

TODAY and TOMORROW
By DON ROBINSON

"TICKETS" fixing
The man who knows how to get traffic law violations "killed" has always been looked upon by many Americans as a man worth knowing.

Actually, however, he, and the policeman and court officials who work with him, are guilty of contributing to a mass murder scene which is being enacted on our highways every day of the year.

Studies made in various towns and cities make it clear that "ticket fixing" has reached the stage where it is a serious menace to safe driving. In some towns practically all violators go free, in others all local residents seem to be immune to penalties, and in many, many towns tickets are fixed for friends of police officers and politicians.

In one city where ticket fixing had reached the stage where the citizenry demanded reform, the annual "take" in fines had averaged \$50,000 a year. When ticket fixing was abolished the traffic court revenue jumped to \$500,000.

In a medium-sized town, examination of the traffic court records for a six-month period showed that only one local resident (an unfortunate who apparently didn't know any of the right people) had paid a fine for a traffic law violation but of several hundred who had been summoned to court. But in the same town over 200 non-residents had had to pay fines and several had had their license revoked.

This mockery of the traffic laws, which has led careless drivers to sneer at dangers of punishment, is believed to be one of the major causes of our alarming increase in fatal automobile accidents.

LAWS . . . ridiculous
In addition to the disrespect for traffic laws which has been encouraged by ticket fixing, another important factor is the ridiculous-

ness of some of the laws themselves.

A friend of mine was arrested and had to pay a fine for going through a small southern town at the horse-and-buggy speed of 15 miles per hour. It was pointed out to him that a sign on the outskirts of town set the maximum speed at 10 miles per hour.

In one mountain state, on dangerous, winding roads, signs tell you that the maximum speed is 55 miles an hour. On many parts of those roads it would be suicide to travel that fast. Those are two extremes, but any driver who travels at all is familiar with the hundreds of signs, even on super highways, which attempt to limit speed through one-store towns to 15 or 20 miles per hour.

Motorists naturally will not show respect for traffic laws if they consider them out of keeping with the times, anymore than will if they know they can get tickets fixed.

Before the automobile stampede which is expected to crowd our highways next summer, gets underway, it would probably save many lives if all the states and all the towns would review their traffic laws with the aim of making them reasonable and at the same time "safe" and enforceable.

JUVENILES . . . accidents
My study of the accident problem also reveals the importance of doing something to curb juvenile drivers.

The best proof I have seen of the need for this is a study made in Connecticut which showed: Over a period of six years the total number of persons killed by 100,000 drivers 46 to 50 years old was 66; but during the same period, the same number of 16-year-old drivers killed 201 persons, the 17-year-olds, 186, the 18-year-olds 143, and those between 19 and 28 about 215.

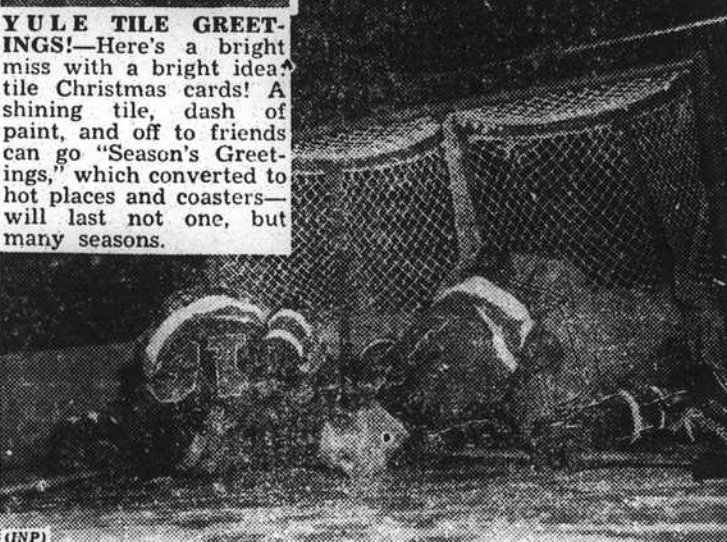
With juvenile drivers killing people at a rate over three times as great as adults, it is apparent that they should not be given the freedom of the highways enjoyed by more matured drivers. It also is evident that if they do continue to drive, they should be given more training in safety, either through the schools or through the requirements necessary to get a license.

One solution would seem to be to issue all licenses to those under 21 on a probationary basis with

People, Spots In The News



ROMAN BATH—Not the luxury of olden days, but this youngster of Rome splashes contentedly, unmindful of the turmoil throughout Italy.



COLD RECONVERSION—Hal Brown (left) and Alan Kuntz of NY Rangers Hockey team, are so glad to get back to the game they kiss the cold stuff. Both spent more than three years in the armed f . . .

Twin Oaks News

CARL IRWIN
Staff Correspondent

Mr. and Mrs. Troy Irwin and son, Harold, Cambria, Va., visited relatives in Sparta, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Shores and son, Winston-Salem, spent the week end with relatives at Stratford.

Woodrow Richardson, assistant county agent, in Watauga county, spent Sunday with relatives in Sparta.

Floyd Brady and Clark Sheets left Sunday on a business trip to Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bare spent Sunday with relatives at Laurel Springs.

Mrs. Frank C. Atwood and son, spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Will Atwood.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Southers, Jr., have moved to the Homer Smith residence which they recently purchased.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Douglass and Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Douglass, Piney Creek, have moved to the new residence near here recently built by R. L. Southers, Jr.

Miss Rausa Rector returned to her home at Whitehead, Sunday, after spending three weeks with

the understanding that the licenses would be revoked upon evidence of careless driving. Another solution would be to make tests much more severe for juvenile drivers and require a written test to prove their understanding of the need for safe driving. Murder on the highways is going to break all records in the next few years unless effective steps are taken immediately to outlaw all forms of careless driving.

the family of "Uncle" Man Williams, Stratford.

Mrs. Jack Napier spent Saturday night with her mother, "Aunt" Alice Atwood.

Mrs. R. A. Reed is spending the holidays with relatives in Danville, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter Collins

Conservation Farming News

By T. R. GREENE

Eugene Hampton, of the Stratford community, has asked for a conservation plan on his farm. Mr. Hampton has some land he plans to plant in white pines and wants his soil analyzed so he may get maximum results for money spent for fertilizers.

John R. Halsey, of Piney Creek, has improved his land very much. He still thinks he can do more and plans to have his soil analyzed before another cultivating season.

J. L. Greene, of Ennice, is planning to strip crop next season. The Soil Conservation service will assist Mr. Greene by staking contour lines for divided lines of row crops and close growing crops and also the fence that is to be velocated.

W. F. Irwin, of Sparta, was in the soil conservation office this week to get reports from soil samples the service sent to the State laboratory.

W. C. Evans, of Ennice, came in for his reports of soil samples this week and asked for assistance in planning his farming. "Two heads are better than one if one is a sheep's head," says Mr. Evans.

The progress and peace of the world will be stimulated mightily if we demonstrate that an economy of abundance is not idealistic dreaming, but a practical, workable, common-sense way of doing things . . . Secretary of Agriculture Anderson.

have moved to his farm at Glade Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Judy Wombe have moved to Mrs. Porter Collins' residence at Green Gables.

Lonnie Southers and son, R. L., Jr., made a business trip to Austinville, Va., Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Horton and children, Galax, Va., spent Sunday with her relatives in Ashe county.

Rex Cox, Roanoke, Va., spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cox, Stratford.

Phone The Item
AND IT WILL BE IN THE PAPER

Our Printing
ATTRACTS ATTENTION
Phone This Newspaper
And You'll Get Attention

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Our Wish for You

Everyone
is included in our wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year—wishes which are drawn from the deep, pure wells of hope.
You have helped make the past year a most pleasant one for us. Mindful of this, we have but one thought as we enter 1946 . . . to be fully worthy of the confidence you have reposed in us.
Judy's Service Station
SPARTA, N. C.

The Season's Best To All Our Friends!
GREETINGS
and Best Wishes
Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and board the magic carpet for the Land of Better Days.
There are 365 of them "in the bag" for you in 1946—if we have our way about it—and every day will be better than the one preceding.
A thousand thanks for past favors—and **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU!**
Sparta Bus Terminal
SPARTA, N. C.

D. & P. PIPE WORKS
We pay well for good ivy and laurel burls.
You may well be proud of the reputation our fireproofed pipes are earning.
Burls turned into pipes, not fireproofed, insure the recapture of the American market by foreign briar.
By supplying us, you help yourself.
Write or Phone for Pickup.
Write or Phone for Pickup.
Write or Phone . . . We are and will keep buying all good ivy and laurel burls. D. & P. Pipe Works
Boone 194 Sparta 15

HAPPY NEW YEAR
With the weight of war days passed, we can truthfully wish you a "Happy New Year!" for 1946.
We appreciate your patronage in the past and are looking forward to serving you during the New Year.

Smithey's Store
"THE PLACE FOR BARGAINS"
SPARTA, N. C.