

SECTION B

Tuesday, January 27, 1987 Wed., Sept 2, 1987

DPS predicts 42 will die in crashes over holiday

AUSTIN (AP) — As many as 42 people could die in accidents on Texas highways during the upcoming Labor Day weekend, the Department of Public Safety said Monday.

The DPS is predicting a slightly lower fatality toll during the 78-hour holiday period this year than in 1986, when 48 deaths were reported during the holiday. Three more victims died later as a result of injuries sustained in accidents.

"We are seeing a decline of approximately 13 percent in traffic fatalities reported in Texas so far this year compared to the same period last year," Leo Gossett, DPS director, said. "I'm hopeful that we'll be able to add to the downward trend in Texas traffic deaths which began in 1982."

Last year, 38 of the 51 Labor Day traffic deaths were the result of accidents in which drunken driving was a factor, he said.

Gossett said he hoped the state's new open-container law would help reduce this year's fatalities.

The law went into effect Monday and prohibits drinking while driving.

"The new state law which prohibits consumption of alcoholic beverages while driving went into effect Monday," he said.

"Violators of this statute are now subject to receiving citations from our troopers and may face a maximum fine of \$200," he said.

To beef up traffic-law enforcement, Gossett said the DPS will assign additional state troopers to the highways during the Labor Day weekend.

George Gustafson, spokesman for the Texas Coalition for Safety Belts and president of the Texas Safety Association, also issued a warning to drivers.

"Texas motorists can do a lot to make the Labor Day weekend safer by simply buckling up and, in addition, securing their young passengers in child restraints," Gustafson said.

Retired Snow White living happily ever after in Texas

EL PASO (AP) — After platonically palling around with the seven dwarfs for more than seven years, Snow White settled happily ever after in El Paso.

Retired Disneyland Snow White Leslie Reyes, now a homemaker and cosmetics consultant, leafed through her scrapbook of impeccably mounted photographs.

"Here I am in the Hollywood Lane Parade," Reyes says. "All the celebrities in Hollywood do this parade. And, oh! this is a little girl who used to come see me all the time — here she is in a Snow White costume her mother made for her."

"Here I am with Alice in Wonderland. She was my maid of honor."

me at Disneyland so long," Reyes says.

She worked at the Anaheim, Calif.-based park for seven and a half years, starting as a Cinderella Dancer in the 1974 Disneyland Christmas Parade and ending up in the business and promotion end of the park.

Reyes was a dancer and a high school junior in 1974 when she decided to audition for the Disneyland Christmas Parade. Eight hours of elimination rounds paid off when she was named a Cinderella Dancer for that year's parade. Her foot was inside Disneyland's gate.

she says. "But older people were the ones you had to watch."

Reyes wore her Snow White costume five days a week, eight hours a day. The Disney costume department custom-made everything for her, including the black wig with red bow.

Though she normally doesn't sound like Snow White, she still knows all the moves. Her arms, bent at the elbow, go up in a gesture of surprise. She tilts her head a bit, and her voice rises.

"Hello! Welcome to Disneyland!"

But Reyes says she loves her life as Mrs. Reyes, Jennifer's mommy, and a make-up artist and skin analyst.

The scrapbook holds the memories of the 29-year-old Reyes, a native Californian who lives in El Paso now with her husband, Joe David Reyes and 5-year-old daughter Jennifer.

"I love children, that's what kept me at Disneyland so long," Reyes says.

Then she auditioned for a summer job at the amusement park and got the role of Snow White's dwarf pal Dopey. Later, she became Snow White in the parade that daily goes down Disneyland's Main Street. That led her to the coveted role of Snow White in the park itself.

"The kids were in such awe, sometimes they'd do really odd things,"

She gave up playing Snow White when she became pregnant with Jennifer. After her daughter's birth, she decided she was too old to go back.

"I was given so many opportunities to work by Disney," she says. "I see Snow White as a very happy 14-year-old girl who adored children. That's why I had one."

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