

Speed, Drinking, Reckless Driving Are Highway Killers

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following essay on traffic safety won first prize at WTHS for its writer, Jim Hall.)

When I was asked to prepare this essay on traffic safety, I accepted readily, for I want to set forth, in this paper, some of the facts pertaining to this grim and urgent problem. I use the word problem in its fullest sense, because in my opinion and the opinion of others far superior in their judgment, this is one of the most dire and monumental issues ever to face the American public.

Already thousands of families have felt the effects of the drunken driver, the speed demon who exhibits not a thought for the safety of others, and the "just careless and reckless" driver who

never seems to be in the wrong and yet is the cause of thousands of accidents each year.

Yes, these families have felt the effects. They know what it is to lose their loved ones, husbands, fathers, sons and daughters and just, practically all of these "accidents" were preventable. In 1955, alone, there were 38,200 deaths on our highways. Of this total, thousands could have been prevented. This means that there would have been many thousands fewer of broken homes and destroyed lives.

There are three main causes, as mentioned before, of this disaster on our highways. One is speed, two is drinking, and three is reckless driving. Of these three, the one responsible for the most fatalities is speed, a simple five



BIG AND LITTLE, young and old will step up to the microphone to entertain the audience at the annual Max Patch Singing Convention this Sunday. Pictured here are performers at a past sing—Norma Clark of Fines Creek and Roy Plemons of Lake Junaluska. (Mountaineer Photo).

Lake Pool Is Opened; Record Crowds Predicted

The Lake Junaluska swimming pool opened Tuesday for the summer season. Attendants state that the pool will be open from 10:30 in the mornings until 5 o'clock in the afternoons for the first few days. There will be no breaks for lunch.

Wallace Martin of Bryson City and Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, is director of swimming. Harry Ervin Applewhite of Stantonsburg is in charge of the water safety division.

Lifeguards are Richard Beauchamp of Nashville; Melford A. Wilson, Jr., of Clemson, S. C.; Tommy Gentzel of Chatahoochee, Fla., and Florida State University; and Johnny Ellington of Moultrie, Ga., and Emory University.

A new roof has been put on the bath house and the ceiling and walls have been painted. At various times throughout the summer

Belcher Organist For L. Junaluska

Euel H. Belcher, of Moulton, Ala., will be the organist for Lake Junaluska Assembly this summer. He taught organ and sacred music at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss. during the past year.

Belcher graduated from Texas Wesleyan College at Forth Worth, in 1950 with a Bachelor's degree in music. He went on to Indiana University where he received his Master's degree in 1951.

He was at Lake Junaluska last summer when he accompanied the Keesler Male Chorus from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. in a performance.

Lake officials have stated that swimming may be restricted because of the large number of delegates expected to attend conferences at the assembly this summer.

One out of seven U. S. workers is rated as skilled.

Women's Group To Open Meet At Lake Friday

The Wesleyan Service Guild of the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church will open a three-day meeting at Lake Junaluska tomorrow. First on the agenda is a general assembly meeting in the auditorium at 11 o'clock.

Miss Georgia Haswell, Spiritual Life Chairman, will lead a Retreat at the meeting tonight at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Ralph A. Ward will give an address following the Retreat. Mrs. Ward is the wife of the bishop of the Central China Area, Hong-Kong.

Various Wesleyan Service Guild sessions will be held Saturday. The conference closes Sunday, June 10. Mrs. Ira C. Shelley is Conference Guild secretary.

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letter word, yet it is beginning to symbolize a menace which has already brought death to more American people than were lost in both world wars.

Speeding to some people is the farthest most point to which they can go before they realize that they have lost any semblance

of control over their automobile. What they do not seem to understand is that the velocity of the car does not need to exceed the legal limit in order to be classified as "speeding". The rate at which you can travel safely is mainly determined by two things. One is the weather conditions and two is the condition of the roads upon which you are traveling. It is a sad but true fact that it often takes the loss of a loved one or a crippling accident to make this understood.

Perhaps the next most deadly of the three killers is alcohol taken in the form of beverages. The reason for its deadliness is this: the normal eye has a fairly wide range of vision and can see ahead distinctly about 30 feet. Two glasses of beer, a common beverage, will narrow the width of your vision and cut the range at which you can see distinctly by about one-third.

The effects of alcohol are also shown in the lengthened reaction time. Under normal conditions it takes about one-fifth of a second to apply the brakes. This means that in a car doing 60 miles per hour, you will travel 17 feet between the time your foot leaves the accelerator and the brakes take hold. The same two glasses of beer taken before multiply this distance by four. You can readily see the importance of this in an emergency.

The last of the three killers is just plain recklessness. This fault in the drivers of our nation causes thousands of accidents each year. The best remedy for this driving defect is to stop, think and correct your attitude before it is too late.

Another factor in traffic safety is the mechanical condition of your car. It is best to have regular safety checks and eliminate the chance of a disastrous mechanical failure while you are driving.

The facts and figures on this paper give rise to two different attitudes. The first attitude and fortunately the one taken by most people is one of shocked disbelief which gives away to a determination to improve the situation in any way they can. On the other hand, some people, fortunately a minority, take the attitude "so what, it can't happen to me." Nothing could be further from the truth, it can happen to anyone at any time.

Recently there have been some great advances made in improving safety conditions on our highways. Among these are the installment of Driver Education courses in our schools and the opening of these courses to the public during the summer months.

There has also been a general tightening of the laws concerning speeders and intoxicated and reckless drivers. However, there is a great deal remaining to be done and it is up to every individual to help protect, not only his own life, but also the lives of his family and friends, by being alert and observing all the laws while driving on our public highways.

Cherokee III Starts Cruises At Junaluska

The Cherokee III, Lake Junaluska's "Big Boat," began her 1956 summer cruise Wednesday afternoon with a chartered trip.

When enough people are on the assembly grounds, the Cherokee will operate a regular schedule, as well as on chartered trips. The "Big Boat" carries sightseers to all parts of the lake. An outing lasts approximately thirty minutes.

The Cherokee is berthed at the boathouse near the auditorium.

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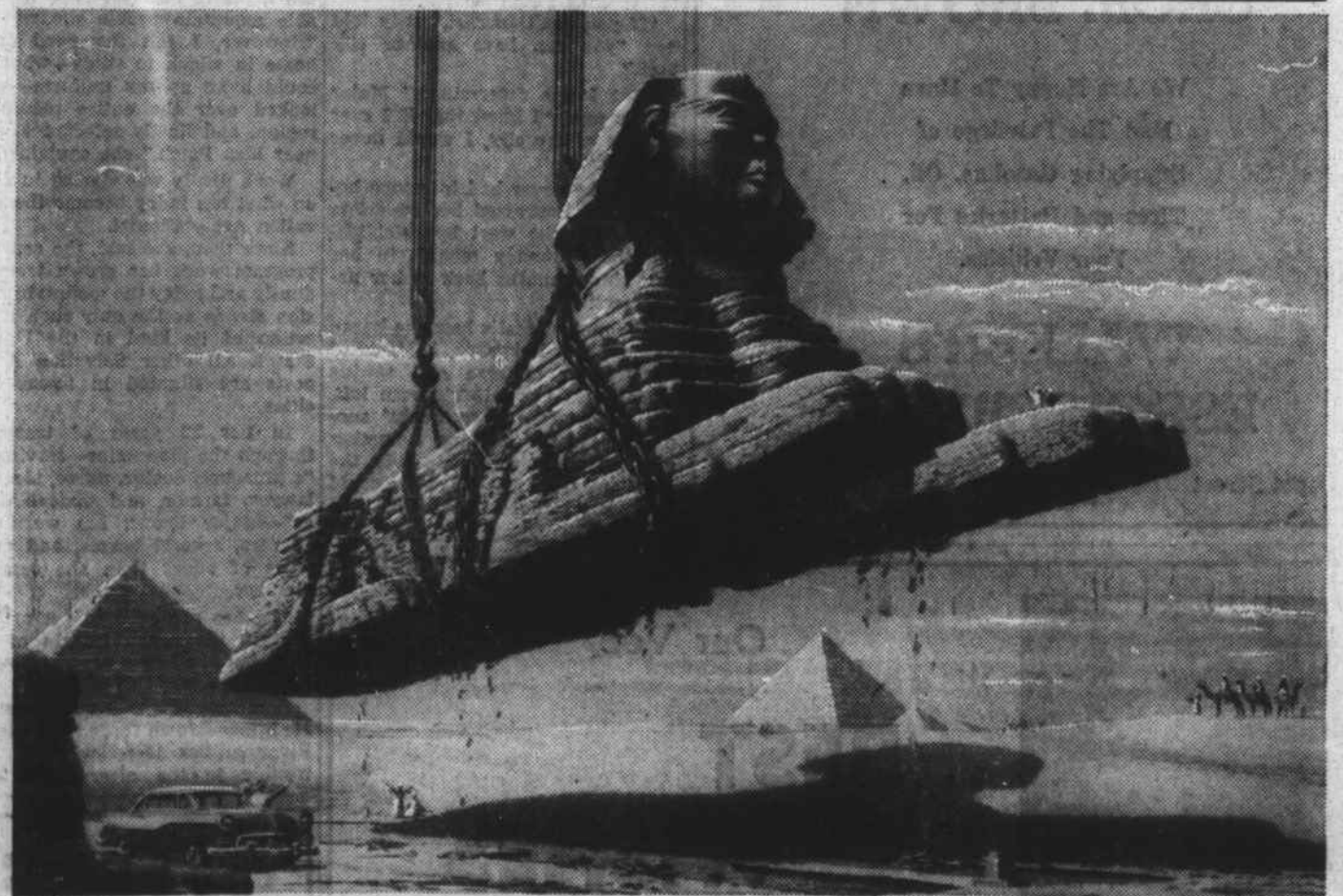
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