

## Highway Patrol Has 'Traffic Plan' To Reduce Holiday Motoring Deaths

RALEIGH—The State Highway Patrol has opened a "holiday traffic control plan" in an effort to reduce motor deaths and injuries over the forthcoming Christmas holidays.

The project went into effect unannounced, but Motor Vehicles Commissioner Edward Scheidt outlined it in a news conference with reporters last week.

The commissioner said the project will make extensive use of electronic speed recorders and daily "saturation" patrolling.

"From now until the end of the year we intend to keep our radar and electronic speed recorders in constant use throughout the state", Scheidt said. "This, plus day and night saturation patrols, may help to cut down holiday fatalities."

Under the saturation plan, heretofore mainly a week-end project, patrolmen will rove assigned stretches of 10 miles or so along an unspecified number of roads daily.

Mr. Scheidt also said all the highway patrol's speed recording equipment would be pressed into service, plus other units to be in use by local enforcement agencies. He hinted that delivery of 10 more "Speed-watch" devices might come at any moment.

The "Speedwatch" instruments use twin cables stretched across the road and compute speed by a stopwatch. Mr. Scheidt warned holiday travelers that the devices are likely to be worked in tandem, that is two or more may be set up within a few miles of each other.

From highway patrol headquarters, Commander James R. Smith said a majority of his men had volunteered to work through the holiday, thus making "safety coverage" about as complete as possible.

He urged motorists to drive at reasonable speeds on holiday trips and to keep a close watch on pedestrians.

Mr. Scheidt said last year's official holiday period began at 6 p. m. December 24 and extended through midnight, December 28. Sixteen persons were killed and 255 injured during that period, the commissioner said.

He estimated nearly a quarter of last year's holiday deaths were due to drinking. For celebrants the commissioner endorsed these tips from the National Safety Council:

Stay alert. Don't become so preoccupied with holiday making that you go into a holiday haze. Keep your wits about you whenever you're in traffic—on foot or in a car.

Don't venture into the street—walking or driving—if you've been drinking.

At office parties and other

festive gatherings, arrange rides (or call taxis) for guests who have been imbibing.

"If you drive, don't drink—if you drink, don't drive", is a good motto for the holiday season.

## News Making

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rather shake hands or fight with a bare handed man.

The Nantahala road issue is a sort of a personal matter with me. For several years off and on I have been writing in this column urging the construction of an all weather road from here to Nantahala. Those people are entitled to it and it is good business for us.

President Eisenhower, a year ago, had restored the Republican party. His popularity and reputation pulled many a Republican Senator and Representative into office. He was, and should have been, in the Driver's seat. That is what the American people wanted. In his state of the Union address and first message to congress he outlined a broad and comprehensive program. Since then he has not shown the drive and

force to see that this program is carried out. In recent days there are indications that he plans to take a bigger hand in putting his own program into effect. Perhaps he has come to realize that if he is to be a President for all the American people, as he has so often expressed the desire to be, he has got to get out and show the people that it is he and he alone who is the president. After all he is the man they choose and it is his leadership they want—not a watered down comprised soupy variety.

As of October 1, the North Carolina 1953 cotton crop is forecast at 460,000 bales, 19 per cent below the 1952 crop.

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# SEASON'S GREETINGS

May the good cheer of the season enter your home at Christmas and abide with you and yours through all the days and months to come. To all we extend our sincerest wishes for health, happiness and the fulfillment of dreams most dearly cherished...

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To everyone at Christmas time comes the joy of giving and receiving. It is our pleasure now to offer our sincerest wishes for a very cheerful Holiday to all our friends.

**BOWER'S**

# Greetings

May the joys of the Season and all its friendly cheer brighten your home at Christmas and abide with you all through the year...This is our warm Holiday wish for you and yours.



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