

### Crash barriers

# Sand, tire barrels saving lives

Texas Transportation Institute researchers have developed a crash attenuation device so good that they haven't been able to locate the survivors.

One of the devices developed by the Texas A&M University group was located on a divider in a San Antonio freeway to protect wayward drivers from a huge signpost. The barrier was found destroyed, apparently by an auto traveling between 40 and 60 miles per hour which was still in good enough shape to drive

away. The accident was never reported.

Dr. T. J. Hirsch and E. L. Marquis conducted the research in cooperation with the Texas Highway Department and the Federal Highway Administration.

"The attenuator device that we have successfully tested is automobile tires filled with sand stacked on a 18-inch wire cage," Hirsch explained. "The cage moves the center of gravity of the attenuator

up and keeps the auto from jumping over our device."

"In three series of tests with light and heavy vehicles, the sand-tire attenuator system smoothly stopped vehicles traveling at 60 miles per hour," he said. "Not only that, but the decelerations produced in these tests were all tolerable to the unrestrained occupants."

The cost of the life-saving devices is one of the main features of the system. It can be installed for as

little as \$600. Once it has been hit, re-installation can be rapid since no additional work on the site is required, all of the tires are reusable, and much of the sand is salvable.

"This system is an inexpensive and effective barrier which can be employed to protect motorists from many hazards located near our nation's highways," Hirsch went on.

"There are many rigid obstacles on our nation's highways which

cannot be removed or made breakaway and consequently are hazardous to the motoring public," he pointed out. "Impact attenuators have been developed, but, in general, they are expensive. As a result, some obstacles remain unprotected. This system can do the job effectively and at a low cost."

Currently, 22 of the units are in place in the metropolitan areas of Austin, San Antonio, and Waco.

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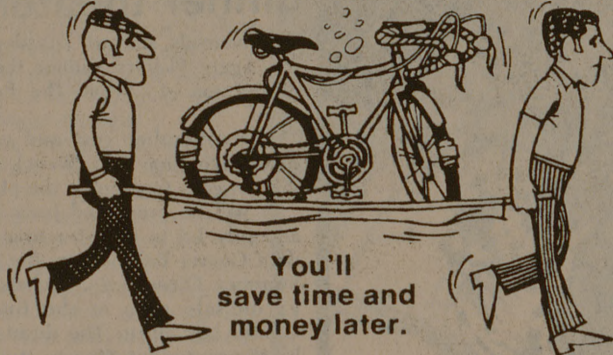
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A tire and sand barrier developed at TAMU stopped this car traveling over 60 mph with only 6-G's force on the driver which he would have survived even without seatbelts. If it had been a normal cement barrier, the forces would have been 29-G's, sufficient to kill anyone in the auto.

## Grove flicks run through summer

Grove movies start Tuesday, the first day of summer classes.

They will show at the open air facility west of the MSC drill field, near Wofford Cain Hall. Grove Chairman James Balzrette said movies will start each night at 8:30.

Admission will be free to TAMU students showing ID cards. Others are 75 cents per adult and 50 cents for a child under 12 years-of-age.

Double features June 17 and July 22 will have the Texas A&M movie, "We've Never Been Licked," as the second show.

Open dates are planned July 3-9. MSC dances are set in the Grove for June 2 and July 10, dates of registration for TAMU summer class sessions.

The Grove schedule:  
June 3, "The Dirty Dozen"; 4, "Waterhold No. 3"; 5, "Murphy's War"; 6, "The Great Race"; 7, "Bullitt"; 8, "Where Eagles Dare"; 9, "Cool Hand Luke"; 10, "To Sir, With Love"; 11, "True Grit"; 12, "Cat Ballou"; 13, "On A Clear Day"; 14, "They Call Me Trinity"; 15, "Never Give A Sucker An Even Break".

Also, June 16, "Kissin' Cousins"; 17, "Horsefeathers" and "We've Never Been Licked"; 18, "To Catch A Thief"; 19, "Red Line 7000"; 20, "The Ten Commandments"; 21,

"Trinity Is Still My Name"; 22, "Icress File"; 23, "Valley of the Dolls"; 24, "Prime Cut"; 25, "The House of Dracula"; 26, "McHale's Navy"; 27, "That Darn Cat"; 28, "Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice"; 29, "Titanic"; 30, "Super Cops".

July 1, "The Long Hot Summer"; 2, "1776"; 11, "Bonnie and Clyde"; 12, "The Owl and the Pussycat"; 13, "Zachariah"; 14, "Chisum"; 15, "Klute"; 16, "The Ghost and Mr. Chicken"; 17, "The Professionals"; 18, "Colossus — The Forbin Project".

Plus, July 19, "The Endless Summer"; 20, "My Little Chickadee"; 21, "Barbarella"; 22, "Duck Soup" and "We've Never Been Licked"; 23, "Fail Safe"; 24, "Way Out West"; 25, "Paint Your Wagon"; 26, "The Greatest Show on Earth"; 27, "Double Trouble"; 28, "Phantom of the Opera"; 29, "Kelly's Heroes"; 30, "McHale's Navy Joins the Air Force"; 31, "Stage Coach".

Aug. 1, "The Graduate"; 2, "Sugarland Express"; 3, "The Guns of Navarone"; 4, "Vanishing Point"; 5, "Green Berets"; 6, "King Kong vs Godzilla"; 7, "Dancing Masters"; 8, "The Producers"; 9, "Coconuts"; 10, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court"; 11, "Oliver!" and Aug. 12, "Fahrenheit 451."

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