



An
Editorial



1968

OR



MAKE THAT "ONE" FOR THE ROAD — COFFEE

This year, the State's Christmas 3-day, week-end traffic death toll, rose 33% above last year's count.

With more snow and slippery roads predicted for the long New Year's Holiday week-end, many more people will die needlessly in auto crashes.

Last year, nearly 40 N. Y. S. residents died during a 72-hour New Year's week-end period—and this year, many people will be having a big 4-day Vacation!

Special studies of these past accident reports show that drinking drivers had a part in 55 per cent of the fatal crashes.

Let's pause a few minutes during our holiday celebrations to consider some facts which may very well involve your life and the future of your family — as well as others!

We frequently hear the slogans "If you drink — don't drive" and "gasoline and alcohol don't mix", during the year-end celebrations.

The only trouble with this is — many otherwise good motorists don't think the advice applies to them just someone else. They feel that a few drinks never affects their driving ability. The uncomfortable truth is that these motorists are just plain lucky that they haven't had an accident.

The first part of your brain affected by alcohol when you drink — is the section which controls your judgement. Then your reaction time, vision and coordination are weakened.

Even small amounts of alcohol impair your driving ability. With no outward sign of intoxication you can lose the clearness of mind and critical judgement needed to drive — especially at this time when road conditions are extremely hazardous.

Naturally, some people can "hold their drinks" better than others but why take a chance on being like that character that sits on a bar stool all evening figuring that "one more little one" won't hurt him and then falls flat on his face when he tries to stand up.

The Holiday Season is a time for Religious Worship, family festivities and of course parties. Ironically, this period, of good will, fellowship and brotherhood has turned into the most dangerous time of the year for those using our highways.

We don't believe in being like that "ostrich that hides his head in the sand" and saying don't drink over the holidays; However, we do emphatically suggest: "If you are going to drink — do it at home — or at least within walking distance of home". If this is impossible due to circumstances beyond your control — then let someone else drive that isn't drinking.

We feel that if this advice is followed there will be fewer accidents, deaths and last but not least — shattered families!

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FROM OUR FILES

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 21, 1917

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Anna Garvin Harrington, 41, died Monday, Dec. 17th. Three children, her mother and a sister survive. Burial was in the Wells-ville Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cochran have returned to Elm Valley after a trip to Michigan.

Mrs. George Rose of Reading Centre is visiting her sister, Mrs. F. S. Potter.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wood came from Springfield, Mass., Wednesday for a few days visit.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brundage left Thursday enroute to Florida to pass the remainder of the winter.

Miss Muriel Earley came home from Alfred University last week because of fuel shortage; they couldn't heat the buildings and had to close the school.

Dec. 28, 1917

Mrs. Jessie Snyder, 70, died Thursday, Dec. 20th. Her husband, a son, a granddaughter, two sisters and two brothers survive. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Lora Blauvelt Baker, 31, died Monday, Dec. 24th. Her husband and six children survive. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

C. D. McCann has opened a tire repair shop in the building formerly occupied by the late Harrison Mourhess on Center St.

Mike Lynch was home from Camp Dix on a short furlough. He returned Wednesday.

Miss Mary Dean is home from St. Elizabeth Academy, Allegany, for the holidays.

Miss Helen Rogers is passing the week with her sister, Mrs. Edith Snyder.

John Lynch is home from Niagara University guest of his father, M. T. Lynch and family.

Clarence W. Hardy who is with the Bay State Rifle Range at Wakefield, Mass., has been passing a few days with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hardy.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 23, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher

Earl J. Dawson has opened an undertaking parlor in the former Burrows building, corner of Main and Center Streets, this week.

C. D. Erskin returned Sunday from a visit at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Frances Ray of Whitesville.

Nurse Cymboline Hammell came home from Washington, D. C., Wednesday to pass the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hammell.

John Monroe and sons, Harry and Charles left Thursday for Erie to pass Christmas at the home of his sister, Mrs. John Muller and family.

Mrs. Maude Clarke is at Nashville, Tenn., with her daughter, Mrs. Vincent Axford and babe. Mr. and Mrs. Axford are the parents of a daughter, Janette Adele born Dec. 9th. Mrs. Axford was the former Miss Eloise Clarke of Andover.

Dec. 30, 1927

William Terribury, 66, of Greenwood, died Thursday, Dec. 22nd. His wife, five sons and two daughters survive.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Page of Elm Valley are the parents of a son, born Thursday, Dec. 22nd.

The friends and neighbors of Miss Margaret Grossman, gave her a surprise birthday party at her father's home on Davis Hill, Monday evening.

Miss Mary O'Leary who is teaching at Carteret, N. J., came Saturday to pass the holidays with her father, James O'Leary and Andover relatives.

Miss Frances Brundage of the Sisters of Charity Hospital of Buffalo, was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Brundage from Christmas until Tuesday.

Daniel Haist of Buffalo was a guest of his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Williams over Christmas.

ALBANY

open line

by Alex Rankin

Don't look now, but someone in Albany is trying to take away the right of taxpayers to vote on school district budgets.

This jolt, however, should be tempered by the question of just how far this idea will get when legislators sit down to work next month for the 1968 legislative session.

Reason suggest the idea might die in committee.

Reason, however, is absolutely no criterion for judging or predicting the actions of state legislators.

Politics is better. It suggests that the idea will die in committee because 1968 is an election year — a year in which Republicans have high hopes of holding on to their majority in the state Senate and recapturing the state Assembly, now controlled by Democrats by a slim ex-vote margin.

The idea for eliminating the vote on school budgets comes from somewhere inside the Joint Legislative Committee on Revision of the Education Law.

"It will be proposed by the staff to the committee members; the staff is working on it now," said Barney Prescott, chief legal counsel to the committee recently.

Speculation about where the idea comes from has an interesting bearing on why it is being seriously considered in the first place.

This idea would affect every suburban and rural school district in the state.

It is interesting to note for example, that the State Education Department works very closely with this legislative committee. The committee's offices aren't in the state capitol building — they are across the street in the SED building.

One legislator, a member of the committee, said he heard about the idea at a committee meeting last month. It wasn't presented formally. "I was just asked how I felt about it," he said.

The legislator represents a rural

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 17, 1937

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher

Mrs. Lillian Burdick Clarke, 75, died Saturday, Dec. 11th in St. Petersburg, Florida. Her husband survives.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith are the parents of a son, Michael Joseph, born Saturday, Dec. 11th.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Richmond are the parents of a daughter, Marilyn Lois, born Friday, Dec. 3rd.

At the regular meeting of Anna W. McArthur OES, Monday evening, Mrs. Pearl Randall was elected Worthy Matron.

Miss Margaret Folsing of New York City and Gerald J. Burns of Ann Arbor, Mich., were united in marriage Saturday, Dec. 11th.

Mrs. Paul Vincent of Buffalo is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Spicer of Independence.

Miss Dorothea Snyder of New York City is a guest at the Folsing home.

Mrs. Hattie Clark left Saturday night for her home in Fallbrook, California after several weeks passed with her sister, Mrs. L. M. Trowbridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Green are attending the State Grange sessions held at Ogdensburg this week, as delegates from the Andover Grange.

Fred Hammell is greeting Andover friends this week. He expects to return to Brunswick, Georgia the last of the week. His father, William Hammell, will accompany him to Georgia for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Payne and children of Elm Valley visited relatives in Woodhull Sunday. His mother, Mrs. Alta Payne accompanied them home for a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Trowbridge of Greenwood, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary December 6th.

and suburban district in Central New York. His reaction was quick. His jaw dropped and he said he thought the idea lacked merit. The subject was dropped.

This legislator would only guess, but he said he felt the idea is being presented as a solution to the problem the SED was faced with this summer when a record 49 school district budgets were turned down by voters.

The more than 800 school districts outside cities where voters pass on school budgets are split into three parts. A third of these districts vote in May, a third in June and a third in July.

In May, 25 went down in Nassau County, 18 in Suffolk and six in Westchester Counties. Two were defeated in Monroe County, two in Sullivan County and one each was defeated in Putnam, Orange, Seneca and Rensselaer Counties. Eleven budgets were defeated in June and another in July, mostly in upstate districts.

In 1966, 32 budgets were defeated; in 1965, only 16.

Someone decided a good solution to this kind of thing would be just take the right to vote away.

Last summer a number of SED officials were saying privately that voters were not rejecting these budgets on their merits, but were rebelling against increased taxes in general at the local, state and federal levels.

"They are just taking it out, their frustration, on school budget votes because this is the first handy thing that comes along," said one SED official.

Officials who feel this way can also honestly suggest that the right to vote be taken away.

They would replace it with a "permissive referendum."

That would mean that anyone objecting to a school budget would have to get up a petition with the signatures of six percent of those in the district who had voted at the last gubernatorial election. If they have enough money to do this, and the time, and can get the signatures, a vote can be held.

If not, the next best thing would be to wait and vote out of office the members of the school board. And that might be impossible because, as with most boards, coalitions are formed. They are hard to break up because most boards are elected on a staggered basis — one or two run one year, two more the next, and so forth.

One can reasonably expect that state legislators learned something from the defeat of the proposed state constitution on Nov. 7.

One of the reasons it was turned down, though admittedly not a major one, was that the proposed charter would have taken away the right of taxpayers to vote on state bond issues.

If the legislators didn't see this point, the school district budget vote elimination proposal will be appearing on the floor of the Senate and Assembly sometime next year.

Don't Drive After Drinking

