

# Sunshine Advocate

## 3-car smash, David Russell, Aged 21

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### 3-car smash

Maidstone Police are anxious to contact any witnesses of a three car collision on St. Albans Rd. on Sunday at 6 pm, which resulted in one person being killed and 12 injured.

First Constable Bill Waddell, of Maidstone, who is handling the matter, said it was one of the worst accidents in his experience. "The scene looked like a battlefield with bodies lying everywhere. There have been fatalities on this section of the road before, it is a very dangerous area," he said.

The accident occurred on the Sunshine side of the railway bridge in St. Albans Rd. near the Monier Pipes factory.

Two of the cars involved were coming from St. Albans and the other was leading a line of traffic going towards St. Albans from Sunshine. One of the cars coming from St. Albans collided with the lead car from Sunshine head on, seconds later the other

car coming from St. Albans got out of control as it came over the bridge and crashed through the guard rail and dropped 20 ft. down the embankment and hit a large culvert pipe in the factory site.

The driver of the car which went over the embankment, Mr. Gregory David Russell, 21, of Peel St., Windsor, was killed in the accident and his four passengers were all rushed to hospital. The drivers and passengers in the other two cars were also rushed to hospital, several with serious injuries.

Included in the injured were a 2-month-old baby and two young children aged 2 and 6. Two of the cars were smashed beyond repair. Four ambulances rushed the injured to hospital.

First Const. Waddell said it was a miracle that the others were not killed. Witnesses should contact him on 317 9743.

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## Death bridge could be replaced

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1968

### DEATH' BRIDGE COULD BE REPLACED

The railway bridge on St. Albans Rd., which was the scene of a spectacular three-car collision, in which one of the drivers was killed, last Sunday week, may be replaced by a \$250,000 new bridge.

As an immediate step, 35 mph speed limit signs will be erected on the approaches to the bridge and roadway lines indicated.

### New store to open

One of Melbourne's leading supermarket firms, Australian Safeway (Vic.) Pty. Ltd., will open a food store in Sunshine next year.

The application for a planning permit to erect a store on Lot 1 Devonshire Rd., formerly the old petrol works site, was approved by Sunshine Council last Monday night.

The store will be the company's first venture in the Western Suburbs and a spokesman said the firm had selected Sunshine because they feel the area has unlimited potential residential and industrial wise. He said, "Sunshine can only get stronger and stronger retail wise."

The supermarket will cover an area of 17,500 square feet and will not include provision for off-street parking. It is expected that work on the building will commence this year and the store should be open for business in the latter half of the year.

Sunshine Council's city engineer, Mr. K. Gray, submitted a detailed report on the dangers of the bridge to council on Monday night.

He said there had been seven separate reported road accidents in St. Albans Rd. on Sunday, Sept. 1st, one of which was fatal. This occurred on the bridge over the railway.

Police reported that a car travelling at high speed from St. Albans failed to take the sharp bend on the bridge and collided head-on with a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

Last week, Mr. Gray, Inspector Hanlon of St. Albans police and Sgt. Hearne of Sunshine, carried out an on-site inspection of the bridge to discuss the problem.

Mr. Gray said the obvious solution was a new bridge, which would cost, depending upon the requirements of the Railways Department, but probably no less than \$250,000.

Cr. D. Berry said the recent fatal accident on the bridge highlighted the need for prompt action. He said that temporary signs would be futile. In the interests of safety, a new bridge was the only answer.

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### Girls in this Sunshine took part in Sunshine on Saturday

The girls, all dressed in glamorous Empress wear, attracted a large crowd of shoppers and were loudly applauded as they walked up and down the catwalk in the store. The girls also sold raffle tickets.

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## Death bridge could be replaced (Cont')

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days.

### NEW BRIDGE

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He said: "I came over the bridge the other day and if it is taken at any speed it is very difficult to make the turn.

"I feel a mistake has been made in the original design of the bridge in relation to the camber of the roadway.

"We must consider the mushrooming of St. Albans and the increased traffic volume. The road is going to be widened and the only answer is a new bridge."

Mr Gray reported: "There is a straight approach to the bridge from St. Albans which encourages drivers to travel at high speeds, despite the fact that the whole of St. Albans Rd is subject to a 35 mph restriction.

"The bridge is flat, which makes it difficult for a vehicle to overcome the centrifugal force to make the quite sharp left turn at the north end of the bridge.

"The angle between the approach and the bridge deck is acute, which tends to throw the vehicles slightly, making the turn more difficult.

Any failure to make this turn within the left half of the road pavement means that the vehicle is in the path of vehicles crossing the bridge in the opposite direction, making a head-on collision almost inevitable.

Major alterations cannot be made to the bridge, and with the police, I did discuss the possibilities of adjusting the vertical alignment to ease the intersection of the bridge deck and the north approach, making a false kerb on the west side of the bridge so as to super-elevate the road pavement for a left-hand turn from the north, pavement widening of the north approach, the installation of a median to segregate the opposing streams of traffic, erection of 35 mph signs.

Mr. Gray further stated, "It is not possible to state with any certainty how much of this can be accomplished and at what cost until a detailed investigation is made."

Mr. Gray and the traffic officer were requested by council to submit further reports with a view to the establishment of a new bridge.



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## New alignment for bridge

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**NEW ALIGNMENT FOR BRIDGE**

The city engineer, Mr. K. Gray, will investigate an alignment for a new bridge on St. Albans Rd., with a view to acquiring the necessary land as soon as possible.

The present narrow bridge over the railway line was recently the scene of a fatal accident, and the city engineer and traffic officer last week made a report to Sunshine Council on the traffic hazards which exist at the bridge.

The report stated: "The bridge deck is flat and cannot be altered structurally. The only method is by building up on the west side to give a straight crossfall to the east.

"It will be necessary to continue this for a considerable distance on the approaches on either end of the bridge and also transfer the change of grade of the north approach and the bridge deck northwards by several feet.

The road has been paved right up to the kerb, but will have to be surfaced in connection with the elevation of the bridge deck. The total cost of this would be in the vicinity of \$4800. It will be necessary to employ temporary traffic lights on the bridge while the work is in progress.

The report recommended (and adopted by council): A detailed scheme be prepared and submitted to the Country Roads Board to ascertain if any of the unclassified-road grants of \$34,000 for St. Albans Rd can be expended on this project and the advice of the CRB and Traffic Commission be obtained with regard to the suggestion by the Police Department that a median strip be installed to segregate the opposing lanes of traffic.

**DANCE IN AID OF QUEST**

Miss Jean Brady, an entrant in the Lions Club of Sunshine's Miss Sunshine Quest, is holding a Scottish and modern dance in the Dempster Park hall, Phoenix St, North Sunshine, on Friday, October 11, at 8 pm. Admission is \$1. B.y.o.