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God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.—Daniel Webster

Single-Car Accidents Increase

Are you a motorist with a high batting average for highway safety? How's your driving skill at all times and under all conditions in the fast moving traffic league?

Anyway you look at it, a significant number of motorists go into a "slump" when it comes to single car accidents, according to Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden, of the California Highway Patrol. "It isn't always the 'other fellow' who drops the ball for a fatal highway error. Out of 2,002 fatal accidents investigated by the Patrol in 1962, 940 were of the one-car category—some 47 per cent," Crittenden stated this week.

THE COMMISSIONER said the number of run-off-the-roadway type of accidents have shown a significant increase in the past five years. "The implication is obvious. Safety for the motorist rests squarely in his own hands. Although the Patrol emphasizes defensive driving as a protection against the driving actions of other motorists, it is equally important to know the causes of single car accidents," he pointed out.

Among these are excessive speed, misjudgment of road conditions, defective equipment and deliberate violation of common sense safety practices—all of which can send a car into a fatal skid, into a bridge abutment or a rollover.

Robert Vitrone On Dean's List

Robert Vitrone, of 22421 Marjorie Ave., qualified for the dean's list at the Pennsylvania State University for the winter term.

Senator Urges Support of High Voltage Power Lines

Senator Clair Engle (D-Calif.) has urged strong support for the Administration's budget of \$24.5 million to start building the federal West Coast electric intertie.

The savings resulting from this intertie, Senator Engle said, will be "sensational." He explained that the intertie would link the Columbia River system in the Pacific northwest with the Central Valley Project system and the Colorado River system in California.

The California legislator urged intertie support in the keynote address before the American Public Power Assn. convention in Cleveland.

IN DISCUSSING the West Coast intertie, Senator Engle called attention to his own bill which would provide for Federal Power Commission regulation of the construction and operation of high voltage transmission lines.

Senator Engle said, "New techniques make it possible to economically transmit large quantities of electric power at extra high voltage for distances of a thousand miles or more. That is why I believe that the Federal Power Commission should have the authority—which it now lacks—to regulate interstate high voltage lines."

Senator Engle said his bill, S. 350, would provide that regulation.

sponding reduction in water costs of more than \$10 an acre-foot for water delivered in Southern California.

"These savings border on the sensational," the California lawmaker said. "They are worth fighting for. They represent another compelling reason why we should support the Administration's public intertie plan as against the various private proposals which seek transmission control—cash register control."

HE WARNED against public power "partnerships" which consist of government building the dams and the private companies handling the power plants and transmission lines.

"It is the power plants and transmission lines which produce the most revenue," Senator Engle said. "But the people pay for the most costly aspect of the projects—the dams."

"This particular brand of 'partnership' between government and business in essence is: you build the dams, we'll handle the power. It is obviously good business if you can get it—but it isn't good government."

POINTING TO the savings of a West Coast intertie, Senator Engle said that California Water Project pumping costs would be reduced by some \$37 million a year. Furthermore, he said, this reduction in power cost would result in a corre-

California Seeds Supply Markets Over the World

Seeds worth 17 times their weight in gold, seeds so tiny they can barely be weighed, seeds so finicky they must be planted within 48 hours after harvesting—these are just a few facets of California's \$30 million seed industry, largest in the nation.

At \$600 per ounce hybrid double petunia seeds are probably the costliest on the market today, says Gerald F. Burke of Riverside, secretary-treasurer of the California Seed Assn. Gold, by comparison, sells for \$35 per ounce.

Burke told the Council of California Growers, however, that nobody is becoming fabulously rich growing such expensive seeds.

REASON: years of costly scientific plant breeding and heavy inputs of hand labor send production expenses into orbit.

Incidentally, there are 280,000 hybrid petunia seeds per ounce, a figure that at once suggests their size and weight.

One of the trickiest seeds to handle is that of the eugenia shrub—the seeds must be planted within 48 hours after picking.

Seventy-five per cent of the world's vegetable and flower seeds are grown in California, Burke says. Tomato, pepper, cantaloupe, lettuce, carrot, onion, squash, pumpkin, watermelon, and beans are among the most important vegetable seeds produced in the state.

THE BULK of California's seed business, however, is in field crops: alfalfa, ladino clover, sudangrass and purple vetch, primarily. Seeds from field crops, alone, amount to an estimated \$20 million annually.

Seed companies and the University of California are engaged in continuing research programs to improve production, quality, uniformity, and disease-resistance in all crops. Seed costs have jumped accordingly. Seed for a new hybrid tomato, for example, costs \$265 per pound (there are probably 125,000 seeds per

pound), whereas ordinary tomato seed has been selling from \$6 to \$10 per pound. The increased yields and better prices for quality more than pay for the extra costs, comments Burke.

RESEARCH ALSO is proceeding in better ways to keep seeds in storage, and hasten germination.

At the University of California in Davis, Dr. James Harrington has established standards of moisture content for different varieties of seeds in storage. Today, most seed houses have elaborate systems of temperature and humidity control in their warehouses.

Most field crops are harvested mechanically. Some vegetable crop seeds also are machine harvested, either partially or wholly. But for most flower seeds the harvest still consists of tedious hand-harvesting, sometimes on hands and knees. For the harvesting of geranium seed someone rigged up an old home vacuum cleaner that sucked the mature seeds out of the seed heads. Today, more sophisticated versions of that early model are being used.

BESIDES furnishing employment for thousands of field and warehouse workers, the California seed industry has many openings for young people interested in careers in research and plant breeding, among others.

"We have more openings in the latter categories than the colleges have been able to fill," says Burke.

College courses important to careers in the seed industry include agronomy, botany, genetics, plant breeding, entomology, plant pathology, soils and irrigation, farm management, marketing, agricultural engineering, animal husbandry, economics, journalism, and business administration.

A measure of what already has been done in plant breeding is the fact that 70 per cent of the crops grown in the U.S. today are of varieties that did not exist 20 years ago.



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