

ounce  
eir Son  
baby boy was  
s. Sue Sullins,  
ins, senior in-  
major at St.

DRIVE-IN  
THEATRE  
YEARS FREE

Showing—  
onor  
THE WACS"  
Mature  
AD"—Color  
6:30

WALL  
WEDNESDAY

EAT  
LIVE in

ARK  
R

OR by  
AMERICA  
TED ARTISTS

The Battalion's  
Safety Edition

# The Battalion

The Life You Save  
May Be Your Own

Number 32: Volume 54

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1954

Price 5 Cents

## Aggie May Die In Holiday Crash

### Accidents Kill Three This Semester

At Least Four Others  
Injured in Wrecks

By HARRI BAKER

Three A&M students have been killed in automobile accidents this semester, and at least four more injured.

The dead are:

Donald G. Dart, 20, killed Oct. 16 when his car turned over on Farm Road 60.

William Taylor, 19, and Laird Hill, 19, killed Oct. 23 when their car crashed head-on into a truck near Corsicana.

The injured are:

Clarence Hatcher, paralyzed from the waist down when his car turned over on Farm Road 60.

Don Schneider, cracked leg, cuts, and bruises, in the same accident. Jack Albert, badly cut arm and other cuts, in a head-on collision near Dallas.

Thomas Goldstone, cuts and bruises, when his car overturned on F and B road near the campus.

The accidents:

Dart and a girl were driving west on Farm Road 60 about 6:15 Saturday night, Oct. 16. Witnesses in another car said the car Dart was in swerved around them at an "excessive speed" and then started turning over.

The car, a 1954 convertible, rolled over two and a half times, throwing out both occupants. The car apparently rolled over on Dart and crushed him, according to the highway patrolman who investigated the accident.

Dart was dead on arrival at the hospital. He was a senior.

Taylor and Hudson, both sophomores, were going to Waco for the A&M-Baylor football game when the accident that killed them occurred.

Their car apparently ran off the road and onto the soft shoulder. Trying to get back on the pavement, the driver lost control of the car and hit an oil-field truck head-on.

The time was 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23. It was raining that night. Hatcher and Schneider were injured Dec. 2, when their car overturned on Farm Road 60 after passing another car.

Hatcher's condition is still uncertain. A head injury received in the accident left him paralyzed from the waist down, but doctors say the paralysis may be temporary. He is still in a Houston hospital.

The driver of the car they were passing said they came by him "as fast as their car would go." He estimated their speed at 80 miles an hour.

The car went off the left shoulder, and swerved back onto the highway. The witnesses said it looked like the driver then lost control of the car, and it rolled off the right side of the highway.

Both occupants were thrown out of the car. The accident occurred about 8:15 p.m.

Albert was injured in a head-on collision near Lake Dallas Oct. 22. (See A&M ACCIDENTS, Page 4)

### Higher Speeds In 1953 Cause Most Accidents

The horsepower of modern automobiles is steadily increasing, and, if you don't believe it, consider as proof the fact that three out of ten fatal accidents last year were caused by excessive speed.

State summaries for 1953 reported that 35 per cent of all fatal accidents were caused by speeding, but they hasten to add that "Many fatal accidents involve two vehicles," both of which could have been speeders.

And another big killer, alcohol when mixed with gasoline, amounted for 24 out of 100 fatal accidents last year. This includes both motorists and pedestrians.

One fallacy among drivers is the belief that many accidents are caused by automobiles in an unsafe condition. Statistics for 1953, though, seem to show that this causes a minor portion of the accidents: 94 per cent of the vehicles involved in fatal accidents have no unsafe conditions.

### Accidents Caused By Carelessness

By DON SHEPARD

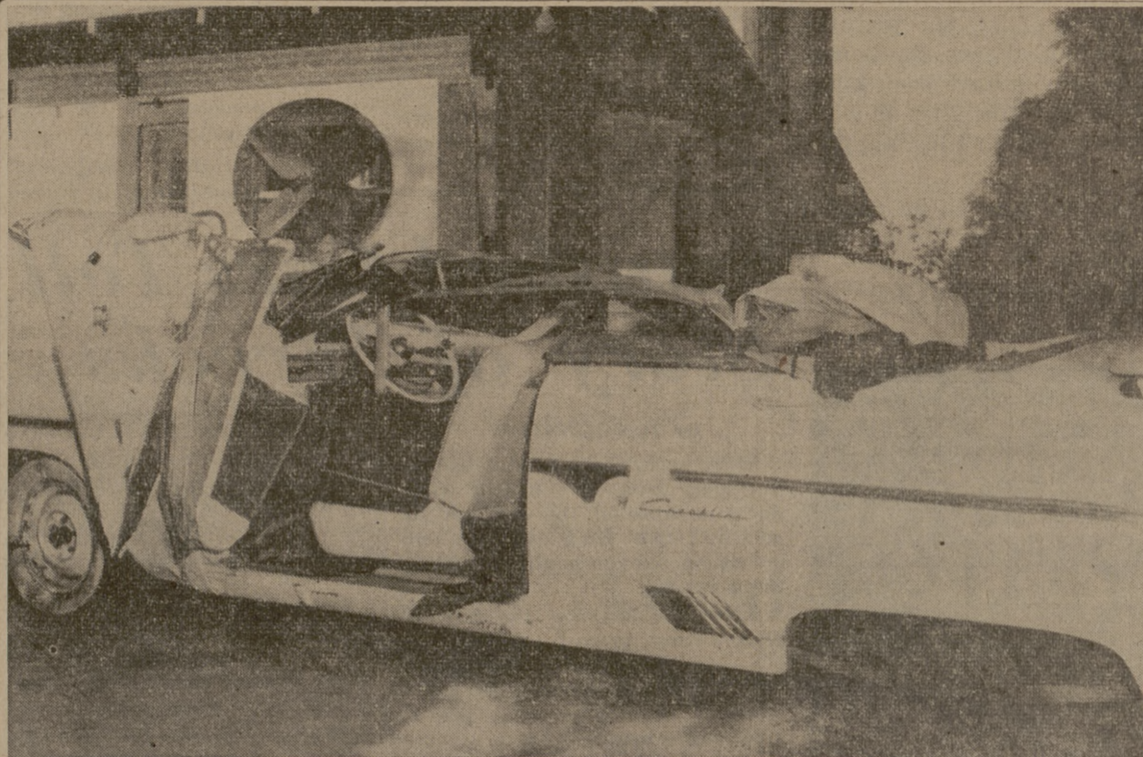
Most accidents that happen on the A&M campus, or anywhere, according to Bennie A. Zinn, chairman of the accident prevention committee, are caused by "pure carelessness."

Zinn estimates that an average two to three hundred accidents involving A&M students and faculty members occur each month.

From Nov. 19 until Dec. 1, Zinn said, 196 students were treated in the college hospital for cuts, bruises, and fractures. A big per cent of these accidents, Zinn pointed out, were suffered while working on the bonfire, but most of them were caused by carelessness.

Several students are hurt each month while participating in intramural sports. Last month 16 such injuries occurred, most from playing football.

Zinn explained that most of these accidents did not actually happen in intramural competition, but during practice.



DEATH CAR—This is the car in which A&M senior Don Dart was killed Oct. 16. The convertible rolled over two and a half times, crushing Dart under it. A girl was also injured in the accident.

### In Past Five Years

## City Accidents Increase

Accidents in College Station have been increasing in the past five years, according to Lee Norwood, College Station chief of police.

"In the last 18 months there have been more accidents than we had in the nine years previous," he said.

Thirty-three accidents in College

Station have been investigated so far this year, said Curtis Bullock, College Station patrolman. There were probably other minor ones that were not reported he added. One fatal accident occurred this year just outside the city limits, he said.

The city has made an effort to counter the increasing accident rate.

Around 20 stop and warning signs were put up this year, according to Ran Boswell, city manager. College Station policemen work closely with college campus security officers and Bryan police, he said.

Bullock has organized a junior safety patrol at A&M Consolidated elementary school. The patrol began its first year of operation in 1953. The boys do not direct automobile traffic, but help with pedestrians and bicycles coming to and going from the school grounds. Bullock supervises them each day. Bullock also directs a bicycle

### Women Safer Than Men At Wheel?

Men always complain about women drivers, but state summaries for 1953 tend to show that women are the safest drivers.

There were 4,100 women drivers and 41,700 men drivers involved in fatal accidents—or, the men had 10 times as many fatal accidents. However, there are 20 million registered women drivers compared to 48 million for the men—or, the men drivers outnumber the women drivers 2 to 1.

Based on mileage of the two sexes, the report says that although the all-accident involvement rate for women is higher, the fatal accident involvement is lower.

### Big Crash Cause

Weather conditions caused one-sixth of the traffic fatalities last year, with rain causing the most accidents.

Poor weather was listed as the cause of one out of five of all accidents. In fatalities, rain was said to be the cause of three out of four of the bad weather accidents, and snow and fog accounted for the other fourth.

### 'Almost Certain' Hickman Says

By BOB BORISKIE

With 250 more cars leaving the campus this holiday period than last year's record 2,400 vehicles, it seems almost statistically certain that at least one Aggie will die a violent death in an automobile wreck, Fred Hickman, chief of campus security, said.

"Last year I said we would be unusually lucky if we don't have some Christmas fatalities," Hickman said. "Well, we weren't lucky. One student was killed and another seriously injured."

The length of the holiday season, combined with the fact that most of the 2,650 cars registered on the campus will be on the state highways some part of the holidays, greatly increases the chances of at least one of them being involved in a fatal accident, he said.

### Time Could Be Major Factor In Auto Safety

Friday and Saturday most A&M students will begin leaving the campus, most of them by automobile, and according to the statistics, the safety of these students depends partly on what time they do their driving.

In 1953, for example, the safest time to drive a motor vehicle was between 4 and 8 a.m. Only 8.5 per cent of the fatal accidents occurred during this period. During the period of November through January, 8.9 per cent of the fatalities happened in these pre-dawn hours.

However, most of the students will be leaving between noon and 5 p.m.—the time when the highest percentage of fatal accidents occur.

A glance at the statistics for last year show that traffic fatalities have two things in common—the later it gets in the day and the later it gets in the year, the more people get killed. A&M students will be leaving the campus in December and many of them will be driving after dark.

### Mayor Proclaims Safe Driving Day

College Station Mayor Ernest Langford proclaimed today as "Safe Driving day."

S-D day is being observed all over the country, sponsored by President Eisenhower's Action Committee for Traffic Safety and hundreds of local, state and national organizations. It is an effort to demonstrate that traffic accidents can be reduced if everybody is careful and cooperative.

### Six Deaths

A check of Aggie deaths during 1954 revealed that six died in automobile accidents and many others were injured. Property damage sustained in those accidents and less serious ones from the point of physical injury cannot be checked.

People of college age usually are killed by their own carelessness, Hickman said. They overturn cars while traveling at an excessive rate of speed or they lose control and run off the road, according to statistical records.

Accidents not involving other vehicles kill more people in the 15 to 24 age group than any other type. Collision with other cars is the next ranking cause of death for this age group.

### Other Causes

Pedestrian accidents rank third as a cause of death by automobile in the college age group, and next is "running into a fixed object." The fixed object category covers telephone and light poles, trees, buildings and other objects more resistant than automobiles.

Collision with trains, collision with bicycles and other mobile vehicles make up the remainder of the list.

"If each driver leaving the campus is determined to return after the holidays and drives accordingly, then there's a good chance they all will return," Hickman said, "but one careless moment for some Aggie can make the Christmas season a tragic one for his loved ones."



TOTAL LOSS—Clarence Hatcher and Don Schneider were injured Dec. 2 when this car rolled. Hatcher is paralyzed from the waist down and Schneider suffered a cracked leg, cuts, and bruises. "We don't get many cars banged up like this one," the wrecker driver said.

### Motor Vehicles Lead In Number of Deaths

Motor vehicles were the leading cause of deaths in the United States last year, killing 38,300 persons and injuring 1,350,000 others.

And in addition to the cost in terms of lives and suffering, traffic accidents ran up a bill of \$4,300,000 in property damage. Included in the death total are 8,200 motorists of the 15-24 age bracket—the age covering most college students.

Texas ranks 14th in national motor vehicle deaths, with 28.2 persons being killed last year for each 100,000 population. In this state last year, 2,368 persons met death violently in motor vehicle accidents.

If you are an out-of-state student, you have a slightly better chance of making it home safely during the holidays, since 81 per cent of the drivers involved in fatal accidents were residents of the state in which the accident occurred. In fact, 21 per cent lived within 25 miles of the accident.