

# 508 Persons Were Killed As Results Of Traffic Accidents In Nine Months

During the first nine months of this year, 508 persons were killed and 5,353 others were injured as a result of 11,323 traffic accidents, the Motor Vehicle Department reported today.

Fatalities showed a 15 per cent reduction over the same period last year, when 595 persons were killed. Total accidents, however, jumped 28 per cent over the corresponding period in 1944.

The report listed deaths by type as follows: 176 persons died as a result of motor vehicle collisions—a two per cent increase over last year; 121 were pedestrians fatally struck while walking on streets or highways (an 18 per cent decrease over last year); 116 persons were killed when their vehicles ran off roadways (32 per cent decrease over last year); 29 were fatally hit while riding their bicycles (three per cent increase over 1944); 20 were killed when their vehicles overturned in roadways (20 per cent increase over the same period last year); 18 died in motor vehicle-train collisions, eight died as the result of collisions between motor vehicles and animal drawn vehicles; six were killed when their vehicles collided with fixed objects; 11 persons were killed in other non-collision accidents, and three died of miscellaneous accidents.

**Brakes Cause Wrecks**  
A total of 19,312 vehicles were involved in all accidents. Of these, 890 were defective, with bad brakes alone causing 446 accidents, nine of which were fatal, killing one or more persons per accident. Fifty-five accidents were caused by vehicles with "no headlights"—two of these proved to be fatal accidents. "Steering mechanism defective" was listed as a direct cause of 128 accidents, six of them fatal. Twenty-five accidents, two of them fatal, were caused by vehicles with no rear lights.

The fatality report showed that 82 per cent of all traffic deaths occurred in rural areas, while the remaining 18 per cent took place in cities and towns. A total of 6,870 accidents, killing 416 persons and injuring 4,091 others, occurred on rural highways. In cities and towns, there were 4,453 accidents, with 92 deaths and 1,262 injuries.

**Commercial Drivers**  
More persons between the ages of 25 and 34 were involved in accidents than any other age group and more commercial drivers were involved than any other occupational group of drivers. In 1947, more farmers were involved. Commercial drivers include chauffeurs, bus, tax, truck and tractor drivers, and delivery men.

**RECORD TROUT LANDED**  
SANDPOINT, Ida. (U.P.)—Joseph W. Bates, Jr., a visitor from Massachusetts, landed the largest Kamloops rainbow trout ever taken on light tackle. It weighed 31 pounds, 12 ounces.

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## How Town Got Named; Just Slight Error

MERCEDES, Tex. (U.P.)—This town was named by mistake.

The story goes that the city fathers decided to name it in honor of the wife of the president of Mexico at the time. They were told Porfirio Diaz's wife was named Mercedes, so the town became Mercedes.

Her name wasn't Mercedes at all. But the folks like the town and the name stuck.

## 2 Hours In Working Day Found Most Dangerous

SAN FRANCISCO (U.P.)—The time for industrial workers to be careful is between 10 and 11 a. m. and 3 and 4 p. m.

That's when industrial accidents reach their peak. The California Department of Industrial Relations, analyzing accidents, finds that 14 per cent of all disabling industrial mishaps take place during the third hour of the work day, and 12 per cent during the third hour after noon.

## Wife Preservers



When searching clothes, start with powder requiring the most starch as continuing use of a starch solution tends to discolor.

## Weather Balloon Soars 21 Miles In Ohio

WILMINGTON, O. (U.P.)—A weather balloon was sent up by the air weather service detachment at the Air Force base here more than 21 miles for the second highest recording ever made.

Capt. Lawrence E. Robertson said the 112,800 foot ascent was exceeded only by a height of 120,000 feet made at the Air Force weather station at White Sands, N. M.

## New Mexico

The balloon carrying a radio transmitter which sends signals indicating the temperature, humidity and pressures, was followed during its climb by means of radar which it burst. The equipment that was floated to earth by a parachute. Signals from the balloon's transmitter are recorded on paper by a receiver on the ground.

The term "mayor or "muni" was first used for any person who had supervision of others.

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