

THURSDAY, SEPT. 2, 1948

# State Traffic Toll At Record Low

## 17,472 Lose Drivers' Permits

The Indiana Traffic Safety Commission today reported the state's traffic death toll at the lowest level since the keeping of records began and attributed the drop in part to intensive screening of drivers.

At the same time, Secretary of State Thomas E. Bath announced that the new system of screening drivers during the issuance of driving licenses had taken 17,472 potentially dangerous drivers off Indiana roads. Of this number 9513 persons were refused new licenses and another 7956 had old licenses revoked, Mr. Bath said.

### Death Rate Drops

Current traffic death rate has fallen to 7.4 per 100 million miles of driving. Safety Commission Director James Harrison said. He pointed out that shortly after the war the rate was around 12.

While the number of traffic deaths in relation to the increased volume of traffic has dropped, Mr. Harrison said, the number of traffic miles being driven has risen sharply.

The new system in operation in the Bureau of Motor Vehicles was started the first of this year. It requires that all drivers seeking license renewal appear in person before a bureau examiner.

By cutting out mail renewals the bureau hopes to have at least a quick look at the physical condition of every driver at least once every two years.

### 164,000 Examined

So far this year, Mr. Bath, vehicle commissioner, said, more than 164,000 drivers have been examined for driving licenses. Of this number 5597 were rejected for failure to know the rules of the road; 1955 failed actual driving tests; 456 displayed inadequate knowledge of road signs; 1473 were rejected for faulty vision and 32 for other physical defects.

More than 14,000 of the drivers who were given licenses were for bidden to drive without glasses or other corrective devices. Need for such corrections is shown on the license and a driver who needs glasses, for example, must be wearing them or face possible charges of illegal driving.

### Enforce Responsibility

About 60 per cent of the rejections resulted from tightening of drivers' financial responsibility enforcement, Mr. Bath said. This meant the state already had caught up with thousands of motorists who have not yet proved financial responsibility after having been involved in an accident.

In addition, an up-to-date record now is kept on every licensed driver in the state. Automatic filing devices recently installed give a warning signal when a driver's accident record or traffic record is bad and such drivers will be summoned for examination.

### Name District Chairmen Of Europe Food Program

LAFAYETTE, Sept. 2 (UPI)—Frederick L. Hovde, president of Purdue University and chairman of the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) in Indiana, today named 17 district chairmen to assist him in the campaign.

The program is designed to ship a trainload of food from Indiana to hungry war victims in Europe and Asia.

Contributions of food and cash will be asked in November.

Among the new district chairmen, to be aided by county workers, will be Lloyd Arbuckle, Lake Village; Kendall Hews, La Porte; Forrest Modisett, Logansport; Joseph Kerkhoff, Lafayette; Guy Wilson, Kokomo; Dale Flora, Elwood; Eugene Hutchins, Green castle; the Rev. M. O. Robbins, Indianapolis; Clarence J. McCormick, Vincennes; Fred Suhre, Columbus, and the Rev. August Binder, Mt. Vernon.

**SPECULATORS BALKED**  
KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)—The Knoxville Transit Lines has moved to halt speculation in fare tokens. People began buying "bagfuls" of tokens, so the company announced all tokens will be called in at current prices if it is granted a proposed fare increase.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 1. DEATH NOTICES

CONKLIN—Died W. 210 E. Capitol Apt. No. 2, beloved mother of Mrs. Alma Coleman, Miss Edna Conrad, Indianapolis; Mrs. Georgia W. Watson, New Albany, Ind., passed away Thursday. Services to be held Saturday.

2. m. 1948. SHIRLEY BROS. CO. LTD. CHAPEL, 246 N. Illinois Street, Oak Grove, 1 mile south of Corydon, Ind. Burial at Chapel at 12 noon Friday.

3. m. 1948. BURIAL FURNACE CO., 558 Maryland St. Funeral Friday, 3 p. m. at ROY'S FURNACE CO., 1004 W. Morris.

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