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Autos Needing Repairs Contribute to Sixth of Nation's Traffic Fatalities

By Dr. Herbert J. Stack
Director, Center for Safety Education, New York University

(This is the sixth of a series of 10 articles on traffic and highway safety, written by nationally recognized authors, prepared and published by The Eccentric in the interests of greater traffic safety.)

It is usually too late to do anything about a defective steering wheel that suddenly fails to function when you are rounding a curve, or the headlamps that go out on an unfamiliar road, or the horn that is silent when you need it on split-second notice, or the right front tire—which has been looking bad lately—that blows out on a slippery highway. When these things happen, death, injury and destruction of costly property usually result, but they are no acts of God. They are wholly preventable.

These days a tremendous effort is being put forth all over the nation to reduce the growing threat of traffic accidents. Yet more than 30,000 persons were killed last year, and a vehicle defect was responsible as a contributing cause in 18 per cent of these fatal accidents. Here is one factor in traffic accidents which absolute prevention is reasonably possible—one simple means by which it may be possible to save 5,000 lives every year.

Gives Advance Warning

Like the human body, an automobile gives advance warning of impending danger. The steering wheel becomes loose, it is no longer as sensitive as it was when which it may be possible to save 5,000 lives every year.

All of the following parts of an automobile are essential to safe driving: Brakes, lights, steering mechanism, tires—including the spare tire—, windshield wipers, heater, defroster, muffler and exhaust pipe. When they are in proper working order, studies show that accident chances are greatly lowered.

Most of the stages require, in one form or another, that motor vehicles be maintained in a safe condition: Sixteen states and the District of Columbia require periodic inspection of the safety ele-



ANGER
Driving with defective steering—leads to safety control.



SAFE
Proving inspection and adjustment of steering gear, shocks, and other safety devices.

ments of motor vehicles at least once, and more often twice, each year. Legislators in many other states are giving consideration to the creation of required periodic motor vehicle inspection and repair.

Five Major Benefits.

Here are five major benefits to be derived from such motor vehicle inspection:

1. It improves the general standard of vehicle condition.
2. It maintains each automobile at a higher value level by lessening depreciation.
3. It affords opportunity to check motor and serial numbers actually on the vehicle against registration certificates, and in other ways assists in the enforcement of motor vehicle laws.
4. It improves the quality of garage workmanship in making adjustments and repairs.
5. It provides excellent opportunity for informing drivers concerning the condition of their cars.

Scout Executive



Robert B. Williams

Robert B. Williams, executive of District 2 (the Macomb County portion of the Detroit Area Scout Council) since March, 1946, has been assigned to District 1 (the Oakland County portion of the Council which includes Birmingham) effective July 1. His home is in Ferndale where he graduated from Lincoln High School prior to his 40 months' service in the Army Air Corps. Since his return from the service, he has attended the 116th national training school for Scout executives at Mendham, N. J.

Bob has over 15 years of Scouting to his credit. He served as a leader in the Scout Service Troop at the 1940 New World World's Fair.

District 1, the area which Bob will serve as executive, also includes Ferndale, Big Beaver, Bloomfield Hills, Clawson, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Southfield and Troy.

The district has a membership of over 4,300 registered boys and leaders in 89 cub packs, scout troops, and senior units.

Justices Gaffil, James Attend Law Class Reunion

Members of the 1903 law class of the Detroit College of Law celebrated the anniversary of their graduation at the Eddy Creek Club on the Rifle River near West Branch as guests of John J. Gaffil of Hill Top lane and Delbert C. James, 2888 W. Maple.

Out-of-state members who attended the reunion were Arthur J. Langruth and John A. Irwin of Portland, Ore.

Class dinner was served by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Alderson of Skidway Lake.

On the fiftieth anniversary the class will be guests of Clarence W. Nunneley of Algonac, Mich., for a week end trip to Georgian Bay aboard Nunneley's yacht.

Gaffil was elected class president and James was named secretary and treasurer.

For City Streets

Purchase of 31 manhole rings and covers, to be used in current city street construction, has been approved by the city commission. They will cost \$30.75 a set.

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BIRMINGHAM VETERAN NEWS

Compiled from Various State and National Veterans Information Centers

Opportunities are now available to many Reserve Officers for volunteer active duty with the Regular Army, Lt. Colonel D. L. Fredenburg, acting senior instructor for the Organized Reserves in Michigan, announced recently.

Company grade officers may apply for 3 year duty with the AGD Postal Section, Combat Arms, Chaplains Corps, Chemical Corps, Engineers, Finance Department, JAGD, The Medical Department, Pressing ANC, DC, MC, VC, MFC, WMSC, The Ordnance Department, Signal Corps, Special Services, and the Transportation Corps.

Enlisted Reservists may volunteer for active duty with the Regular Army for 9 to 12 months period, Colonel A. H. Cummings, Senior Instructor for the Organized Reserve Corps in Michigan, has announced.

Those selected will be assigned to stations within the Fifth Army area, and will be recalled in the grade they now hold in the Reserves. They may be promoted later in accordance with current Army policy. Colonel Cummings said that applications were sought particularly from Reservists of the 4th, 8th, 6th and 7th grade.

Those drawing disability allowances or compensations, pension, or retired pay from the government are not eligible to apply.

Naval Air Reserve officers who desire active duty with operating forces for twelve months may submit applications to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, it has been announced by Capt. C. S. Cooper, commanding officer of the Grossie lie naval air station.

Officers presently associated with Naval Air Reserve organizations should apply through the commanding officer of their cognizant air station, while non-associated officers may make application via the commandant of their Naval District.

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