

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"We're havin' Silver Taps before th' holidays this year so those of you who're determined to kill yourself can say goodbye!"

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Keep It Spotless

Texas A&M has a perfect record in something this year: student deaths by traffic accident.

The Aggies put this mark on the line Friday as they journey to various parts of the state and nation for the Christmas holidays.

No one wants the string broken. No one wants to be the first Aggie fatality of the school year. But someone may splatter blood on this spotless record.

Silver Taps, that most solemn and meaningful ceremony, may be held Jan. 6. The bell might toll, the bugle might blow, the squad might fire for you.

The Battalion with this edition seeks to make students more keenly aware of the dangers in holiday travel, hopes to provide tips that could save a life, and in general, desires to remind students to take all safety precautions en route home.

The Department of Public Safety predicts 105 deaths on Texas highways during the holiday period. Statistics are rather dry, until you are one. Your life is worth more than just a little stick figure on a fatality chart.—GAD.

GUEST EDITORIALS

Holiday Tragedy

Christmas is a wondrous time when the miraculous becomes commonplace. A time for petty differences to be put aside and one and all extend their hands and hearts in a sincere wish of "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men."

It is a time for family reunions, a time when our thoughts and feelings focus on our loved ones and our friends. But the festive season is tinged increasingly each year with the sadness of death and injury on our streets and highways. Modern progress has brought with it not only comfort and luxury hitherto undreamed of, but a regrettable disregard for our fellowman.

The Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Kill," seems to have little moral influence on drivers of automobiles, whether the warning comes from God or traffic authorities. The privilege to operate a car is bestowed by the state. The manner in which a car is driven is prescribed by law.

But transcending the legal law is the moral law, "Thou Shalt Not Kill." It imposes a moral responsibility on all drivers to operate their vehicles without maiming or killing themselves or others.

Hundreds of men, women and children will die and thousands will end up in hospitals this holiday season unless we, as drivers, assume our legal and moral responsibilities to drive with care.

The Texas Safety Association urges drivers to give thought to the purpose and spirit of Christmas in making holiday travel plans. Be constantly alert when behind the wheel. Think of the tragedy and unhappiness that a moment's carelessness can bring about. Remember that your loved ones are relying on you. And give a thought also for the other driver and his family.

Let the moral law, "Thou Shalt Not Kill," govern your actions. In this way you can play your part in making this great holiday season a safe and happy one!—Texas Safety Association.

THE BATTALION

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Modern Driver's Philosophy Has 2 Fallacies

By JIMMY JONES
Special Writer

Two fallacies characterize the modern driver's philosophy of driving. One is to think that he can drive endless miles without sufficient rest every time he takes a trip. The other is to think that he can cruise at 75 to 95 miles an hour and not endanger the lives of others.

This writer has learned the hard way, though not as hard as some, that crime doesn't pay.

TSA Gives Safety Tips For Holidays

By The Texas Safety Association

KNOW AND OBSERVE. DRIVING RULES

Our state's highways are among the best in the nation. It can and should be a pleasure to drive on them, but the efforts of our state highway department to make traveling a pleasure are wasted if drivers disregard safe driving practices. If you're planning a trip for the holidays, make sure you know and observe all safe driving rules.

GET PARKED VEHICLE OFF THE ROADWAY

Not all accidents happen while vehicles are being driven. A parked or stalled vehicle on the roadway also may cause an accident. If you have car trouble on the road, get your automobile as far off the highway as possible. And, before leaving it for assistance, be sure to set the hand brake.

PROTECT YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

Your driving license gives you the privilege of driving a motor vehicle on streets and highways, but only as long as you do so safely. If you break the traffic laws of the state or its cities, your driving license may be taken away. Drive by the rules. Protect your driving privilege and your LIFE!

LEAVE ALCOHOL AT HOME

Motorists and pedestrians are advised to leave alcoholic beverages at home during the holidays. In the pandemonium of holiday traffic, you need all your senses for driving or walking.

GET CAR 'WINTERIZED' FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL

If you're planning a trip during the holidays, get your car "winterized" to avoid getting into trouble on the road. This includes putting tire chains in the trunk and having all winter safety features on your automobile in first class shape.

DRUG SIDE EFFECTS MAY CAUSE ACCIDENTS

Some drugs impair driving ability and should never be used when driving. Report any side effects from using antihistamines, pain relievers, tranquilizers, nerve stimulants or other drugs to your physician. He can advise you if it is safe for you to drive.

YOUR FIRST DRINK MAY BE YOUR LAST

The more alcohol there is in the blood, the longer you must wait until you can drive safely. On the average, it takes one hour for each bottle of beer or each ounce of whiskey to be absorbed by the body. Even if you seem to be able to hold your own with alcohol, your driving ability is impaired during this period. Stay on the safe side—don't drink if you plan to drive. Your first drink could be your last!

APPLY GOODWILL IN DRIVING

The spirit of goodwill during the holiday season should be just as evident on our roads as it is in our homes. The application of such spirit by both drivers and pedestrians will help to make the Christmas season a happy time for all.

PALACE
Bryan 2-8879

To all the Students & Personnel of Texas A&M University

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Management and Staff
Palace & Queen Theatres

Only recently I went to Tennessee to make preparations for starting by career in Journalism. Circumstances compelled me to leave Bryan at 9 on Sunday night.

Everything went smoothly until I reached Texarkana. It was about then that I began to get sleepy; who wouldn't at 2 a.m. after five hours of driving and 300 miles! (I detoured via Cart-hage to deliver a package.)

I got miserably sleepy; driving had become monotonous. My half-opened eyes became fixed in a glare and I fell into a trance, practically asleep. For miles I drove; nothing could wake me out of the stupor. How I stayed on the road is a puzzle to me.

By the time I had driven 100 miles in that state of nightmare, I just couldn't go any more without going completely to sleep; in fact I did just that one time, but it lasted only long enough for me to run off the pavement and jar me into my senses. So reluctantly I stopped at a gas station and slept about 20 minutes.

After continuing the journey I felt somewhat better. Little Rock was still asleep as I passed through the big city.

Dawn broke and everything was covered in frost. It was beautiful — an endless expanse of white.

Traffic increased and my attention turned to my driving. The miles passed slowly by, even at 70 miles an hour. Memphis still lay 100 miles away, and Nashville 340. The sun creeping up

over the horizon shined brightly in my eyes. Again I began to feel like Rip Van Winkle at an all-night party. I grew sleepy. Suddenly a car in front slowed to turn; I seemed to automatically hit the brake.

"That one was close," I thought as I resumed normal speed. But I couldn't help remembering just then that others weren't that fortunate. They had not hit the brake in time.

But I refused to stop for coffee to get myself awake. Time was valuable.

Time after time for the next 100 miles I almost went completely to sleep; traffic became heavier and school buses slowed the cars as they stopped to pick up children.

Finally I reached Memphis. As I crossed the Mississippi river I breathed a sigh of relief. Nashville wasn't far.

The trip took 18 hours. Normally it takes 16, but my tired-

Correction

In a column headed "Reynolds' Rap" in Tuesday's Battalion the statement was made that the Civilian Student Council adopted a resolution favoring the changing of the site of the Aggie Sweetheart presentation.

This was incorrect.

The council adopted a resolution asking their traditions committee to study the change. An informal poll of the members of the council favored the change with only two dissenting votes.

Bulletin Board

THURSDAY

Bay Area Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108 of the Academic Building.

El Paso Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Jackson County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC.

San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Room of the MSC.

Fort Worth Hometown Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in Room 105 of the Academic Building.

Mid-County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 206 of the Academic Building.

Laredo Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC lounge.

Wichita Falls Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Room of the Biological Sciences Building.

Dallas Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA Building.

Matagorda County Hometown Club will meet at 7 p.m. in the MSC lobby.

Corpus Christi Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 125 of the Academic Building.

Temple Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205 of the Academic Building.

Bell County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205 of the Academic Building.

A&M Band Wives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Apt. B-13-W of College View.

ness slowed me down even though I had driven 60 to 75 miles an hour.

I was determined to get back home in less time. One week later on Saturday as I pulled out of the Grand Ole Opry city that is famous for its crime and its churches, I pushed the '59 Ford up to 75 mph. Sometimes on a good stretch of road I drove 85 to 90. Memphis rolled by in less than four hours.

The Arkansas highway was level and smooth. I picked up speed until I was doing 85 to 95 mph. In about seven hours I entered Little Rock, turned left onto the interstate, and resumed the much-to-fast speed.

At 5 p.m. Texarkana people looked busier than Nashvillians did at 7:30 that morning.

Texas looked beautiful as I drove down the four-lane highway. The sun was setting and the hills appeared to be something of a never-never land. There was hardly any traffic, the air was fresh and cool; I felt like flying... so I did.

One by one the small East Texas towns dotting the big highway at regular intervals whizzed by. The speedometer registered 95 and sometimes 110 mph. The little Ford was running quietly.

The land became less hilly and the road straighter. I moved it

up to 115 mph at one point in 75 miles. I wanted to get home suddenly, and I turned left the last stretch before home.

The small community of Sallis was quiet for a Saturday night as I drove through it.

"Ah! No highway patrol around here," I thought. For the next few miles I drove 75 to 85 mph. I wanted to make it home didn't get a ticket this time.

Suddenly, just off the interstate under a tree a radar clocked me at 70. A little red light lit behind me and all of my disappeared.

I was really fortunate in having a wreck, during the mile trip, which took 13 minutes. But it was nevertheless a relief that I had to learn in a way that crime doesn't pay.

Season's Greetings From Batt Staff

This is the last issue of the Battalion for 1964. Our next publication date is Jan. 4, 1965.

The staff wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and urges you to be careful to and from home. See you in 1965.

CAMPUS

THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF

OF THE CAMPUS & CIRCLE

DRIVE IN THEATRES

WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY

TO WISH ALL STUDENTS &

PERSONNEL OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

A VERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"PLEASE

DRIVE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME

PLAY FUNNY MONEY TODAY!
This is Monkey Week at Piggly Wiggly
SAT. JACK POT \$100.00 CASH.



SUGAR
FRYERS

Limit
One
With
\$2.50
Purchase

5 Lb. Bag 19¢
25¢ Lb.

HEART OF TEXAS
USDA Grade A Whole

Northern Facial
TISSUE

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Count Box 10¢

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STOKELY'S
APPLE SAUCE
303 CAN 10¢



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