

Uniform Boating Law To Be Pushed In California

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SACRAMENTO (UPI) — California's 1959 State Legislature probably is going to be asked to adopt a uniform boating law to straighten out the jumble of federal, state and local regulations which now face boaters.

Lee Helsel, state recreation director, indicated this recently but was unable to state positively how the uniform law will be tossed in the hopper. He was positive that it will be.

"We won't introduce it ourselves, of course," he told United Press International. "It probably will originate from one of the committees. There's certainly a need for it."

The state recreation commission this week released a booklet on "Regulations on Boating and Related Aquatic Sports in California" which gave a good indication of just what a problem even the fishing boat has in the state.

"On weekends and holidays," Helsel said in the news release accompanying the booklet, "it is probable that boats travel farther by trailers on highways than these same craft actually travel in the water."

"The boat owner finds consistency in highway traffic laws and enforcement procedures in any part of the state but confusion reigns in the regulations pertaining to boating at water areas controlled by many different jurisdictions."

Helsel took the lead by presenting the report—a thorough study of these conflicting regulations—to officials of city and county recreation and park and law enforcement agencies of Los Angeles. That county originally requested the publication.

Here are some of the facts about boating in California:

There's no speed limit for boats in California with a couple of exceptions. Those are when the craft is operated within 100 feet of any swimmer or water skiing, and within 200 feet of any beach. Then the limit is five miles an hour (nautical).

Shooting game birds or mammals except sea lions or whales from a boat is unlawful. If you do it you could be fined \$25 or sent to prison for 10 days.

The state park commission has set up its own rules, but of course they apply only under the commission's jurisdiction. The major one is a "reasonable and prudent" speed limit.

Here's what the proposed uniform regulation act would add to present law:

1. Equipment: All motorboats would be required to have life preservers, fire extinguishers and lights; motorboats of 16 feet or more would need whistles; carburetors would have backfire arresters and there would be ventilation for engine and fuel compartment bilges.

2. Speed limits and operation: Boats would have to be operated in a "careful and prudent manner at a speed which would not endanger the life, limb or property of any person."

3. Rules of Navigation: Each boat must steer to the right on approaching each other; boats could not be operated in marked swimming areas; operation of a boat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs would be prohibited; boat operators must report accidents.

4. Penalties: Violation on rental boats would be a misdemeanor punishable by a \$200 fine; speed limits, a misdemeanor punishable by a \$2,000 fine or imprisonment for up to one year, and other violation of provisions of the act would be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100.

Helsel said that a survey by a New York legislative committee in 1956 showed that 17 states, including California, had enacted laws requiring registration of boats.

But California fell short in other particulars. It had no laws on reckless operation, maximum loads, horsepower limitation, inspection, accident reporting, mini-

mum age or water skiing regulation.

If a uniform law were adopted in California, Helsel's report pointed out, it would be applicable to "all watercraft" operated on "all waterways" of the state.

"Its provisions are intended to supplement federal laws and regulations on the subject," Helsel said.

On the subject of local regulations—which in some cases take up where federal and state laws leave off—the reclamation commission asked for ordinances and regulations from 26 political subdivisions known to have waters for recreational use.

Of the 18 local governments whose ordinances were compared, 11 had ordinances on specific bodies of water, and four were city or countywide.

One statewide regulation act—which would have made some improvements—was introduced in the 1957 Legislature, but it failed to pass and was made the subject of an interim committee study.

Prescription Cost Hiked By Quality

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — It cost an average of \$3.22 to buy a prescription in an Oregon drug store last year, according to a survey by two Oregon State College pharmacy professors.

This cost is up 34 cents over two years ago. The \$3.22 price was 44 cents higher than the comparable national average.

Increased cost of prescriptions is due primarily to the greater use of antibiotics and newer, high-quality drugs. Increased cost of doing business was listed as a minor factor in the increased cost.

"People are getting better and more effective medicine and don't have to take so much of it," Dr. Leo Sciuchetti, professor of pharmacy, said. About 70 per cent of the drugs used in prescriptions today were not available 10 years ago.

The study was made by Sciuchetti and Ben F. Cooper Jr., pharmacy professor. Prescriptions were collected by senior students during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Average price of the most-sold prescription, tablets, was \$3.17. Liquids, in second place, averaged \$2.99; capsules, third, \$4.35; and ointments, fourth, \$2.35. Lowest average was for bulk powders, \$1.74.

About 51 per cent of all prescriptions were priced at \$2.50 or less, while two years ago 60 per cent were in the under \$2.50 bracket.

Copies of 3074 prescriptions were collected from 29 Oregon pharmacies. Of the 29 stores, five were professional stores; six, chain stores; and 18, general drug stores.

Of the total prescriptions, 97.6 per cent were prescribed by physicians; 2.1 per cent by osteopaths, 0.3, dentists; and less than 0.1, veterinarians.

Almost 96 per cent or 2943 of the 3074 prescriptions did not require compounding. Of the 131 compounded prescriptions, 94 called for two ingredients; 21 required three ingredients; and 16 called for four or more ingredients.

In the therapeutic classification, antibiotics were first with 762 or 24.8 per cent of the 3074 prescriptions.

NO SHORTCUT

PUTNAM, Conn. (UPI) — When the Connecticut Public Utilities Commission authorized the New Haven Railroad to discontinue trains on its Hartford-Putnam line, it assured passengers they could still get from Putnam to Hartford by train in a round-about way.

A check showed the quickest trip you could make to cover the 48 miles would take you seven hours.

Oregon Farm Income Boost Seen In 1958

Higher incomes are in the making for Oregon farmers this year, reports an Oregon State College agricultural economist.

Larger marketings of farm products, plus a two per cent average increase in farm prices in Oregon, are boosting incomes well above 1957, says Mrs. Elvera Horrell, OSC extension economist.

Receipts from sales of Oregon farm products so far this year are running as much as 11 per cent ahead of the same months in 1957. Better livestock prices and larger marketings of farm products are credited with most of the gain.

Oregon's mid-year crop prospects are reported generally favorable with yields of main field crops likely to run well above average. Growers are looking for record crops of corn, barley and snap beans.

Better than average harvest is expected for wheat, oats, peaches, fresh market sweet corn, watermelons, and walnuts. But marketings may be down for apples, pears, grapes, filberts, and green peas for processing.

Oregon farmers harvested more sweet cherries than last year, but fewer strawberries. Acreage of late summer potatoes is up, but fall potato acreage was cut back, leaving the total only slightly above last year, Mrs. Horrell reports.

Nationally, the farm picture is also bright. Large crops and improved prices may push net farm income to the highest level since 1933. Winter wheat is setting new production records, soybean acreage is at a record high, and barley, oats, rye and dry bean crops may be near-average. The national corn crop may be smaller than last year but still large.

Fruit and vegetable crops will also swell national marketings this year. The apple crop could be the largest since 1950, peaches the largest since 1947, and pears slightly above average, economists report.

Walnut harvest is expected to be above average. Filberts, grown mainly in Oregon, are likely to be down sharply from last year's exceptionally large crop, but still above average.

Country Church Said Lagging

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) — A University of Wisconsin rural sociologist doubts that country churches have kept pace with the changing world.

Prof. A. F. Wileden said church literature and programs must be as good as other modern teaching materials to fill the needs of the present generation.

"In the past, country churches and country schools have grown side by side," he said. "Most schools are changing to meet today's needs but I question whether churches have kept pace."

Wileden said that because of the "suburban area trend" and its

many social needs, churches have an opportunity for adult education, improvement of physical and mental health and citizenship training.

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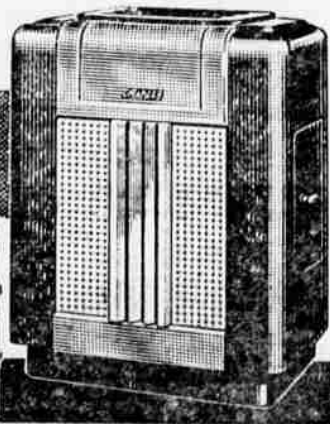
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