

State Traffic Toll Is Fourth Highest

Provisional Total For Year Is 1,223

Indianapolis, Jan. 3.—(UP)—Despite the heaviest flow of traffic for any year in Indiana's history, 1951 probably will go down on the traffic toll records as no better than the fourth bloodiest year in Hoosier history.

The provisional total of 1951 deaths stood at 1,223 today. From five to 20 more may be added to the list later as persons hurt in the year's crush of accidents die of

their injuries. As things stand now, however, four other years have chalked up higher traffic tolls. The record year is 1941 when 1,478 died. Second deadliest year was 1937, when the toll was 1,367 lives, and third was 1935, when the toll was 1,305. The year 1934 produced 1,227 deaths, a total four higher than last year's. But it is almost certain the additional deaths from 1951 injuries will push that year's total above the 1934 record.

Comparing the 1951 deaths and the lower totals of other post-war years with the records of the 1930's makes it seem safety officials have marked gains in their battle against accidents, for the traffic volume is up greatly over those years—more than 50 percent

greater last year than 1941. But authorities are reluctant to point out these gains for fear it will relax caution on the part of many safe-driving motorists. They believe there's still a lot to be gained by constant hammering of the importance of highway safety. The 1951 toll represents roughly one death every seven hours and about three and one-third deaths a day throughout the period.

Two Cars Collide; One Girl Killed

New Albany, Ind., Jan. 3.—(UP)—Injuries suffered when two cars collided at a street intersection yesterday proved fatal soon afterward to Patricia Whittinghill, 19, who died in St. Edward's hospital.



Ben Tate, Taft's treasurer.

Senator Taft

Gen. Eisenhower

Frank Carlson, Ike's HQ manager.

REPUBLICAN EYES are on the White House as supporters of the two leading contenders for the party's presidential nomination busy themselves in Washington. Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio is avowedly in the race, but Gen. Eisenhower has not yet said yes or no, to such men as Senator Henry Cabot Lodge and Senator James Duff, who lead the campaign to win the nomination for NATO army chief. (International)

Shelbyville Chief Is Chosen By Exam

Policemen Given Exams For Post

Shelbyville, Ind., Jan. 3.—(UP)—Former patrolman Lloyd Mellis swapped jobs with his former boss today after the entire police force sweated out competitive examinations to determine who would be the new police chief.

Mellis, 37, was appointed last night by Mayor Philip Banawitz to succeed the former chief, Maurice Moberly, 46.

Banawitz said the new department head passed "with flying colors" a series of tests and a long interview given to determine the best-qualified man for the job.

Earlier, the 16-man Shelbyville law enforcement body had scratched their head over written tests while four state troopers and a deputy sheriff temporarily took over the job of maintaining law and order in the town.

Mellis admitted it would seem "a little strange" bossing the man who formerly gave him orders.

"But I'm sure everything will work out fine and there'll be no trouble," he added.

Moberly took the news philosophically.

"I've had my ups and downs before," he said. "I'm going to stay tight on with the department and to my best."

Three other men were uppe

from the patrolmen ranks to take posts as lieutenants on the basis of the tests. They were Earl Trees, Richard Clapp and Walter Vintin. Trees and Vintin each had been police chief in the past and Clapp had at one time held down a lieutenant's spot.

Mellis, who also had been a lieutenant at one period during his 14 years on the force, said he planned to make some changes.

"I think the main thing will be to improve the morale in the department," he said. "I don't think it's been too good."

Banawitz, also 37, said he was gratified at the success of the tests and hoped the changes would help make the Shelbyville force "one of the finest in a fourth-class city in the state."

He ordered the exams to fulfill a mayoralty campaign promise after he took office at the beginning of the year.

Included in the tests were the army's "alpha" exam, a police adaptability examination, special tests and interviews with the seven highest scorers.

Banawitz, a Republican, was a state highway patrolman before he resigned in 1947.

The "merit-intelligence" exam was unique in Indiana municipal history. Banawitz believed the officer-choosing system never had been used in the state before.

While the policemen went through the exams and interviews Indiana state police patrolled the 35th largest city in Indiana with Det. Sgt. Elmer Cord of state police headquarters in Indianapolis in charge. Three troopers and a

Shelby county deputy sheriff assisted him.

Banawitz, who is mayor of the hometown of state police Supt. Arthur M. Thurston, called on three law-enforcement and safety experts to help his city board of works and safety find the best qualified policemen. The experts were Capt. Kermit E. Lewis of

state police, Shelby prosecutor Donald L. Brunner, and Shelby W. Gallien, acting director of the public safety institute at Purdue University.

Boy Confesses To Breakins, Thefts

City police have turned over to juvenile authorities a 13-year-old youth who has admitted committing many of the recent breakins and thefts in the community. The boy's name was not released. It is understood the youth broke into Decatur Hateries, Rook's Grocery, O. K. Barber shop, Kelly Dry Cleaners, and a homewood residence. The lad is already on probation.

Another juvenile, 17, it is learn-

ed, who was apprehended about 10 days ago by Berne police chief Herman Bowman and sheriff Bob Shraufka, has been ordered to the Plainfield school for boys. He was caught in the act of stripping one of the vehicles in the Wittwer Body shop, in Berne, and later admitted stripping other vehicles in Decatur and other counties.

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