

Something to Remember

This is The Battalion's annual safety edition. On these pages you will find stories, pictures, and cartoons all telling you one thing—driving is dangerous, and only the careful person can get by without an accident.

We have tried to point out that it can happen here—A&M students get killed and hurt in automobile accidents, and they kill other people, too.

Another story tells you that driving and drinking don't mix; another says that college-age people are more accident prone.

Some stories take cold statistics and translate them into overturned cars, broken bodies, blood, and tears.

Some tell stories that are fictional, but might be true, and might happen to you or your family and friends.

All of them, individually and collectively, point to one thing—you, as a driver, passenger, or pedestrian, are the cause of accidents, and because of this it is up to you to prevent them.

This issue is timed to be published a couple of days before A&M students start leaving for home and the holiday driving. Read it before you go, and remember it.

Remember any part of it: the pictures of the smashed and mangled cars, the names of your fellow students who have been killed or injured this year, or the statistics on what causes accidents and to whom they happened.

An awareness of the need to be careful and drive safely help you save your own life on the road.

Remember, the odds are against you when you get into your car.



Teenicides Injure One Person Every Two Minutes In U. S.

By RALPH COLE

Once every two minutes, some "teenicide" or college-age student will kill or injure some person in an automobile accident.

An estimated 7,500 dead and 275,000 injured in 1947 was calculated for the under 25 age group. These figures represent 10 times more persons injured than the United States suffered at Iwo Jima.

Insurance agencies believe anyone to the age of 25 is a potential "teenicide." Many college students, filled with "stunting" and fast driving, are turning the highways into a mass field of murder.

According to Funk and Wagnalls dictionary, "Teenicide is death caused by automobile drivers

under 20 years of age, usually the result of recklessness or immature judgment." It is recognized that driving habits of teen agers carry over into the age of 25.

"Last year, 37,400 drivers of all ages were involved in fatal accidents. More than 11,000 or 31 per cent of these drivers were under 25. And, more than 4,100,000, or 27 per cent, of the 15,500,000 drivers involved in all accidents last year were in this age group despite the fact that it contains less than 20 per cent of all drivers." This was part of a report by Ned Dearborn, president of the National Safety Council.

Following traffic regulations would save thousands of lives and

lower the number of accidents each year. Police records over the nation show 57 per cent of drivers involved in fatal accidents are violating traffic regulations.

Too many teen agers are growing to maturity with improperly formed motor habits, because of the inadequate driving instruction in public schools. Driver education courses would be one answer to the problem of "teenicide" drivers.

Insurance agencies found it necessary in 1948 to revise the method

of classifying and rating private passenger automobiles for higher rates on operators under 25 years of age.

Usually, a son or daughter will copy his parents driving habits. The trouble with this is all parents are not good drivers.

Automobile manufacturers, through the AAA, will donate dual controlled cars as their part to end "teenicide" accidents. By starting driver education in high school, we would begin a new era of trained, responsible drivers.

Smashed Cars Tell Story of Wrecks

By JON KINSLOW

When you pass an automobile wrecking yard, do you ever wonder how some of the cars got so smashed up? Stop and find out sometime and you might be a little more careful.

Take, for instance, the convertible sitting toward the back of the yard. The speedometer shows that it had only 3,000 miles on it when it skidded on that gravel road and overturned twice.

It's easy to see that the car was beautiful when it was new, but so was the young lady who was riding with her boy friend when the accident occurred. She doesn't look much prettier now than the car does.

Then there is the dilapidated old car that was brought in last week after a drunken driver slammed into the side of it. No, it wasn't much of a car, and it can be replaced. But who is going to replace the family of five that died in it?

Don't walk so fast when you go by that twisted mass of steel over there, either, because that was once an automobile. It's not much to look at now, and it would take years to straighten out all the pieces—not nearly as long as it took to straighten out the young kid who was trying to beat a train to the crossing.

Many of the modern sports cars have radios installed in the seat,

and that car to your left has one, too. It wasn't the manufacturer's idea, though, and if the man who was driving was around now he probably wouldn't like it. You see, this radio is still connected to the dashboard. It pinned the fellow in the car for five hours, which was a few minutes too long to save him.

Over there is an air conditioned job that was being driven by a young man who was driving home to get married. It's air conditioned because the guy drove too long that night and ripped off much of the left side when he fell asleep and hit that bridge railing. His fiancée made it to the church with him, even if he was in a casket.

Walking out you'll see the late model car the wrecker just brought in. It belonged to a student who was in a big hurry to get home for the holidays. After he had that blowout going 85 miles an hour, he found it was much faster to ride in an ambulance.

Drive Safely
The Life
You Save
May Be
Your Own

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BRYAN, TEXAS

Blame Not Always On 'Other Fellow'

Most drivers feel that it is "the other fellow" that causes the accidents, but statistics show that more people are killed in mishaps that do not involve a collision.

Last year, 13,300 people were killed in traffic accidents classified as "noncollision in roadway, overturning, and running off the roadway." One A&M student was killed in such an accident this year.

The next largest traffic killer was collisions between motor vehicles, which took 12,900 lives.

Other traffic deaths and their classification were pedestrians,

8,600; collisions with railroad trains, 1,400; collisions with fixed objects, 1,500; collisions with bicycles, 450; and collisions with streetcars, animals and animal-drawn vehicles, 150.

One fact shown by the statistics reveals that while 11,100 persons died in fatal accidents in urban areas (cities, towns and villages), there were 27,200 fatalities in rural areas.

From the viewpoint of property damage, there were 3,550,000 accidents involving property damage of \$25 or more and 5,450,000 accidents of less than \$25 damage.

LOOK BOTH WAYS—IT PAYS!

Whether you're walking or driving, it pays to look both ways at intersections. Statistics show that's where half of the city traffic accidents happen. Stop, look and live longer.

Be Careful—the life you save may be your own!
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The Reckless Fool

By PHIL BRANIFF

Have you ever heard the rattle of a dying man's last breath?
Or seen the look of horror in the stare that faces death?
Have you ever heard a person scream and writhe in sudden pain
And look down at a mangled arm that will not move again?
Or have you heard the moaning and smelled the stench of gin
And seen the gory, bloody gap where once an eye had been?

When your car is doing fifty, have you ever felt the yen
To let'er have another notch'n do another ten?
When a pokey guy's ahead of you have you ever had the thrill
Of swingin' out'n passin' him upon a dangerous hill?
Or have you ever felt the old car scream 'n lurch 'n swerve
As you let'er have the limit while you took a sudden curve?

Have you ever seen the wreckage of an automobile crash,
with flesh and steel made into a morbid, gruesome hash?
Have you ever seen the entrails'n the ears, 'n arms 'n hand
'N hat 'n shoes 'n fingers or what once had been a man?
Have you ever seen the jagged bone stick through a mangled leg
and heard the blood-smearing victim pray 'n cry 'n beg?

Have you ever had the keen sensation of a fast car at your bid
'N run up to a stop sign 'n slap 'em on 'n skid?
Did you ever pass a school yard 'n give the horn a slam
'N drive close to a gang o' kids 'n see 'em jump 'n scam?
Did you ever take a quart o' rye 'n swallow four or five
'N take the old bus down the road 'n show 'em how to drive?

Have you ever seen a little child all crumpled up'n still—
Who tried to run across the street while a car came down a hill?
Have you seen men's brains on fenders? Have you seen blood
in the street?
Have you seen them stare at the bloody stumps of things that
once were feet?
Have you ever heard the crash 'n scream 'n seen the ghastly stare
On the face of what had been the driver 'n the rest of the man not there?

Morbid 'n gruesome 'n gory this, I'm sorry, but don't you see
This was not meant to be read by folks as tender as you 'n me.
It was meant for the thoughtless 'n careless, who kill 'n maim 'n mar—
The reckless fool who is to blame—THE MAN IN THE OTHER CAR!

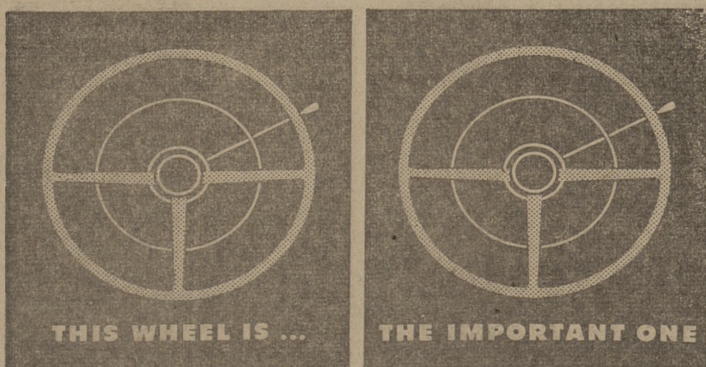
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