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# Lawn Mower Accidents Often Take Heavy Toll

A few precautions can prevent the thousands of lawn mower accidents that occur each year—accidents that cause the loss of fingers, toes, eyes or even worse.

Avoiding accidents with the roaring little monster begins with keeping the mower in good mechanical condition, suggest North Carolina State University extension engineers. To do this, you need to read the operator's manual and follow the instructions.

The machine should be kept clean and the blade kept sharpened. It is also important to keep the yard clean of such potential missiles as rocks, bones, toys, sticks and wire. These items and others can be picked up by the whirling mower blade and shot as if from a gun at speeds of well over 150 miles per hour.

All persons and pets should be kept out of the area when the mower is being used.

Before filling the gas tank, turn off the engine and let it cool a little. Avoid spillage. Don't store gas in a glass jug.

When starting the engine, stand as far back from the mower as possible and be sure your feet are not under the housing or a piece of your clothing near the blade or the engine.

If your mower has a grass catcher, use it. It can act as a safety shield, in addition to collecting the grass.

Operate the mower at the slowest blade speed possible. The potential danger of accidents involving the blade increases as speed increases.

Embankments are not only hard to mow, they are also dangerous to mow. Reduce the danger of having your foot slip under the mower or pulling the mower back over your feet by mowing across the embankment rather than up and down.

Don't mow wet grass. It isn't

good for the grass and it causes clogging under the mower. If the mower becomes clogged, stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before unclogging.

Don't leave the mower engine running while unattended.

### Ear For News?

Ben Franklin, pioneer American printer and journalist, not only had a nose for news, but also a musical ear for news. As a boy he peddled on the street printed copies of a ballad he wrote chronicling America's earliest lighthouse tragedy, the drowning of the keeper of the Boston light and five companions in 1718.

Small children may not realize the danger the machine presents.

More and more homeowners are buying riding mowers.

## Washington Report

— By —  
**CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES**

In an effort to approve as much legislation as possible before the July 4th recess, the House put in one of its busiest weeks of the current session. Each day legislation was considered far into the evening hours and on Tuesday, the House stayed in session until approximately 12 midnight.

This was the week the House approved four major appropriations bills including Public Works and the Atomic Energy Commission, Department of State—Justice—Commerce—Interior, and Labor—HEW appropriations. On the Labor—HEW bill, it is most likely the President will veto this, for it included several items for which the President requested no funds. These include \$82 million for Regional Medical Programs and \$197 million for Hill-Burton Hospital construction. Also the bill provided more money than had been requested by the Administration for impacted school aid. Another item contained in the bill makes available \$176 million for library assistance. So, with these expenditures being included against Presidential sishes, a veto will probably occur.

Another major appropriation bill was that for the Department of Interior which contains slightly more than \$2½ billion, which is almost \$5 million less than that which had been requested.

Also, since our last report, the House has approved an appropriation for the Department of HUD—Space—Science and Veterans. Contained in the bill was an item for \$12,226,000,000 for the Veterans Administration, which is about \$13 million above the budget request. Of interest to veterans is the fact that the increase is to provide 1,000 additional nurses and direct care personnel in VA hospitals.

The Watergate hearings continue to command much interest here in the Capitol City. Names that were virtually

unknown a few months ago have now become household words. Based on information I am receiving from the District, there are those who think the hearings should be continued and exploited to their fullest; while others feel that the hearings are lasting far too long and that the entire matter should be turned over to the courts and that those who are guilty should be convicted and punished and that the Congress should get on with its normal duties.

One of the bitterest debates occurred in the final hours before the 4th of July recess regarding an appropriation bill which it was necessary to approve prior to July 1 in order for government to continue its operations. The controversy hinged on an amendment which provided that no part of these funds or any previously appropriated funds could be used in Cambodia. At a late hour, the President vetoed this measure and the Congress was forced to reconsider and a compromise was offered which would give the President until August 15 an opportunity to conclude all military operations in Southeast Asia; and if necessity demanded that he resume military operations, then under this law, he would have to turn to the Congress for approval.

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