

CHRISTMAS CHEER "IN SPIRIT" or "SPIRITS"?

An Editorial

Christmas Eve will soon be here — a night of peace and good will, and also, ironically, a night of increased death and injury on our highways.

Each December, the death and injury rates climb sharply as the holiday season approaches. Each December, people forget their usual caution and become increasingly careless as their minds become occupied with holiday planning and festivities. Worst of all, they begin to ignore the dangers of driving after drinking.

The problem is not confined merely to party-goers who have substantially over-indulged. It extends to everyone who has been drinking before driving, even though it may only have been a drink or two. Scientific studies have clearly shown that even small amounts of alcohol in the bloodstream result in an immediate impairment of driving ability and judgment. This is so, even though the person affected may not be aware of his handicap and he displays no outward signs of his impairment.

Most of us are well aware of these facts. We have heard them repeated over and over again by public officials, safety educators, and others. Yet many people tend to ignore these truths — they think that they can ignore the consequences of their actions, that for some reason or other, they will not suffer by taking a chance and driving after drinking. It is these people, the ones that think they can escape, who will become our accident statistics this year.

As Editor of the Andover News, and as a private citizen as well, I would like to take this opportunity to urge you not to forget the dangers of drinking and driving this year.

However, if no admonition or plea will stop you from driving after drinking, then — for the sake of your family, friends, and fellow citizens — when you do get behind the wheel, recognize the fact that you are handicapped, no matter how well you feel, and drive with the utmost of caution.

For the safest and merriest of holidays, the choice is really simple — do not drive after drinking!

"Drunks don't get hurt because they are relaxed and roll with the punches". This is a commonly held belief, and it may be so in some cases. But it isn't true when it comes to traffic accidents, says the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Intoxicated people get hurt just as badly as sober people when a car crumples up in a crash. And they are more likely to be in such crashes because alcohol fogs their judgment. So whether you are actually drunk or just a little high, the best advice concerning traffic is to stay away from it. And this applies to pedestrians as well as to drivers — one survey showed that 82% of the adult pedestrians killed by cars had been drinking before the crash.

Some drivers have taken a chance and driver after a few drinks. They managed to avoid an accident, so they think they are different from others — they think that they can drink and drive. However, they're dead wrong as their earlier escapes were solely a matter of luck, not talent. If they keep it up, their dead-wrong judgment may make them dead drivers.

One drink for the road may sound like a good idea, but it isn't. It may feel fine when you take it but it won't be fine when you put your car in a tight spot and suddenly find that you haven't the quick reactions you need to get out of trouble. Thus if you want a drink for the road, make it non-alcoholic. Otherwise, the road you take may be a short-cut to the graveyard.

Remember — the life you save — **Could be your OWN!**



50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 22, 1916

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Garvin are the parents of a daughter, born Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Radcliff of West Greenwood, are the parents of twin sons, born Friday.

Beginning January 1st every hunter will have to wear a button as well as carry a license. The button will be given to you when you purchase your license.

Dell Hawkins has rented the basement in the P. C. Lynch building on Main St., to be used as a carpenter shop this winter.

Mrs. Ina Foster of Independence was a guest of her daughter, Mrs. E. O. Reynolds in Alfred from Wednesday to Sunday.

Miss Myrah Brown of Hornell was a week-end guest of her sister, Mrs. L. C. Livermore of Independence.

Mrs. Grace Burdick of Rochester is visiting her brother Forest Gee and family this week.

Lynn Hammond returned to Andover Friday from Nicholas, Pa. where he has been employed in a Cutlery Plant.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Richardson of Hornell were guests of her brothers, John, George and James Guinn of Greenwood Hill from Friday until Monday.

Al Terribury has moved his family to Rogersville, Pa., where he is employed in the lumber business.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Corwin were among the guests entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George McAndrew of Ward. A large company of relatives were in attendance.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 10, 1926

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Horan are the parents of a son, born Sunday, December 5th.

J. Harvey Backus was in Liberty N. Y., Friday and organized a new Past Grands Council, I.O.O.F. with 71 Charter Members.

Mrs. Ellen Casey returned Tuesday from Oil City, where she has been caring for her sister, Mrs. W. J. Brown.

Mrs. Orpha Comstock has returned from Independence where she has been the guest of her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Pottet.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Trowbridge and family of Warwick, N. J., are passing the week with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Trowbridge and Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mead and other relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Heyd and family of Philadelphia, Pa., are passing Thanksgiving at the home of her mother, Mrs. Louise Jobson.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1926

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher

Mrs. Maude Williamson Kellogg 58, died Saturday, December 5th. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery.

George Mullen, 81, died Friday December 4th. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Mrs. Ezra Slocum and Mrs. Harry Lynton visited their sister and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Prangen in Hornell Thursday.

Mrs. Frank Holmes returned Saturday from Belfast where she passed a week with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cartwright.



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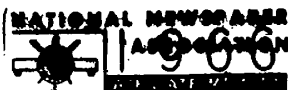
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