

Parents Should Teach Use Of Safety Belts

"Oregon parents can help lead the way to fewer highway deaths and injuries by teaching their children to use safety belts," says Howard Eddy, executive secretary of the Oregon Traffic Safety commission.

Last year 64 children, under 15 years old, were killed on Oregon highways and 3,138 youngsters were injured. Eddy said that seat belts could have prevented a fourth of these deaths and reduced injuries by one-third.

"For example," said Eddy, "many parents have children in the car when they drive to the store or to friends' homes. They say to themselves, 'It's a short trip and I'll drive slowly, so why bother with seat belts?' Yet, the facts show that three out of four traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of home, and that a crash stop at only 15 mph can kill a child without a seat belt."

Children who are not secured by a safety belt present another hazard, he said, by distracting a parent. "A tragic example of this occurred when a young Oregon mother reached out to grab her child who was rolling off

the front seat. As she did so, she pulled the steering wheel with her other hand, which put her car in the path of an oncoming car. The result was a fatality.

"We also know of other parents who did not think safety belts were needed for children sitting in the back seat. But the impact of a crash easily hurled their youngsters over the top of the front seat and through the windshield," Eddy stated.

He said such accidents can easily be avoided by teaching children to fasten their safety belts. Three- and four-year olds should be able to wear and operate a regular seat belt. Below this age, children can be protected by sitting in an infant-car seat, equipped with shoulder belts.

"And don't forget the baby who is not yet able to sit," Eddy added. "Tiny babies are safest in a padded bassinet or car bed, with head protection, placed vertically on the rear seat. When the bassinet is snugly fitted between the back of the front seat and the back seat, it will offer more resistance to movement than if the car bed were merely laid horizontally on the back seat."

Parents should remember that the safety habits they teach their children will not be effective unless they, too, fasten their seat belts. Eddy said that a seat belt will keep the driver firmly behind the wheel and ready to bring the car back under control should any mishap occur. Otherwise, he or she may be jarred from behind the wheel and lose control.

It's Your Law!

SOLDIER'S LEASE

Jim had just received notice that his reserve unit had been called to active duty. He and his wife had just rented a new apartment and signed a one year lease.

Jim explained his position to his new landlord, but he would not agree to cancel the lease. "We made a deal," he insisted. "What can Jim do? Can the landlord hold him to the terms of the lease?"

No, Jim could not be held to the terms of the lease. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act comes to Jim's aid. It allows him to terminate the lease by giving his landlord 30 days written notice.

This act is a federal law seeking to strengthen the national defense. It suspends the enforcement of civilian liabilities of servicemen in certain cases. No one can take a default judgment against a serviceman. Thus persons called to military duties can devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the nation.

Had Jim been buying a home and making monthly payments, he might have been able to postpone mortgage payments during the period of military service and could have had a reasonable period of time after his release in which to make the payments. However, such a postponement requires court action and is not possible in all cases.

Other provisions in the act deal with the payment of life insurance premiums while the insured is in the military service, and provide for delay in payment of taxes or assessments during the period of military duty.

Jim, as well as other persons entering any branch of the military service, whether by means of the draft, call-up of reserve units, or enlistments, should check the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act in the light of their own personal problems.

(Oregon lawyers offer this column as a public service. No person should apply or interpret any law without the aid of an attorney who is completely advised of the facts involved. Even a slight variance in fact may change the application of the law.)

A great many people are already working a four-day week, but it takes them five or six days to do it.

Some students drink deeply at the fountain of knowledge -- others only gargle.

The do-it-yourself craze might be carried far enough to include thinking that way.

Farm Labor Needs, Goals Noted; Outlook Outlined

A farm labor organizer, a grower and a labor specialist sat down at a table and talked this week in Oregon, but they were negotiating ideas, not contracts.

The setting was a panel discussion, "Perspectives on Migrant Labor" on the Oregon State University campus. The speakers were Andrew Imutan, vice president of the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee at Delano, Calif.; Eugene Euwer, a tree fruit and strawberry grower from Parkdale, Oregon; and Dr. John Mamer, a University of California extension economist and farm labor specialist.

The speakers soon found they all agreed that both farm laborers and farmers should make more money and that a more stable work force would help both parties, but disagreed on the methods for achieving these goals.

Imutan led off with a plea for inclusion of farm workers in the National Labor Relations Act which states that an employer must sit down with, bargain with, and discuss grievances with elected representatives of his workers. He recalled that when the original bill was written in 1935, it included farm workers, but they were excluded by the time Congress got to vote on the bill.

The California strike and boycott coordinator quoted the chairman of the labor committee at that time as saying, "... I am in favor of giving agricultural workers every protection, but just now I believe in biting off one mouthful at a time. If we can get this bill through and get it working properly, there will be opportunity later, and I hope soon, to take care of the agricultural workers."

"It has been 32 years since Congress took its first bite," emphasized Imutan, "and farm labor has been neglected four times since the act was first amended."

He argued that just as farmers are protected through subsidies and special economic concessions, farm workers should also be protected in their right to bargain collectively.

Imutan quoted U.S. Department of Labor statistics in saying that the migrant earns, on the average, "an incredibly low \$657 a year, and can be unemployed for as long as six months out of a year."

The figure was challenged by State Director of Agriculture Walter Leth, who moderated the panel, but both agreed that the present figure, even if higher, was too low.

Outlining bills to provide for collective bargaining for farm labor that are presently in the U. S. House and Senate, Imutan said they would exempt farmers with payrolls less than \$10,000 a year.

"We are interested in the factories in the fields," he said. "We have no quarrel with the small family farms and our opinion is that there will be no legislation in the future to seriously hurt the small family farms."

The organizer said unions could assure farmers of dependable and highly skilled labor forces from year to year and that the morale of his workers would heighten because of a stronger security. He said there will be "serious organizing efforts in Oregon this summer."

Euwer maintained that a good picker could earn \$3,000 in Oregon from June to October and live for free in grower cabins all the way. "This is not a princely sum," he said, "but it is \$600 per month, rent free."

"Both as growers and concerned citizens, we should make an effort to differentiate between the social problems of individuals and the problems inherent in the employment situation itself," he continued.

"The two greatest problems are the unskilled worker with the too-large family and the alcoholic. No conceivable agricultural wage now or in the future can solve either of these problems... Society is still faced with them... and the sooner we stop blaming farmers for them, the sooner we can make some progress."

"I get the impression that if enough laws are passed, enough workers are unionized and enough machines are developed, there will be no migrant problem anymore," Euwer added. "I think these solutions are sophistry and those perpetrating them should know better."

The fruit grower reminded his listeners that of Oregon's two most important canning crops, pears and green beans, the grower, last year, only got 15 cents out of the 55 cents a consumer paid for a can of pears and 5 cents from a 29 cent can of beans.

"Today we have a national administration dedicated to the policy of cheap food," he said. "We have a secretary of agriculture who 'regrets' the increase in the rising cost of food."

Euwer said the biggest objections growers had against unions is the threat of strikes during the harvest season and contract reliability.

"Suppose a contract is worked out between the union and a small agricultural employer," he asked, "How can a union in Hood River guarantee that anyone at all will be at work the next day?"

The trouble is that when success turns a fellow's head, it doesn't wring his neck at the same time.

Pharmacologists Issue Warning On Drug Abuse

Several commonly-known drugs with sound medical uses are abused and produce dependency, two Oregon State University pharmacologists cautioned during "Drug Abuse Week."

Drs. Gregory B. Fink and Robert E. Larson discussed such drugs as benzedrine, dextroamphetamine, amylal and pentobarbital.

Amphetamines, including benzedrine and dextroamphetamine, stimulate the sympathetic and central nervous system, stated Fink. Their use results in blood pressure rise, heart rate increase, and constriction of blood vessels.

These widely used compounds of cold and allergy preparations cause arousal, wakefulness, and increase the psychic activity which results in a mood of elation and euphoria. They tend to decrease fatigue and appetite, he noted.

Properly used, such drugs improve endurance, initiative, performance and confidence. However, increasing the daily dosage beyond three or four tablets tends to perpetuate use and result in extreme depression and lethargy when the pills are no longer taken, it was noted.

"The body can sustain only a certain amount of this stimulation," emphasized Fink.

The same type of person who abuses benzedrine and dextroamphetamine also abuses the barbiturates, such as seconal, amylal and pentobarbital, despite the fact that the barbiturates cause radically different effects in the body, noted Larson.

Unlike benzedrine and dextroamphetamine, barbiturates depress the central nervous system and remove inhibitory influences, resulting in an apparent stimulation, observed Larson.

Sudden withdrawal of these drugs from the addict may be life-threatening, it was pointed out. In toxic amounts, these compounds affect the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Ordinary barbiturate dosage is one-tenth of a gram per day. Addiction begins by using three to four times this amount, it was pointed out.

Work Smarter - Not Harder

READ THE LABELS AND SAVE MONEY. Now that the "Truth-in-Packaging" law is in effect, how well do you make use of what it can do for you? This law requires that packages must contain a statement on the main display panel telling the net contents in weight, liquid measure or whatever is appropriate.

Contents of packages under four pounds must be stated two ways--in total ounces, as well as pounds and ounces. So if your arithmetic is a little rusty, you'll find it's now easier to figure the cost per ounce and, therefore, to compare prices.

AREA RUGS ARE "IN", with a wide choice of size, design, and fiber, according to Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Oregon State University home furnishings specialist. Technically, an area rug is smaller than a nine-by-twelve, but no smaller than a three-by-five. The shape can be anything; the styles vary from traditional to futuristic.

Prices also vary widely, and man-made fibers make it possible for good design to be available at budget prices. For families who expect to move frequently, or who do not want all-over carpeting, an area rug does a good job of "furnishing" a floor.

Conversation areas can be grouped about the rug, or a dining table and chairs may fit on one. Area rugs are also used on top of carpet. In the bedroom the expense of carpeting under the bed is saved when a rug is used. Wear problems are avoided by rotating the rug. Some area rugs are machine washable, others can be sent out for commercial cleaning to prolong their lives.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES of durable press fabrics can really mean no ironing necessary. But a few new practices in care may be required to reap all the benefits.

Stains and deep soil lines on colors come out if pre-treated by rubbing with full strength liquid detergent. Treat stains as soon as possible and allow time for detergent to loosen the soil. Dry cleaning solvent may be needed for greasy stains.

Don't overload the washer. Clothes need room to move about to avoid setting wrinkles. It's all right to wash in hot water if your washer automatically brings in cold water before clothes are spun. But if clothes spin while hot, wrinkles will result. If you can't do this in your machine, then wash in warm water.

Tumble drying gives best results. You can dry durable press garments on the line, however, but expect to see a few wrinkles.

CAN YOU WADE THROUGH LEGAL JARGON in appliance warranties? Betty Furness, President Johnson's Special Assistant on Consumer Affairs, was in Oregon recently and had some rather strong words on the subject.

However, at least two appliance manufacturers have already recognized this problem. One of them puts its warranty in "plain English" questions and answers.

Another manufacturer did away with warranty certificates completely. Instead they have substituted a letter in simple language. They tell consumers exactly what protection they are entitled to, also what they're not entitled to. There is no small print. These letters are just as binding as old-type warranties.

Now, folks, if the manufacturers are doing something about our complaints, don't you think we should at least read these new warranties?

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