

Funeral Home Operators Wish For Slow Business

By TOMMY DeFRANK
Staff Writer

The embalmer twisted in his chair. He was having trouble remembering.

"They're all gory," he finally said. "When a life is lost that's bad enough, regardless of the mutilation."

He glanced at the cars speeding past the window as he thought of past experiences.

"Well, I remember one a few years back that was pretty bad," he recalled. "It was real bad weather — Christmastime, I believe. This compact Olds was hit head-on by a Pontiac. The cushion of the front seats stopped the little girl lying in the back from going through the windshield, but her parents weren't so lucky."

The embalmer took a deep breath, paused for a second, and continued.

"I couldn't overexaggerate their condition. They were completely

torn up. Every bone in their bodies was broken. It was like dropping an egg on the sidewalk and trying to pick it up and put it back together again."

The ambulance driver was next to speak.

"Remember that bad one we had south of here on Highway 6 last year? Driving conditions were real bad—ice on the road—and one of the cars was speeding. It was a head-on, and it killed the parents in one car and their daughter was seriously injured."

"The people killed were on their way to Waco for the Christmas holidays," he added.

Death never knocks off for the holidays. He doesn't much care about the consequences of his actions, either.

"That one a couple of years ago on Highway 21 was one of the saddest I've ever been connected with," the driver continued.

"This girl from San Antonio was up here for the holidays. She had a date with an Aggie, I believe. Their car was hit on a curve and the girl was killed. Saddest part of it all was that

her father was an invalid and she was an only child."

The manager of the funeral home took another look at the cars out the window.

"I doubt that any of them are

observing the speed limit," he said.

"Speed is always the number one killer," he continued, "whether you're drunk or sober, but 90 per cent of your drinkers are speeding anyway."

"I saw a two-car accident that killed eight people one time," the ambulance driver said. "The cars behind the collision were following too close and they kept piling into each other," he added.

"Accidents are caused—they just don't happen," he continued. "If you examine every accident you'll see that in most cases both cars contributed to it."

The manager, who grew up behind the wheel of an ambulance, was trying to figure out the number of accidents he had seen.

"Gosh, I've seen too many of them. You never really get used to it. The next person you pick up might be your wife or your

sister, and every time I see a call that always flashes through my mind," he said.

The manager settled in his chair and looked toward campus.

"You tell those boys taking home 30 minutes or earlier just doesn't make much difference. When I was in school I was ready to take the holidays, too. But the people I pick up today, they I hit that gas pedal."

The driver got up to leave had to make a call.

"I'm going into College Station," he said. "I don't know if I'll make it back alive."

Weather Forecast: Snow

By LARRY JERDEN
Special Writer

Most Aggies traveling any direction except due south should expect and prepare for marginal, if not poor, driving conditions. The following report is compiled from five-day and 24-hour weather forecasts for this weekend. For safety, Aggies traveling into areas of snow, cold, or rain should prepare to sacrifice a little time and drive safely.

Those traveling into north-central and north-east Texas and central and eastern Oklahoma should expect temperatures 11-16 degrees below the normal for this time of year with the temperature steadily decreasing throughout the weekend. There will be occasional light snow and sleet, so expect some icing on the highways, especially on bridges. Conditions in north-west Texas and western Oklahoma will be similar, with a little less snow.

Southern Texas will not see the rain or snow other parts of the state can expect, but even there, temperatures will be three to eight degrees below the normal.

Students traveling farther north, into Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas, can look for temperatures

five to 15 degrees below normal and considerable snowfall.

The Southwest will find snow in New Mexico, but little if any in Arizona, and temperatures about 10 degrees under the December normal. From Colorado and Utah on north and west, skies will be clear, but most temperatures will be 10-25 degrees below normal.

'Y'all from down 'round Mississippi, Alabama, southern Georgia and Florida can expect weather to be a little cool with a lot of rain. Light snow and temperatures from six to 14 degrees below normal will obstruct driving somewhat in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Kentucky, with rain appearing along the Tennessee-Georgia border and south into central Georgia.

The Northeast, true-to-form, will have heavy snow, but temperatures will be down even more than normal by seven to 10 degrees.

Aggies driving into the heart of Yankee-land: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, will find temperatures about 10 degrees below normal and heavy snow already on the ground.

Overall the driving picture looks far from perfect, so alert, cautious driving will be demanded on the holiday highways.

Private, State Agencies To Sponsor Safety Drives

The Texas Association of Broadcasters is conducting a "Drive Lighted and Live" campaign to urge motorists to drive with their headlights on low beam during the holiday daylight hours.

The Texas Safety Association is distributing a kit of holiday safety materials and is stressing the need for courtesy and caution

on the highways.

The Texas Transportation Association and its Council of Safety Supervisors is urging all members of the truck and bus industry to participate in the "Drive Lighted and Live" campaign.

The DPS will tabulate all violent deaths and the totals will be announced three times daily during the holiday period.

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Candidate for Degree of: Ph.D. in Title of Dissertation: "Geology of West White Lake, South Bayou Ridge, and Abbeville-Perry-South Structures, South Louisiana."
Time of Examination: December 17 at 2:00 p.m.
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Full Name of Candidate: Taylor, McDonald
Candidate for Degree of: Doctor of Philosophy in Plant Physiology
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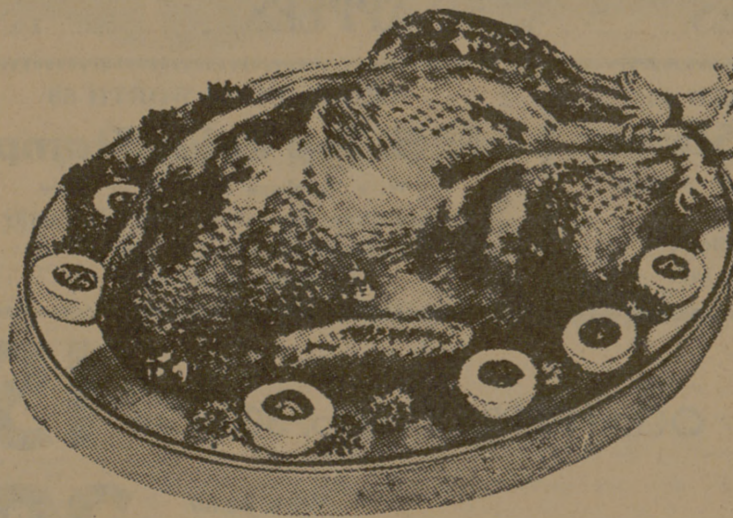
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