

Californians to arrive for game

More than 175 Californians for Nebraska will arrive in Lincoln at 10:45 a.m. Thursday for their annual visit to UNL and to attend the Nebraska-Colorado football game.

Helber Maasdam of Burbank, Calif., is coordinating the NU alumni trip this year. Headquarters for the Californians for Nebraska will be the Villager Motel.

There will be a special tour of the Lincoln campuses and the State Capitol Building for the group Friday morning followed by a luncheon in the Nebraska Union and attendance at the Cornhusker freshman football game.

A social hour will be held at the Villager at 5:30 p.m. Friday and at 5 p.m. Saturday following the football game. A special dinner for the Californians will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Californians will depart from Lincoln airport at 11 p.m. Sunday.

World Campus Afloat: Join Us!



Sails each September & February.

This is the way you've always wanted to learn and study. Combine accredited study with a fascinating semester of travel to Africa, Australasia, the Orient and the Americas. Over 8500 students from 450 colleges have already participated. Financial aid is available. Write now for free catalog.

WCA, Chapman College
Box 1000, Orange, CA 92666

MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1974

1000 UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

ADMISSION \$ 2.00

Arlo Guthrie

IN CONCERT



SATURDAY, NOV. 3, 8 P.M.

-DOORS OPEN 7PM-

PERSHING AUDITORIUM • LINCOLN

TICKETS: \$4.50 in Advance \$5.50 at the Door

8:00PM - NOVEMBER 1, 2, 3 & 4

3:00 & 8:00PM on the 5th

KIMBALL HALL

Fiddler on the Roof

all seats reserved get your tickets now!
music building #3 call 472-3375 or 472-2506

Accidents...

Continued from page 1

The others seem more comfortable with the past. They feel lucky it wasn't worse, lucky to be alive at all. But they drove again, and kept driving until their fear was gone.

Mark Boyle probably is somewhere in between. A year of convalescence and near-isolation that goes with a painful and cumbersome leg brace is not easy for a man who said he'd never keep "just one fish, or just one pet of any kind," believing they, too, need company.

Mark was 24 last June 15. That means few of his school friends are still in Omaha.

Hobbies have been necessarily scaled down or eliminated, he said. He used to paint a lot. In fact, once he's healthier again, he may go back to school and study art.

He has a good Pentax camera—Army PXs are one blessing of the service, he said. He and some friends used to laze across Texas deserts, taking colored photos of wiggly wildlife and twisted growths of cacti.

He has little chance to practice photography now. Walking the length of his residential block is an effort.

He invented midnight football games in Okinawa and nights were never the same. That, too, is out now.

Mark will walk unaided again, maybe in six months, doctors tell him. He had three compound fractures in the thigh and shin on his right leg.

It took three hours to set the breaks the night of the accident, he said. To get to them, the doctors had to destroy his embroidered jeans and his cowboy boots, his first two purchases after he returned from overseas.

He sat in traction at the University Hospital until Christmas. The doctors then released him with a cast-brace on his leg. But in March, they found the bones were not healing, so they put him in a cast from the middle of his chest to his toes, he said.

The cast came off in May and he now wears a leg brace and walks with crutches.

"It has been a lesson in patience and endurance," Mark said.

Had it not been for the accident, Mark would be in art school, or on Monterey Beach, he said. He remembers especially loving that part of California, where he began his 47-week Chinese course in October 1969.

He feels a bit out of place, still living in his parents' home, he said. He watches TV—Kung Fu, the Waltons, the Untouchables.

"And I think about the world and all kinds of stuff," he said.

Mark has returned to Catholicism since last October. He was raised a Catholic, but had let it slide in college and the service.

"The thought always comes back to me now that I could have died in that thing. It taught me death is something that can come to me anytime. And I have a whole mess of stuff I still have to do," he said.

He can't drive now because of the brace. Is he afraid of cars?

"I like to think not, but I am," he said.

Mark and the others are only a small part of the October casualties. October, December and January are the months with the highest accident rates, according to figures from the Nebraska Department of Roads. Wet or icy roads account for the marginal accidents, they say.

By far the greatest cause of automobile accidents is "driver behavior"—drinking, inattention, needless risk-taking, etc.

Deaths per miles traveled in Nebraska are holding steady over the past 20 years at about five deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, stated records show.

But casualties are becoming an increasingly large portion of the "societal cost" statistic, making up more than 60 per cent of the total calculated loss from vehicle accidents.

Leo Sierks, the elderly man whose car struck a viaduct railing in Fremont, has been a casualty more than once.

He said he gave up driving after the last one because he and his children decided it was the sensible thing to do. But it has left him no more scared of vehicle accidents than any of its predecessors.

"I've been pretty lucky with my accidents," he begins.

In about 1922, the steel-rimmed wheels of a horse-drawn wagon full of shelled corn broke his right collar bone and shattered part of his right hip.

Sierks had been in another accident almost a year to the day before the final one. He was trying to drive home from work when a car struck his rear bumper, jolting it a bit.

He has resolved himself to being car-less, he said.

"Sometimes I don't like it. Still, I say, I'm satisfied."

He now has to walk to Eagles dances Friday nights. That and the problem with his girlfriend

are his only complaints about the accident. He still considers himself lucky.

Luck is something the Ottos in Lindsay seem a little short on. But they're long on faith and optimism.

Their accident only prolonged the havoc that a year of hospitalization for Mrs. Otto had brought the family. She'd had cancer which spread throughout most of her body, and now considers herself recovered.

"312 is my room," she said of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic hospital in Norfolk. She kidded the nurses that she didn't like the room's yellow color. It has been painted green.

She, her husband, and the five children were taken to Our Lady of Lourdes after the accident. Everyone but her stayed about a week. Mrs. Otto was in two months.

Religion has pulled them through, they said. "The cancer, the accident, really makes you think," Mrs. Otto said.

Her parents have moved in with them in their large, two-story white house. They've kept the house and the children together, she said.

And neighbors and congregation members have supplied food and help throughout it all.

"Wow, at Christmas, you wouldn't have believed the cookies," Mrs. Otto said.

But a large part seems to have been the Ottos' fun-loving optimism.

Otto's left knee cap was cracked, so he walked with a cane until Thanksgiving day. He's an engineer with Lindsay Manufacturing, but until recently he was night manager of the irrigation equipment factory. That meant lots of walking at work, which saved his knee from stiffening permanently, he said.

With a weak left leg, he couldn't pump his bass drum. That meant not playing with his Jimmy Hoff country-western band. He went without until he just couldn't any more—at a Christmas party among friends.

"I had to straddle the seat sideways, and play the bass with my right foot. I only lasted one song but it felt great," he said.

Of course, they'd learned long ago how to make fun in a hospital. Like New Year's Eve, 1971.

Mrs. Otto was a cancer patient, but for some reason was put in a maternity ward. She and another woman decided their husbands should celebrate the new year with their wives. There was a third woman in the ward.

"She'd just delivered that morning, but we talked her into it," Mrs. Otto said.

The children were good from the beginning, Mrs. Otto said. Ronda, 12, suffered a broken nose from the accident. Debra, 11, had just a cut below her right eye. Jerry, 10, had a cut along the side of his left arm. Lori, 8, and Julie, 4, had broken noses, and a broken leg and ribs.

They visited their mother often, she said. Julie's injuries were hard on her for awhile. The neighbor children tired of visiting her because she couldn't play. So the first thing she did after the cast was off her leg was to round up her old friends and rejoin the activities.

Mr. Otto said he began driving again right away. He is a member of the Lindsay volunteer rescue squad, so he has seen accidents before. That is why, before he even realized his knee was hurt, he tore the back seat from their wrecked car and laid the children on its cushions, and checked the bleeding rip in Mrs. Otto's forehead.

Things are still unsettled. Mrs. Otto's jaw was cracked in the accident, her teeth are still loose and she has been delaying the necessary dental visit. She's not sure the health insurance will cover it.

Mrs. Otto was shaken by the accident for a long time. But her husband would not stand for it.

"He made me drive before I could even walk. For the longest time, when I'd meet a car, I'd tend to go into the ditch," she said.

And he did the same with her walking. Her leg ached when she tried to use it, especially on steps, so she clung to the crutches until her husband took them away.

"I was real leery, but now I've done it. And now he (Mr. Otto) and the doctor scold me and say I'm limping. I tell them, 'At least I'm walking.'

"It's quite a thing for me. I'm sure everyone understands what I mean."

The Nebraska State Patrol is trying to teach everyone what she means through eight-hour defensive driving courses throughout the state, Lt. Robert Buchholz said.

He teaches people to drive attentively, observing weather conditions or any conditions that may affect safety, he said.

"We just hope it soaks in," he said.

But haven't they been teaching defensive driving for a long time?

Yes, he said.

And accidents have continued at a steady rate?

Yes.

Then what does it take to make it soak in?

"I guess I don't know."