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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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HOLIDAY WEEK-END— IS DANGEROUS PERIOD—

July 4 will be next Monday, when Americans will celebrate the 173rd anniversary of independence.

The fact that the holiday comes at the end of a week-end period makes it all the more dangerous from the standpoint of accident hazards.

Millions of Americans during the week-end will take motor trips, and hundreds of them will never return to their homes alive. Estimates have already been made of an accident toll which is expected to be alarming. The people know the danger, and advance warning should make them more safety conscious.

If all drivers during the coming week-end would contemplate the dangers involved, the accident toll could be held to a minimum. Every driver should resolve to drive more cautiously than ever before, because of the increased hazards, and should make certain as far as humanly possible that he will not cause an accident.

Because of the heavy traffic, drivers should lower their speed and drive as if every other driver on the road were crazy.

There can be no excuse for driving while drinking. About half the holiday accident toll will be caused, as usual, by drivers under the influence of nitoxicants. If you are going to drink, even lightly, stay out from under a steering wheel and make sure that the person driving the vehicle in which you are riding has not been drinking.

Each year there are warnings for a "Safe and sane Fourth," and each year the accident toll goes up needlessly. Use of more common sense and caution will eliminate the unnecessary slaughter on the highways.

WHAT IS ALCOHOLISM?—

The Christian Science Monitor under the by-line of John Beaufort, has a full-page discussion of the question "What is Alcoholism?" and says that experts interviewed agreed that the only cure for alcoholism is abstinence. It credits to Dr. Howard W. Haggard, director of the Yale University Laboratory of Applied Physiology, the statement that there are 6,000,000 "excessive drinkers" in the United States. This is a considerably greater figure than has heretofore been current. The Christian Science Monitor says, "Other authorities declare that slightly more than 10 per cent of this group have reached an advanced stage of alcoholism..." The article continues:

"Perhaps the alcoholic is the man his family talks much about—the father whose lurching entrance can fill a room with silent, agonized embarrassment or terror, or nervous laughter. Maybe he's the drinker who waits in remorse and wretchedness until the street is empty and the house is dark, before going home.

The victim of alcoholism does not "limit himself to making life unhappy for himself, his family, and his friends. He invariably is in trouble.

"He falls down on his business and professional responsibilities. He is an all too familiar figure in the courts, jails, hospitals, and welfare offices of the nation.

"An individual has filled the qualifications for an 'excessive drinker,' says Dr. Haggard, 'when, as a result of drinking, he has harmed himself repeatedly—spiritually, socially, economically, and physiologically.'

The alcoholic usually starts out as a so-

cial drinker, according to the Yale Plan authorities. For a time, his particular tendency may not be noticeable.

"But as the years pass, he more and more often is the person who drinks to get drunk, who 'blacks out' at a party and can't remember a thing about it the next morning, who drinks to overcome the effects of drinking and so increases his problem, who 'sneaks' drinks on the quiet, who cannot stop drinking even when he wants to, and who finally loses all control of his drinking once he has taken one drink.

PEDESTRIANS NEED— BETTER PROTECTION—

The amount of motor traffic at the corner and B and Ninth streets here makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross the street, with or against the green light.

All too many drivers here totally disregard the rights of pedestrians and many serious if not fatal accidents have been averted only because the pedestrians were able to jump quickly.

Often a stream of cars will make a left turn rapidly through the intersection with no regard whatever for walkers trying to cross the street. And it is amazing that many drivers believe that they have the right of way in making such turns, and that it is up to the pedestrians to get out of the way or else. A town this size should accord pedestrians better protection. Persons walking across the streets of other cities with the green light have some assurance that they will not get run down. Here a pedestrian for his own safety should be poised for a leap in any direction.

The accident death toll of Memorial Day approximated 400. Just about one-fourth of these died because of drinking by themselves or others. That means 100 homes plunged into sorrow in one day because we treat alcohol as though it were milk.

- THE - EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert
Spaugh, D. D.



So you are mad, are you? Or perhaps your feelings are hurt and you are pouting over in a corner. Well, what are you going to do about it?

If you continue to nurse your anger or hurt feelings you are going to be increasingly unhappy. You are going to hurt yourself more than you hurt anybody else.

Maybe you have become so angry that you have caused the one who has offended you to be hailed into court. That's bad for you and for him. A prominent court official recently told me that the majority of those who brought others into court did so for revenge and not for justice.

Revenge is a two-edged sword. It cuts both ways. The Bible says, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." But so many of us usurp the power of God and set out to secure revenge for ourselves. Then what happens? Revenge calls for retaliation; and retaliation calls for revenge, and the vicious circle commences, enlarges, grows greater, all the while creating more misery and unhappiness for a larger number of people.

What satisfaction do you get out of revenge? If any, it is a vicious or sadistic pleasure, which brews a poison within your own soul.

History is filled with the stories of men and women who set out in anger for vengeance. Some of you may recall two men recently who exemplified this by the name of Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Some of you who are obsessed with this idea of vengeance are professing Christians and church members. Others of you who are licking your wounds over some affront you have received are also members of churches, clubs, and organizations which profess to teach their members largeness of spirit. Shame on you! Why don't you grow up and be your age?

Displays of temper and pouting are signs of immaturity and childishness. I will never forget seeing a man walk headlong into the edge of an open door. He wasn't looking where he was walking and received a severe bump on the head. It angered him so that he kicked the door. This hurt his foot. He was now hurt on both ends, and his language became sulphurous. All of which shortened his life just that much and hurried him a little quicker toward the grave, in addition to making him appear ridiculous in the sight of those standing by.

American Legion Highway Safety Committee Named

New Bern.—R. C. Godwin of New Bern, Commander of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion, today announced the appointment of a five-man accident prevention and highway safety committee to be headed by Police Chief J. Garland Young of Clayton.

Commander Godwin declared in announcing the appointments:

"The ever increasing traffic accident toll demands that all organizations be cognizant of this unhealthy situation, and it is my opinion that Legion Posts and individual members of the Department of North Carolina should be alerted to this situation and utilize their efforts to curtail the dreadful loss of life in the country and especially in North Carolina.

The National Safety Council recently released facts in which more than four thousand accidents are anticipated over the July 4 week-end. The Legion hopes in some way to contribute to a safe celebration of our nation's independence."

The Legion Department passed a resolution at its recent convention in Raleigh asking each Post to organize and operate Highway Safety Councils.

Others named to the Legion Safety Committee are:

Captain Charles A. Speed of Highway Patrol Troop B; P. B. Bateman of Plymouth; Richard B. Smith, Hickory, and Robert R. Williams, Jr., of Asheville. The Committee will serve until June, 1950.

Seven Of Nine Killed As Car, Truck Collide

Madera, Calif.—Two Stockton, Calif., families, crowded into a 1941 sedan, were all but wiped out in a collision with a heavily laden vegetable truck. Seven of the nine were killed.

Two others are in serious condition in a hospital.

The truck driver, Don Allen, Stockton, told police the passenger car swerved into his lane. He was not held.

Wreckage and victims were strewn over the highway.

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