

Accidents Don't Happen...

Words can't tell the true story of a serious accident. Words can only symbolize the outward aspects of the horror that accompanies.

Pictures, although in some ways better than words, can't tell the true story, either. The part that hurts most, the part that can break the body and crush the spirit—that can only be lived.

Only some people—36,000 in traffic accidents alone last year—don't live through the tragedy that we are hoping—in this, the 1955 Battalion Safety Edition—to translate in verbal and pictorial terms.

Accidents are caused; very seldom does something happen that could not have been prevented by more care or more skill on the part of someone.

And accidents happen at A&M—our primary reason for publishing this special edition just before Christmas vacation begins.

Friday and Saturday, more than 3,000 automobiles will be leaving the campus. The students in them will be going to different parts of our state and to others. A lot of miles to travel—and a lot of chances for accidents in the holiday traffic.

To these students we especially plead to take care going home and also in returning to A&M.

The chances are that some student may not be here when school begins after the holidays.

The Silver Taps ceremony which is held following the death of any student is a beautiful and worthy tradition. But it's one that no one likes to see necessary.

So read these pages—and remember them. For, like Frank Buck, our aim is "to bring you back alive."

Games Are Fun, But Not Injuries

By BARRY HART

Intramural athletics play an important role in student life at A&M, but a broken bone or a painful sprain can turn an exciting game into a tortuous experience. Five serious injuries have been reported so far this year. Three of the men were hospitalized.

CARL REBA, SENIOR in B Engineers, was the victim of the semester's worst injury when he suffered a shoulder separation in a freak football accident. Reba was rushing the opposing team's passer, and as ball was thrown, the other player hit Reba's arm with his own, throwing the shoulder out of joint.

Rove Davis, freshman in Squadron 4, twisted his knee while attempting to catch a pass, and Delmar Deterling, a Squadron 16 freshman, sprained his elbow on the same sort of play.

Basketball caused two badly sprained ankles as W. B. White, junior in Squadron 24, and George Shepard, an A Ordnance sophomore, were hurt during games.

AS MIGHT BE expected football leads all intramural sports in the injury department with about 90

per cent of the total, although few of the injuries are results of direct contact, but rather of twisted knees, wrists and ankles.

"Most of the injuries around here result from the class against class tackle games that are played in the dormitory area," said Barney Welch, director of intramural athletics, "and the rest are usually an old injury that a man picked up in high school sports and acts up when he puts pressure on it in intramurals."

"It might be a good idea to have a required physical examination before being allowed to participate in the intramural program," added Welch. "Many schools require one and keep a check on men who are playing sports."

AN OLD INJURY of any kind can frequently become a nemesis when reinjured playing intramurals. Those who have had knee, shoulder or ankle injuries while in high school should not participate in sports where there is any chance of being hurt again.

Many of the injuries are direct results of poor conditioning, a thing not uncommon among college students.

Studies, a variety of other school activities and just plain laziness are factors contributing to the lack of conditioning among A&M men, and any person who goes out only once a month is asking for a pulled muscle or a twisted joint.

The worst accident in recent years occurred last spring when Don Burrow, then a junior in Squadron 19, broke his leg in five places while sliding in an intramural softball game. Burrow was on crutches more than six months and just recently was able to get around without them.

Before you begin playing any sport here on the campus, take a lesson from the men who have suffered serious injuries in the past and use these hints for injury prevention.

• **KNOW THE SPORT** before you start playing: Don't try to go all out the first time you try a new sport. In football you should know how to protect yourself from blocks and to avoid flying elbows, feet, knees and fists. You can't throw a downfield block or a perfect hook-slide the first time you try, and chances are you'll get hurt trying.

• **Warm up** before the game starts: Never try to get right into the action cold. This is perhaps the main reason for pulled muscles. You don't expect your car to start when it has set out all night in the cold, so don't expect your body to react perfectly unless you give it a chance to get warm first.

• **Play the game** the way it's supposed to be played: Know the rules and observe them. Play it right or don't play it at all. Let the officials control the play and go by their decisions. Dirty play can ruin the game and may hurt the man playing against you.

• **Get into condition:** If you know you're going to participate in intramural sports try to keep in good enough physical shape so you can do your best for the betterment of the game.



A Few Reflections

Pictures Paint A Story

By WELTON JONES

Look at that picture again. Look at it the way that boy on the far left is.

Look at it with your eyes wide open and your jaw hanging slightly.

Look at it and think.

I found this picture in the Battalion files when we began to make up the 1955 safety edition. I have no idea when the accident happened, who was involved in it, or how serious their injuries were.

I can use my eyes, though. Look at the hood. Crumpled is not the word for it. The ornament has been pushed down until it is out of sight. On the driver's side hood has been torn in the metal. I wonder how much force was necessary to tear metal like paper.

We can't even find a trace of the windshield. A few jagged slivers of glass—no more. Where is the frame? The door on the right has been beaten down along with the frame until it is almost level with the dashboard.

Look at the door posts. The one on the right we can't see. The one on the left we had rather not see. We began to wonder if this was a convertible. Then we look closer

at the torn top sticking out the back. It must have been solid. Again I wonder how much force is needed to tear metal like paper.

If we look closely at the front fender on our left, we will see where some oil has shot out from under the hood. Evidently the car has suffered some "internal injuries" that we can't even see.

Someone was driving this car. We can see that by the torn twisted steering wheel. I wonder if anyone was in the back seat. I can see splinters of glass stuck in the

seat cushion. We can also see something that looks like blood spattered behind the back seat.

That brings up something else. I wonder where the driver's head was. Or where it is.

What would your thoughts be if you were one of the wide-eyed spectators standing there with your hands in your pockets? What are these men thinking?

You may say "Well that's an older model car anyway. They make them safer today."

They make them faster, too.

Hunting Could Prove Tragic

By JOE TINDEL

The most joyous season of the year is almost on us. We are looking forward to the great time that we will have. Probably some of us will be deer hunting during the holidays. It would be a shame to turn this season of joy into one of grief by not observing the proper safety rules while hunting.

Many of us will remember the story of the great baseball pitcher, Monty Stratton. Monty was one of the greatest pitchers in the history of baseball until he lost his

leg in a hunting accident during the Christmas holidays.

Monty was hunting before dinner one day. While walking through the field, he tripped on a limb, his rifle went off and struck him in the leg. The wound was so serious that his leg had to be amputated. True, he continued pitching, but he was never the great star that he had been before because of his handicap.

This is a somber story to tell at the beginning of this joyous season, but maybe it will make us

think before we scoff at the rules of safety.

Several simple rules of safety while hunting will mean the difference between life and death for us or our loved ones.

1. When hunting in a group stay close together or know where each member of the party is.
2. Carry your rifle with the muzzle toward the ground.
3. Don't shoot at something before you're sure what it is.
4. Walk carefully through brush and vines with the safety catch on.
5. Make sure the gun isn't loaded while you're cleaning it. You might have been safe all day and then forget this rule and lose your life.

These are the basic things to remember. You can never be too safe. The life you save while hunting may be your own.

Library Schedule For Holidays

The following is the holiday schedule for the Cushing Library:

- Sunday, Dec. 18—closed.
- Monday, Dec. 19 through Friday, Dec. 23—8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 24 through Monday, Dec. 26—closed.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Dec. 30—8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 31, through Monday, Jan. 2—closed.
- Tuesday, Jan. 3—regular schedule.

Alec says: "I can play with danger..."



but your CHILD has only ONE life"

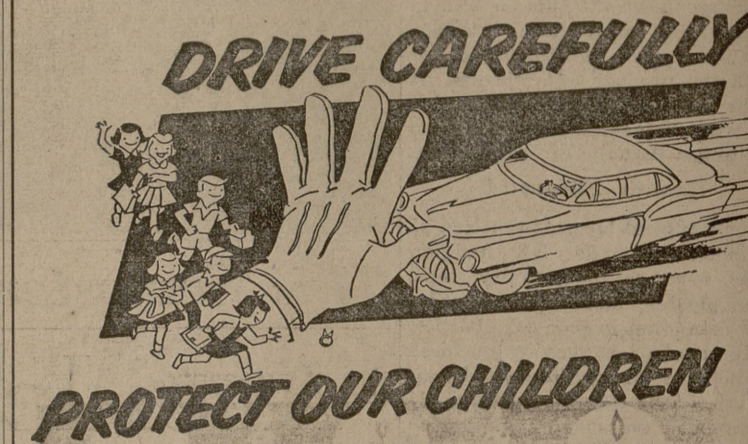
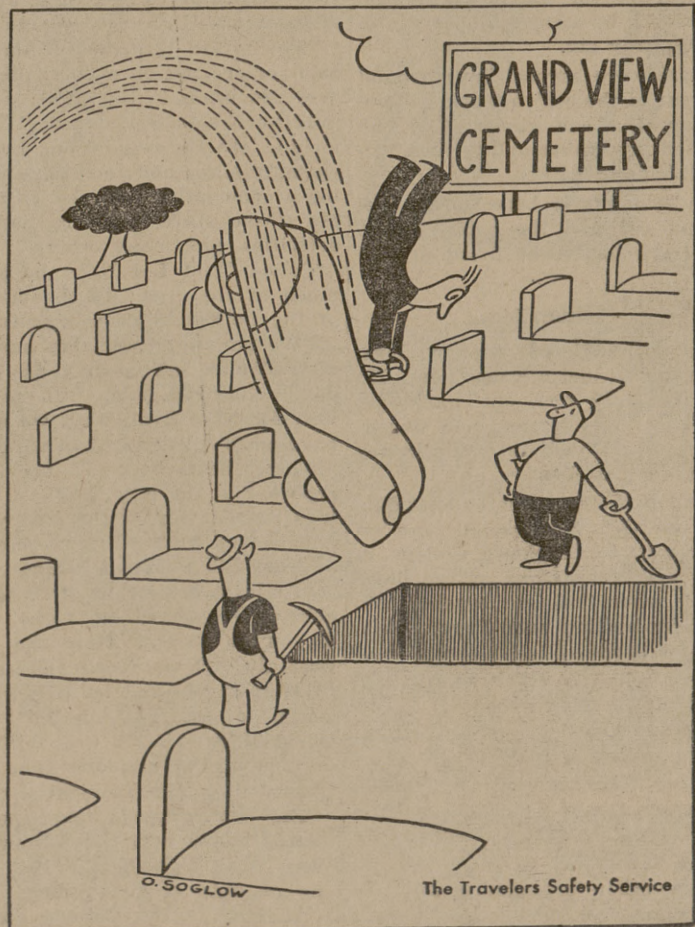
Who's to blame if small tykes get hurt playing with matches, tacks, or anything within reach? Maybe you? It's easy to put things out of reach. Easier than having a child hurt. So just remember...

BE CAREFUL—the child you save may be your own!



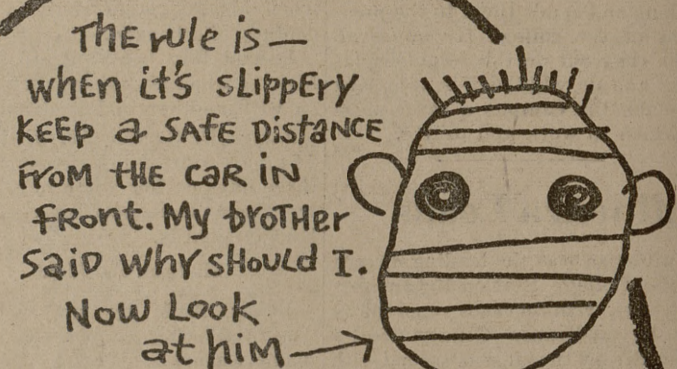
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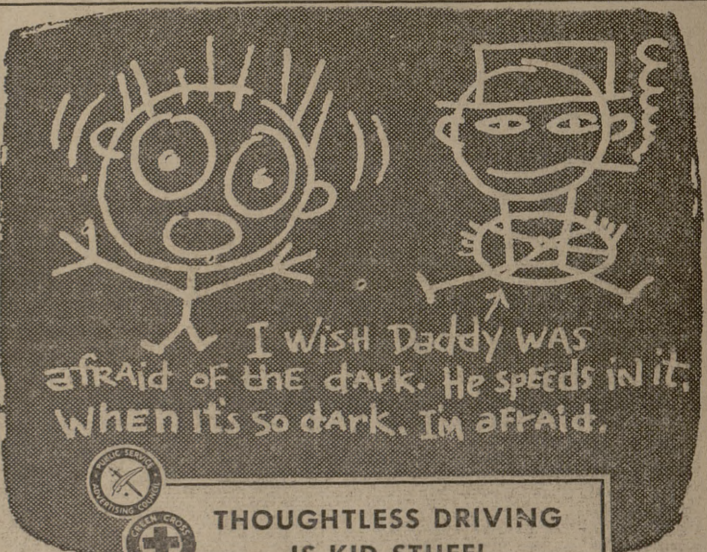
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THOUGHTLESS DRIVING IS KID STUFF!

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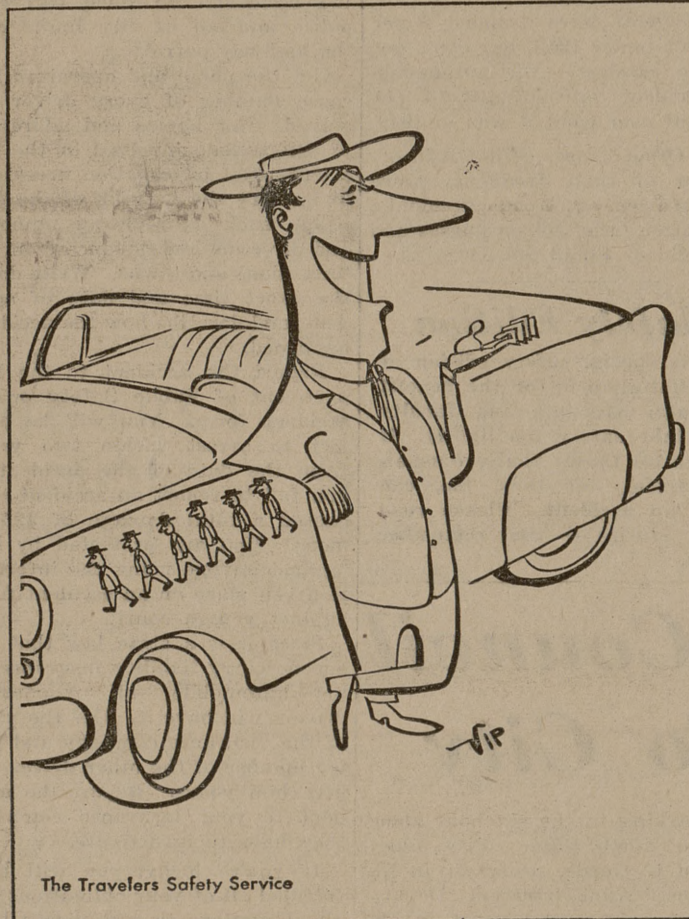


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THE BATTALION

The Passing Scene by Vip



"How many pedestrians have you bagged?"

The Battalion

The Editorial Policy of The Battalion Represents the Views of the Student Editors

The Battalion, newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published by students four times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms The Battalion is published once a week, and during examination and vacation periods, once a week. Days of publication are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, Thursday during the summer terms, and Thursday during examination and vacation periods. The Battalion is not published on the Wednesday immediately preceding Easter or Thanksgiving. Subscription rates are \$3.50 per semester, \$6.00 per school year, \$6.50 per full year, or \$1.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press

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News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444 or 4-7604) or at the editorial office room, 202 Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Publication Office, Room 207 Goodwin Hall.

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