

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. Any 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!



50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 23, 1914

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Daniel Crame of Andover and Mrs. Nora Clark of Alfred were united in marriage December 20th. Leo Raufenbarth took four first record prizes on his poultry at the Hornell Poultry Show this week.

Mrs. David Hunt and daughter, Miss Rena, left Wednesday for Buffalo to visit friends.

Mrs. Addie Coleman returned Friday from several weeks visit with relatives in Wellsville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brundage left the last of the week to spend the remainder of the winter in California. They will spend Christmas with his brother in Russell, Kan., en route.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phillips and family of Philadelphia, Pa., are Christmas guests of his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Mullen are passing the holidays with her sister, Mrs. Flohr of Canisteo.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 19, 1924

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher.

Miss Doris L. Clarke and Charles F. Clarke were united in marriage Saturday, December 13th.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hardy of Hornell are the parents of a daughter, born Tuesday, December 16th.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Padden of Hornell are the parents of a son, born Friday, December 12th.

DeWitt W. Wheaton, 66, died Tuesday night, December 9th at his home in West Greenwood. His wife and two sons survive.

A. L. Jones left Tuesday for St. Cloud, Fla., called there by the illness of his father, William Jones.

Filton, Congo, arrived home Monday night from Angola, Ind., where he is attending Tri State College.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 7, 1934

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher.

Miss Carolyn Hinchey, 56, died Friday, November 30th.

Word was received this week that Andover Juvenile Grange winners of the State Grand Contest had been awarded second honors in the National Contest.

Miss Elsie Wagner and Henry Huffman were united in marriage Wednesday, November 28th.

Miss Mary Fitch of Wellsville and Edwin F. Geer of Andover were married Wednesday, November 28th.

Joseph R. Joyce was badly burned about the face and neck in a flash fire while working on a drilling rig near Allentown Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Hann and daughter of Kenmore were from Wednesday until Sunday guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Hann.

Miss Gertrude Chaseman is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. B. Cook of Almond.

Mr. Henry Livermore was elected President of Edward Seaman Relief Corps Saturday night.

The first Christmas card, as we now know it, was reportedly dispatched in 1845 by W. C. Dobson, one of Queen Victoria's favorite painters.

Like In Merrie Old England

Christmas tree growers may feature plump goose on the future holiday menu, suggests a Cornell Poultry specialist.

Geese offer a low-cost method of weed control in plantations, says Prof. E. A. Schano of the N. Y. State College of Agricul-

ture. He estimates that 12 geese, at a total cost of \$36 for the season, will do the work of one man with a hoe. The grower can then fatten the geese at the end of the season for use as meat and sell the down, a valuable by-product.

Schano says geese will work steadily from dawn to dusk, with no time out for "coffee breaks."

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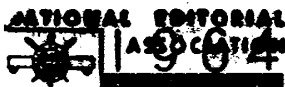
candle-shine...
hearth-glow...
heart's ease...
it's Christmas!

True Joys

GREETINGS OLD YET EVER-NEW:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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Building Division

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