

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 driven 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!

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50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 14, 1917

J. H. Backus, Publisher

William Snyder, 58, died December 7th at his home eight miles from Andover in the town of Ward His wife, five sons, a daughter and a brother survive. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

E. C. Langworthy is looking after the telephone lines for the Allegany Mutual Company.

Harry Smith has moved to Elm Valley onto the B. F. Howland farm.

The force of the blizzard which gripped the region from Saturday until Tuesday, made traffic nearly impossible. The R.F.D. carriers were unable to make their trips.

The friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. John Ostrander of Independence gave them a shower Saturday night.

Mrs. Floyd Pense of Greenwood spent the past week with her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Potter of Independence.

Mr. and Mrs. James Griswold have moved from Wellsville to the Tom McAndrew farm on South Hill.

Mrs. Nellie Payne of Paynterville was a guest of Mrs. Ezra Slocum several days this week.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 16, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Curtis Burdick and his men have completed the concrete work at the Village Reservoir. It took 340 bags of cement and 70 ton of sand.

Word came to Andover Sunday of the death of William Greene, 44, of Cleveland, Ohio. The body arrived in Andover Wednesday at the home of his brother Edward Greene.

Mrs. Leroy Davis and son, Lee-man of Davis Hill, are visiting at the home of James Gibson at Nile this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Green and two children visited relatives at Eleven Mile and Shingonouse, Pa., from Wednesday until Sunday.

Edward Gayhart from near Belfast has been visiting his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mullen and family of West Greenwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murray and daughters were guests of his sister, Mrs. Edward McAndrew Sunday.

Mrs. Ila Clarke returned Saturday night from two weeks visit at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Letts Thompson of Canisteo.

Mrs. Clayton Earley spent the week-end with Mrs. Edna Sheppard of Alfred.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 10, 1937

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mrs. Ella Slocum, 58, died Thursday, December 2nd at her home on Water Street. Her father, three daughters, two sons, two sisters and three brothers survive. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

E. F. Stearns was presented a 50-Year Masonic Medal at the regular meeting of the Masonic Lodge Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lehman are the parents of a daughter, born Tuesday December 7th.

Miss Jean Ann Osborn and James B. Mulholland were united in marriage Friday, December 3rd by Rev. A. D. Shepard.

Mrs. Marion Halsey 37, died Friday, December 3rd. Her husband, her parents, two sons, a sister and two brothers survive. Burial was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Paul Alderson of Bath, passed the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Alderson.

Mrs. George Smith of Whitesville visited several days at the home of her son, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Smith.

Mrs. Edith Milligan of Belmont is staying with her cousin, Mrs. Florence Bliss for a few days. Ray Lynch of Buffalo passed the week-end with his sister, Mrs. Clifford Howland and family.

Mrs. James Kenyon of Genesee, Pa., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Goodridge and family over

the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Evans of Avoca have returned to their home after spending a week at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mullen.

Roy Burndage started work in the Highway Shops in Hornell,

Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hahn and daughter of Hornell spent a few days with relatives in town.

Mrs. F. A. Richardson of Hornell visited his sister and husband Supervisor and Mrs. E. A. Mullen from Friday until Sunday.



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