

In July, our total labor force, including the armed forces, came to 76,437,000, about 500,000 above the level of summer, 1961.

But according to the official projections, there should be 1 million more men and women in our labor force now than a year ago — and these year-to-year projections usually have been "safe," for the simple reason that we know how many babies of the 1940s are reaching working age in the 1960s and we certainly can count our adult workers.

The latest employment-unemployment statistics have been woefully underanalyzed, a real drawback in view of their impact on policy.

In the first place, the drop from June to July was not from 5.5 to 5.3 per cent, as officially reported. It was, in unrounded figures, from 5.46 to 5.34 per cent, a decline of only 0.12 per cent, so tiny that it's statistically insignificant.

In the second place the immediate interpretation of the picayune decline as a signal that no new moves are needed to spur our economy in the months ahead ignores the key fact that the unemployment rate does not forecast where our economy might be going. It just reflects where the economy is. This rate is not one of the so-called "leading indicators" which telegraph a business turn in advance of the turn. It is one of the "coincident indicators" which show what is happening as it happens and what is happening is that after 18 months of business advance, the unemployment rate is still above five per cent.

In the third place, the news stories have ignored the reasons why hundreds of thousands of men and women who were scheduled to be in the work force now aren't in it. Here are three major reasons why.

1. The "disappearance" of many adult women — in the words of a U. S. Labor Dept. manpower expert I checked, "the most important deviation from what we expected." Abruptly, the persistent postwar return of women in the 35-54 age brackets back to the labor force has slowed.

Why? Is it because they can't get jobs in this sluggish economy? Is it because the women haven't the skills to fill the jobs available? Is it because so many have gone back to work that the movement is slowing naturally? The answer I received repeatedly to the questions was "we don't know, we're puzzled, we have to study this."

2. The "disappearance" of many young men in the 14-19 age group. The proportion in this group in the labor force was due to drop from 49 per cent in 1955 to under 48 per cent as of now; instead, it's down to 46.5 per cent.

Why? Is it because the youngsters are responding to pleas to stay in school, get the skills to fill the jobs? Is it because they've tried to get jobs, have found it impossible without training, have left the labor force to go back to schools? The suspicion is "yes" on both counts — a result fine for the youngsters and our economy's future.

3. The "disappearance" of many men over 62 and over 65 at a rate "far faster than anyone foresaw." The projection was that by 1975, the over-65 would account for 31 per cent of our labor force; the proportion is down to 31.7 per cent now, already almost at the 1975 level!

Why? Is it because as the jobs of many of these older people have been erased, they have dropped out to live on whatever pensions and savings they have? Is it because the steady rise in social security and pension protection permits them to retire voluntarily? "Probably both."

The unexpected "shrinkage" in our labor force has good and bad aspects, is part of the "mixed bag" of statistics of which President Kennedy and Labor Secretary Goldberg have been speaking. It's a befuddling picture, leaving an objective observer with a flat feeling. And that's what our economy is today — "flat" at a high level.

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Value of Food Increased Under Stamp Program

Washington - (UPI) - The Agriculture Department conducted an extensive survey of the effects of the food stamp program in eight pilot areas before the administration ordered it expanded to 23 additional areas in 18 states.

The findings indicate that: -Food stamp families made significant increases in the value of food used after they started participating. More than 80 per cent of this increase was accounted for by animal products—meat, poultry, fish, milk, and eggs—by fruits and vegetables.

Recipients of food coupons have better diets than similar low income families not participating in the program. But they still do not eat as well as higher income groups.

Retail food store sales, measured in dollars, increased after the inauguration of the program—an average of 8 per cent in the same stores surveyed.

Both small and large stores attracted a reasonable proportion of food coupon sales. -Total food sales were higher in the survey stores in all pilot areas—meats by 7 per cent, produce by 8 per cent, and other grocery items by 9 per cent.

Approval Expressed

In a survey of attitudes, more than 90 per cent of the participating families expressed approval of the program, primarily because it offered a greater variety of food. Families of moderate and higher income not eligible for the program felt that low-income families should be enabled to obtain more and better food and approved of the food coupon approach. Virtually all of the retailers liked the program. So did the majority of local welfare workers and administrators.

Program of Baton Twirling Scheduled

A one-hour program of baton twirling titled "Girls' Dream" will be shown to the public at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, Parks and Recreation Director Robert L. Hawthorn said today.

The program will feature about 120 students who took part in baton twirling classes this summer at part of the city's recreation program. Dayle Nesheim, baton instructor, will direct the program, which will be held in Hawthorne park, Hawthorn said.

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