

Ever Figure What An Auto Accident Costs? Here Are The Details of a Typical Wreck

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Against a backdrop of deaths mounting to a hundred a day in the American traffic tragedy, the nation suffers a tremendous annual economic loss in addition to the human grief involved. Except for a substitution of names, all facts and figures are actual. The financial accounting was compiled by a National Safety Council expert.)

By William J. Conway
The automobile cruised along a road that stretched like a smooth ribbon across the prairies of northern Illinois.

There were six young people in the car. But there was room for them to relax in the ample, one-year-old, two-door sedan. Three of them sat in the front seat and three lounged in the rear seat.

All the occupants were named Brown. They were heading toward Chicago after attending a family reunion in the country. The pleasant peace of a hot, clear summer afternoon enveloped them.

They virtually had the road to themselves. Somebody turned on the radio; dialed in soft music. The needle on the speedometer wavered around the 65 mph line. Everybody leaned back, comfortable and contented, watching the flat farms slip past.

A Blow Out
Then — pop peevish — the tire on the right front wheel blew out. The car twisted sharply to the right. It rammed into a concrete bridge abutment. The hood was hurled into the air. The nose crumpled. The steering wheel crashed through the windshield. The steering column buckled over against the instrument panel. The auto skidded and sailed to a stop at the side of the road.

A strange hush settled upon the wreckage. It was relieved only by an inconspicuous melody from the radio. The six Browns didn't hear it. They were unconscious.

The driver lay with his feet in the car and his head and shoulders on the road.

The three Browns who had been in the rear seat were draped, jackknife dive fashion, over the back of the front seat. The front seat passengers were hunched beneath them.

A farmer summoned a doctor and two ambulances. One of the victims died. The others remained in hospitals for periods ranging from a couple of days to four months.

Paying The Price
This much of the story you can read almost any day under the commonplace caption "One Killed, Five Hurt in Auto Smashup." It carries the details of the accident and the implications of pain and anguish. There is another part of the story—the economic cost—but it can't be told until the dead have been buried, the injured have recovered, and all the bills have been paid.

The total cost of this accident was \$9,910.

The Browns, burrowing back through their records to the time of the accident in Aug. 1933, supplied the basic information, and it was tabulated by Alvan D. Battey, senior statistician of the National Safety Council.

The itemized accounting in each case follows:

Henry Brown, 23, an office worker who was driving had gashes in his scalp, on his left eye lid and arms. His hospital, medical and X-ray bills added up to \$115. The work he was unable to perform during his convalescence was valued at \$160.

Costs For Others
His sisters, Donna, 25, a stenographer, had internal injuries. Her outlay for hospitalization, a physician, X-rays and private nurses was \$215. She also was out \$200 in potential earnings in the two and a half months she was unable to work.

Another sister, Lillian, 21, also a stenographer, fractured her right knee in seven places, broke her jaw and lost eight front teeth. She was hospitalized four months, but she fared comparatively well financially. She spent all but a short period in a state-owned hospital, and an operation was performed by a surgeon who was a friend of the family. There was no expense to her for either of these services. But her personal bills and losses still mounted to \$1,195. Included were initial hospital and medical fees of \$50; special treatments, \$60; dental bills, \$285; and a salary loss of \$800. The bill she didn't have to pay in the state-owned

Maple Grove News

Mrs. Ed Glavich

Rally and Home Coming Day was observed at the Maple Grove Church on Sunday, October 13.

The theme of the morning program centered around the history of the church. Miss Iris Jaynes gave the story of the first annual conference held after Methodism was organized in America. This conference met at the home of Major Green Hill near what is now Lounsburg, on April 12, 1785. Eighty-three preachers scattered from N. Y. to Ga. came on horseback, their only means of travel and stayed for three days making their reports and enjoying the fellowship together. The historic Green Hill House still stands and is occupied by a Methodist preacher, a descendant of Major Green Hill.

The speaker brought out the contrast between the first conference and the ones held today.

Will Leatherwood spoke on the united church and gave a short account of the uniting Conference held in Kansas City in April, 1939, at which time the three branches of the Methodist Church were united, making the largest Protestant Church in the world having at that time a membership of six and a half million people.

The history of the Maple Grove Church was given by Mrs. Garret Reeves and John Queen, who told of the early organization and charter members and the different buildings occupied, beginning with an old school building, a church that was burned and the cooperation of the congregation that brought about the construction of the splendid brick structure now occupied. Their speeches were very interesting and appropriate to the occasion.

Hardy Liner gave a review of the accomplishments of the present church during the past year, continuing with the history of the church and its dedication six years ago on October 13. The program also featured special music by the choir with solo parts by Miss Joyce Moody, Miss Elsie Jo Glavich and Mrs. Leonard Leatherwood.

At noon a sumptuous picnic lunch was spread on tables in the church yard. Rev. Mr. Houser, the new pastor on the charge, gave a sermon at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. C. R. Palmer was hostess to the Maple Grove Home Demonstration Club on Tuesday, October 15. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Edward Glavich presided at the business meeting.

Announcements were made of a Crafts School to be held in the home agents office on October 31 and a food and nutrition school on October 29.

Project leaders gave helpful reports. The talk by Miss Mary Margaret Smith was on "What We Earn and How We Spend It," bringing out the need for wise use of the money earned. She cited three classes of spenders, mainly people who spend all without proper planning, the second class who spend too sparingly even for necessities and the third class who plan their spending, giving proper consideration to present and future needs.

hospital—\$540—boosted the total in her case to \$1,735.

A brother, Michael, 27, an electrician, died shortly after the accident. His death ultimately resulted in a tangible loss of \$6,425. The ambulance charge was \$25, and the expense of his funeral was \$800. In addition, his widow suffered the loss of his income before she married again several years later — a loss of \$5,600.

The widow, Dianne, 23, a housewife, escaped with slight injuries. Her own hospital and medical care came to only \$50.

A cousin, Georgia, 19, a waitress, was shocked and bruised. She laid out \$75 for ambulance, hospital and medical charges, and lost \$125 in pay during the five weeks she was recuperating.

Taxpayers Paid, Too

The damage to the car—a total loss—amounted to \$810.

The Browns, in the final reckoning, didn't have to bear all these costs.

Lillian's stay in the state-owned hospital cost the taxpayers \$540. Insurance companies paid out \$1,560.

Henry's employer, who paid his wages of \$160 during the time he was off the job, was out that sum.

Family Loss \$7,650

The net amount of the expenses and losses of the family was \$7,650.

It was just another accident — but the total cost to all concerned was \$9,910.

And there was no litigation as a result of this accident as is the case in many crashes. The National Safety Council estimates that a conservative average cost of litigation in traffic accident cases is between \$3,000 and \$5,000 in addition to all other types of expense.

If you think these are surprising sums, take a look at some staggering statistics from the National Safety Council:

"The aggregate loss because of motor vehicle accidents last year was \$1,450,000,000. This represents the loss resulting from 28,600 deaths, 1,000,000 injuries, and millions of accidents in which there was only property damage."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DISCUSS WORLD AFFAIRS



SOME OF THE WOMEN OF 28 NATIONS who are meeting at the home of Mrs. Alice T. McLean in South Kortright, N. Y., are shown at one of their sessions. The women were invited by an American committee headed by Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Shown around the table, from left to right, are: Doreen M. Berry, Australia; Mrs. La Fell Dickinson, president of the American Federation of Women's Clubs, Washington, D. C.; Mercedes Evangelista, Philippines; Elley Janne, Stockholm, Sweden; Phiroza Wadia, Bombay, India; Dr. Viviva B. Appleton, president of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association; Faye Stephenson, national president CIO Auxiliary; Mrs. Mara Kavavariati, UNRRA, Greece; Asta Stene, university professor, Oslo, Norway; Mrs. Lindsay O'Connor, hostess, immediate past president of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, Hobart, N. Y.; Mrs. J. Katte Bromham, professor, Belgium; Cano Nieto, Colombia.



Lovers of American literature will be delighted to learn that Warner's plans to bring "Moby Dick" to the screen in a strictly adult form. John Huston, who did the script, has long wanted to film this story and had hoped that his father, Walter, could play the role of Captain Ahab, but previous commitments won't permit it.

Ingrid Bergman is deserting Hollywood for a white to appear on Broadway in "Joan of Lorraine." When she finishes her stint on the stage, probably sometime in the late spring, she is to be starred in "Under Capricorn," which is the first film to be produced by Transatlantic Pictures Corporation, formed by Alfred Hitchcock and Sidney L. Bernstein, the British exhibitor.

Spencer Tracy, who is as much at home on the Broadway stage as he is emoting before the cameras, is in New York looking for another play. This time he doesn't want a "message" vehicle, he says.

Contrary to what we might have heard in the past, there are movie couples who are successful in combining careers and marriage, with an increasing trend toward working, not at dagger's points, but as teams. Examples: Leland Hayward serves as Margaret Sullivan's manager; Walter Wanger produces Joan Bennett's pictures; Andre de Troit directs Veronica Lake's; Lucien Ballard photographs Merle Oberon's and Niven Busch scripts Teresa Wright's.

Dona Andrews, who got interested in boats while making "Crash Drive," now owns three of them. That probably explains why he's so interested in planes now, since his new film is "The Best Years of Our Lives," in which he plays a returned army flier.

Lizabeth Scott, who has scarcely had a day off for the last year, will take off for a long rest in the Bahamas as soon as she finishes work on "Desert Town"

"Fall on Your Knees" recently bought by Frank Borzage for Lew Ayres, sounds like a natural for him. It's the story of a young chaplain who returns from the war with his faith destroyed. He doesn't believe what he is preaching until the people of a small town lead him back to the light.

David Lewis, the producer, found talent right in his own office in the form of his attractive brunette secretary, Kathleen Williams. So, he gave her the part of Ruth in "The Arch of Triumph."

News: Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles are busy renovating a new home — selecting wall paper, drapes, paints, etc.

Chester Morris is another Hollywoodite who is planning to return to the stage in a light comedy as soon as he finishes "Inside Story"

sities and the third class who plan their spending, giving proper consideration to present and future needs.

Wife Preservers

You can make grapefruit parfait by freezing the juice right in the can overnight in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator. After freezing, cut both ends from the can, push out the frozen juice, serve in large chunks in partial glasses, garnished with sections of fruit.

LOUISA'S LETTER

Dear Louisa:

My daughter is planning to be married next month and I am worried about the success of her marriage. The boy is a very nice fellow but my daughter doesn't seem to be very much in love with him. Once when I asked her if she was quite sure he was the man she said she liked him better than anyone else and that if they didn't get along she could always get a divorce. This seems an awful attitude to take towards a sacred contract, don't you think?

WORRIED MOTHER—VT.

for Columbia.

Joan Crawford plans to knock the New Yorkers cross-eyed when she visits there shortly. Her entire new wardrobe was done for her by Travis Banton.

Walter Pidgeon is brushing up on his Spanish and Portuguese, preparatory to accompanying the film, "Holiday in Mexico," on a South American tour. The films will be released down there in an all-Spanish version.

Answer:

I certainly do agree with you that such an attitude towards marriage is disastrous. That is probably why so many fail and why the divorce courts are busy, now-a-days. A couple who has one eye on the divorce court, while they are getting married, has two strikes against its success before they get started.

I think our generation has failed, to a large extent, to teach our children that marriage is a sacred vow, for better for worse for richer or poorer, and 'til death do us part.

Of course, there are times when a divorce is necessary — if the husband is a brute no one can expect a wife to put up with abuse. But when husbands and wives break their vows because they have simply lost their taste for each other or see someone they think more attractive, that is too bad.

I think most of the fault lies in not making our children realize that marriage is a life time proposition and that they should be very sure before they take the final step.

It is a pity that every boy and girl couldn't take a course before

they are wed, teaching them to get along with each other. One of the prime requisites of a happy marriage is unselfishness and, of course, courtesy naturally follows unselfishness.

The boy or girl who has always had his own way and tries to make his partner over to suit his taste is a very poor matrimonial bet. They will be demanding and thoughtless and make life a nightmare for any man or woman. If they chance to marry another self-centered person, it won't take long to reach the parting of the ways.

They will have to learn that marriage is not one long tea party but a matter of give and take. Also that love has to be nourished and tended if it is to remain alive. Also that no one is perfect and if your mate is willing to make allowance for some of your faults, it should work both ways.

Never marry in haste, but go with a person long enough to know his bad qualities as well as his good points.

LOUISA.

Waynesville Wins Award

Sylvia Ainsworth

Johnny Watson, Sylvia Ainsworth, last week that Waynesville was W. T. Piper State having flown the flag October without a kind. He will be gravely injured. Mr. Bridges has more than 38 hours test period. Run award was Lewis, va. who had flown were eight entrants which was being national scale to safety.

Five out of every die at child birth North Carolina, forty-first on this

PARK THEATRE

WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MATINEE: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00 and 3:30; Sunday
NIGHT SHOW: 7:00 and 9:00 daily; Sunday Owl Show 10:30 Saturday.
ADMISSION: Children Under 12 Years, 12c; Seats, 35c—TAX: On Children's Pass, 2c; Adult

MONDAY-TUESDAY—OCTOBER 22
"LOVER COME BACK"

Starring
GEORGE BRENT and LUCILLE BURNETT
News of the Day

WEDNESDAY—OCTOBER 23
"SONG OF ARIZONA"

Starring
ROY ROGERS and GABBY HAYES
Serial . . . "Mysterious Mr. M" No. 1
Short

THURSDAY-FRIDAY—OCTOBER 24
"IF I'M LUCKY"

Starring
VIVIAN BLAINE and HARRY JAMES
News and Short

Refreshment you go for
Coca-Cola 5¢
Asheville Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Want a Vacation from Marriage?

Alvin Blake went south on his vacation, for some fishing, and left his Missus to enjoy a vacation from the corn-cob pipe, clothes in a heap, and solos on the harmonica.

First few days, Martha enjoyed it—house neat and quiet, top back on the toothpaste, no morning mess from Alvin's midnight snacks (Al's partial to a bit of cheese and beer at bedtime).

Come the end of the week, she began to fidget; couldn't even read the *Clarion*, it looked so unmissed; didn't have any appetite with nobody to cook for. She was about to wire Al, when he barges home a week ahead of time, and she almost cries for gratitude. ("Felt the same way myself," says Al.)

From where I sit, those differences of habit and opinion—whether they have to do with corn-cob pipes, a glass of beer, or playing the harmonica, seem mighty trivial when you're separated. And they are, too!

Joe Marsh
Advt.

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Look Who Is Coming!

IN PERSON
TOMMY MILLARD'S
BLUE RIDGE
HILLBILLIES

Of WNC Farm Hour, Coming For A
BIG RADIO JAMBOREE
SAT. OCT. 26 - 7:30
WAYNESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Music—Fun—Entertainment For The Entire Family
3 BIG CASH PRIZES 3

Awarded the three best contestants — all musicians invited to attend—Guitar, Mandolin, Fiddle Players or what have you.

Sponsored By
THE WAYNESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Light

TOUCHES THAT MAKE YOU A GOOD NEIGHBOR

How does your house look after dark? Do your friends in the neighborhood? Do you and gloomy — or glowing with cheer? It is lighting that makes the difference — just small friendly touches like these . . .

ILLUMINATE YOUR HOUSE NUMBER

It's a friendly way to say "Here it is," to make it easy for delivery people and strangers to locate your home after dark.

BRIGHTEN YOUR DRIVEWAY

One of the new projector lamps can flood your driveway with cheerful light which invites the car and prevents accidents, discourages prowlers.

KEEP A LAMP IN THE WINDOW

It's gleam sheds cheerfulness, adds to the attractiveness of your home at night, and provides protection from prowlers.

LIGHT YOUR PORCH ENTRANCE

A light beside your door or over it, not only says "Welcome" but protects visitors against stumbling on steps or forgotten toys.

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY