

Drinking still key factor in auto deaths

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Excessive drinking continued last year to contribute to many fatal traffic accidents in Wisconsin, the state Division of Health said Friday.

Sixty per cent of the drivers who were killed in traffic accidents in Wisconsin in 1974, and whose blood alcohol content was tested afterwards, showed evidence of intoxication, the division said.

Most had blood alcohol levels that were prima facie evidence of drunken driving under state law, a report by health statisticians said.

Roughly the same involvement with alcohol was found with motorcyclists who were killed in traffic accidents and whose blood alcohol levels were measured.

Tests were performed on 300 drivers of autos and trucks, 29 motorcyclists and 177 others who died in traffic accidents last year.

In nearly half of all the victims, blood alcohol concentrations were above the .1 per cent considered conclusive legal evidence of intoxication.

That proportion has not changed much since the alcohol testing program began in 1968, the health division said.

A .1 per cent blood alcohol level is about what a 160-pound person would have if he drank five bottles of beer or five mixed drinks within an hour.

The division said more involvement with alcohol was found among victims killed on weekends and holidays than those killed on weekdays.

Two-thirds of all the drivers killed in traffic accidents last year were tested for alcohol in their bloodstreams, and County coroners sent the data to the state. Names of the victims tested were kept confidential.

INFORMING THE SOUTH WOOD COUNTY AREA OF WISCONSIN

Sixtieth Year-No. 18188 Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494 Saturday, May 31, 1975 12 Pages Plus Supplement

15¢

Cool Sunday

It will be cool camping weather this weekend with lows dipping into the 40s after highs today and Sunday in the 60s.

This morning's crystal clear skies are predicted to cloud up a bit with showers in the outlook Monday. Lows should be in the upper 30s to mid 40s Monday and warm to the mid 40s to near 50 Wednesday with daytime highs in the low 60s warming to the low 70s.

There was just a smidgeon — .08 of an inch — of rain here Friday with a high of 63, low of 52 and 52 at midnight. At 5:45 a.m. today it was a chilly 42.

Vietnam casualty list...

South Wood County Vietnam casualties:

- Pfc. Phillip Clark, 20, Wisconsin Rapids, Army, died March 4, 1966.
- Lance Cpl. Robin Arnold, 18, Wisconsin Rapids, Marines, died July 24, 1966.
- Pfc. Larry Thomas, 22, Rt. 1, Pittsville, Marines, died May 14, 1969.
- Lt. Jerry Ashburn, 22, Wisconsin Rapids, Army, died June 17, 1969.
- Pfc. Kenneth Goodness, 20, Nekoosa, Army, died Aug. 14, 1969.
- M. Sgt. Ronald J. Hagen, 39, Rt. 1, Nekoosa, Army, died Sept. 17, 1969.
- Pfc. Gary Polz, 20, Wisconsin Rapids, Army, died Dec. 11, 1969.

North Wood County Vietnam casualties:

- Pfc. Vernal Martin, 21, Marshfield, Marines, died Aug. 8, 1966.
- Lt. James Schueller, 24, Rt. 2, Marshfield, Army, died June 17, 1967.
- Lt. Charles Johnson, 23, Marshfield, Army, died June 23, 1967.
- S. Sgt. James Steger, 30, Marshfield, Air Force, died Nov. 30, 1967.
- Spec. 4 Michael Brunner, 22, Marshfield, Army, died Jan. 9, 1968.
- Hospital Corpsman 3.c. Loren Millard, 23, Marshfield, Navy, died June 6, 1968.
- Capt. Paul Derby, 25, Marshfield, Marines, died Nov. 17, 1968.
- Spec. 4 Ronald Haupt, 25, Marshfield, Army, died July 7, 1969.
- S. Sgt. William T. Smith, 20, Marshfield, Army, died April 2, 1970.
- WO1 Lee Peters, 21, Marshfield, Army, died July 30, 1970.

Adams County Vietnam casualties:

- Spec. 4 Larry Morgan, 24, Army, died June 6, 1968.
 - Sgt. William Van Mater, 27, Army, died Sept. 22, 1968.
 - Spec. 4 Dennis Rank, 20, Army, died May 11, 1969.
 - Spec. 4 John Luke, 24, Army, died March 6, 1971.
- (The above list was supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans' Affairs.)

Clean air deadline not met

WASHINGTON (AP) — At midnight tonight the air in most of the United States becomes illegal. It will be cleaner than it used to be, but not so clean as Congress has ordered it to be.

Environmental Protection Administrator Russell E. Train reported Friday only 89 of the nation's 247 Air Quality Control Regions appear to be in compliance with all of the five antipollution standards legally required by June 1, 1975.

The others appear likely to fall short, in varying degrees, of one or more of the standards for cleaning up airborne smoke and dust, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, smog, and nitrogen dioxide. The passing of the deadline will not spark any sudden crackdown by EPA on polluters, Train said.

But Train said the 1970 Clean Air Act which required the setting of these standards and fixed the mid-1975 deadline has brought about substantial improvements in air quality and paved the way for further progress.

Train has asked Congress to leave the original deadline in

place, but to give him greater flexibility in forcing the pace of cleanup efforts.

"The nation has made significant progress in cleaning up the air — there is no doubt about it — but there is still a long way to go," Train told reporters.

For example, Train estimated that emissions of smoke and dust have been reduced by some 79 million tons per year since 1970, with about 13 million tons still to be suppressed.

Out of the target reduction of 25 million tons a year of sulfur oxides, Train said, reductions totaling some 16 million tons have been achieved.

In automobile emissions, he said, the goal was a 65 per cent reduction of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide in 1972 through 1974 cars, compared to pre-1968 models.

Reductions of 40 per cent were achieved in the 1972 models, 50 per cent in 1973 cars, and 60 per cent in 1974 cars in actual use, Train said.

The goal for 1975 cars has been raised to an 85 per cent reduction.

Part of state has unclean air

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Wisconsin areas are on an Environmental Protection Agency list showing which of the nation's 247 air quality control regions are expected to fall short of some clean air standards after tonight's midnight deadline.

Southeastern Wisconsin is expected to fall short in controlling sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, smog and particulates.

In other areas, Southern Wisconsin will apparently fall short in controlling smog, and North Central Wisconsin, La Crosse and Southeast Minnesota, Superior and Duluth, Minn., and Janesville, Beloit and Rockford, Ill., in particulates.

EPA Administrator Russell Train emphasized that the list is only a rough indication, and is based on data which may be up to a year old. He said some areas may be much closer to meeting the standards than others.

Economic outlook for '76 taking shape

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agreement is now fairly widespread that the economic upturn next year, while nothing to shout about, will be better than sluggish.

That and other pieces of the nation's economic outlook for the next 18 months are beginning to fall into place, with some key pieces provided by President Ford's economic and budget review Friday.

There is reluctant agreement that the nation's unemployment rate will continue alarmingly high at least through 1976, and probably beyond.

The rate of inflation is coming under control more rapidly than the administration had forecast previously, but still will be higher than Americans had been used to before the big price boom in 1973.

And fears of "crowding out" — the expression used when government borrowing diverts money from private borrowing — appear to have largely dissipated in recent weeks as both long and short-term interest rates have declined.

In its midyear economic and budget review, the Ford administration said the economy should grow at a rate of 6.3 per cent next year, a significant improvement over the official 4.8 per cent forecast made in February.

Chairman Alan Greenspan of the President's Council of Economic Advisers

said Friday he expects a return to economic growth by the third quarter of this year, if not the second quarter.

The unemployment outlook is the grimmest statistic of all. The President's revised forecast projected average unemployment this year at 8.7 per cent, up from its February forecast of 8.1 per cent. The average jobless rate for next year was projected at 7.9 per cent, which translates into 7.1 million unemployed workers.

Inflation, as measured by the increase in consumer prices, is expected to ease to 7.8 per cent this year, down from 12.2 per cent in 1974, and to 5.8 per cent in 1976. That's better than earlier forecasts.

In other economic developments:

—Chrysler Corp. said it is extending a price rebate program through June on some models. The firm said \$200 rebates will be granted to purchasers of compact Darts and Valiants, the Dodge Sportsman or Tradesman vans and the Plymouth Voyager. The purchased model must be in stock to qualify for the discount.

—The Agriculture Department said the prices farmers receive for raw agricultural products jumped 5 per cent from April 15 to May 15.

—The Treasury Department announced it will auction off 500,000 ounces of government gold on June 30. Officials said the auction was scheduled because of rising imports of gold.

Teachers seek 19.5% increase

Wisconsin Rapids public schoolteachers will be asking a base salary increase of about 19.5 per cent when they sit down with school board officials next week.

The first negotiating session on 1976 teacher contracts will be at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, at the West Junior High auditorium. The sessions will be open to the public, although both parties have agreed to caucuses.

Last year, a base salary of \$8,375 for a beginning teacher with a bachelor's degree was agreed on. That was an increase of \$550 from the year before. This year the teachers' initial request is a base salary of \$10,000.

The Wisconsin Rapids Education Association and the

school board released initial proposals Friday. Regarding salaries, the board's proposal reads: "The personnel committee will make a good faith effort to reach a mutually acceptable monetary settlement, taking into account local community needs and state fiscal controls."

The teachers are seeking a cost of living clause for 1976. Their proposal reads: "The base salary shall be adjusted upward monthly by the per cent increase in the Bureau of Labor's National Consumer Price Index, for metropolitan areas."

The WREA also is proposing contract changes in about 20 other areas. The board's proposal lists about 15 items of memorabilia of their son, Dennis, one of four Adams County Vietnam casualties.

Vietnam 'a big waste'

By John Pelton
Tribune Staff Writer

The town of Adams household of Edward and Virginia Rank is quiet, except for tinkering sounds coming from the back shed where Rank is attempting to start a garden tractor.

The Ranks have lost their children. Son Edward died of cerebral palsy at age 11 in 1954 and son Dennis, 19, died May 11, 1969 in Japan of burns suffered eight days earlier in Vietnam.

Spec. 4 Dennis Rank was a mechanic in the 1st Cavalry, Americal Division. He had been in Vietnam only a short time when he was ordered to work on the turret of a tank near the village of Vinh Huy.

A flash fire turned the tank into a caldron. Dennis somehow managed to crawl out despite severe burns over 40 per cent of his body.

"It was a big waste. Not only for our son, but the 50,000 others who died," said the elder Rank, reflecting on the recent outcome of the war. "I would blame our government for sending even one child overseas," Rank said.

"He told me to stay out of it," Rank continued. "I offered to write the government for a service exemption based on his being the sole surviving son."

"Our son said 'no' (to the offer). He was a good soldier," said Mrs. Rank. "He was a very good mechanic. He didn't get it from his father," she said with a slight laugh.

"Yeah, I can't even start a lawn mower," Rank said, aiding the effort to lighten the conversation.

Standing amid memorabilia on their enclosed front porch, the Ranks recalled they had hoped Dennis would have pursued his mechanical aptitude by majoring in drafting at the University of Wisconsin-Stout after graduating in 1966 from Adams-Friendship High School.

Dennis had other ideas and, faced

with the military draft, decided to enlist "to get it over with." He entered active duty March 5, 1968.

He wanted to operate heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, in preparation for employment as an operator after his discharge. "But they stuck him in tanks," Rank said.

"He was a good boy — a kid that went to church every Sunday," the Ranks said.

"Oh, he liked his good times, stock cars and girls," Rank said.

"But no matter what time he got in

Seventeen servicemen from Wood County and four from Adams County were among Vietnam casualties. Countless others from Central Wisconsin were wounded there. The war touched the lives of many families in one way or another.

Now that the war is "over," what do the men who fought there and the relatives of those who died there think of the U.S. involvement? See Page 5.

Saturday night and no matter what the weather, he went to church Sunday morning," Mrs. Rank said.

Dennis and his friends helped develop Skyline Ski Hill.

"He would go there nights to make snow and go to school during the day," Rank said.

A memorial plaque and picture have been placed in the ski hill patrol building.

The same portrait is in a display case on the Rank's porch with other pictures of Dennis, his medals and a sterling silver cross given him by an aunt when he was a boy.

"He was proud of that cross — had it displayed in his room all the time," Mrs. Rank said. "He was very religious."

Also in the display case is the American flag that draped Dennis' coffin during the burial ceremony at Mount Repose Cemetery west of

Friendship.

"Was that impressive," Rank said softly.

"I still can't stand to hear taps," Mrs. Rank said. "In Memorial Day services you hear them and they turn you inside out."

On a table below the display case is a well-used Bible, Lutheran Hymnal and a citation for the Bronze Star awarded posthumously for service from April to May, 1969.

The citation covers a small reel-to-reel tape player. The reel holds a "letter" Dennis recorded, probably at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., in 1968. The reel was not mailed, but brought home on a leave and never "read" until his parents discovered it later in his dresser drawer.

"It was quite a jolt to find it," Rank said, turning the player on.

Dennis was cited for his military bearing and leadership capability during training. However, he apparently didn't care for all that accompanied leadership responsibility.

"Squad leader crap is for the birds," he said. "It just gets you in more trouble, because you have to answer for someone else's mistakes."

To maintain the quality of sound, Dennis avoided as much as possible turning the microphone switch on and off. He conceded it was difficult to keep a train of thought going for the entire length of tape.

"I sure say 'ah' a lot on this tape. I can't think fast enough to put thoughts down," he said.

"I wish I was home. It sure would be nice," Dennis said.

"We're thankful he was brought home," Mrs. Rank said. "Many of the boys weren't," she began, but halted.

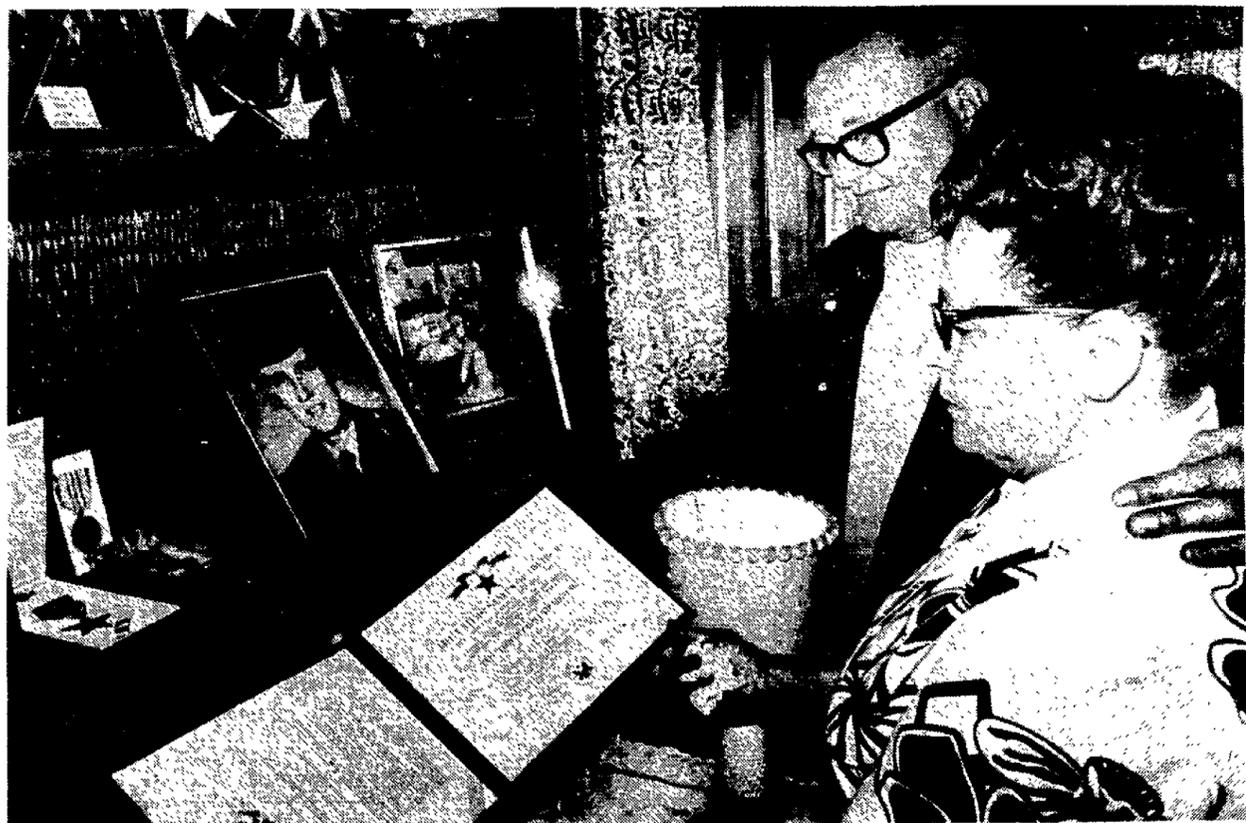
Rank turned the player off.

It was silent.

The couple is alone, but with thoughts shared by other parents of deceased Vietnam servicemen.

Today's chuckle

A clever wife found out how to remove cooking odors from the house — she quit cooking.



"We're thankful he was brought home — many weren't." Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rank view The Bronze Star Medal citation and other

memorabilia of their son, Dennis, one of four Adams County Vietnam casualties.