

Third Party In Safety Triangle

The "eternal" romantic triangle has long been a favorite theme of movie thrillers and popular novels. The so-called "other man" and "other woman" have caused millions of heart throbs in American life.

But this is a more serious story about another kind of triangle—about the "other man" who disrupts traffic safety instead of homes, who causes auto accidents instead of broken hearts.

The "other man" is seldom involved in an accident himself. But his carelessness and negligence cause tragedy to others. One night a North Carolina motorist was driving along the highway. Perhaps he was on his way home. We will never know—because no one can tell who he was or where he lives. Maybe That Motorist Was You.

Chances are, this motorist was not a cruel man. As he drove along the highway, he harbored no evil intentions toward his fellow man. It was perhaps just forgetfulness that caused him to neglect to dim his lights as he approached an oncoming car. Perhaps he remembered and was sorry the very minute he met the other car. As he passed he heard nothing unusual—he saw nothing strange. He drove on into the night toward his unknown destination.

But behind him, tragedy had struck swiftly. The driver of the other car, blinded by bright headlights, failed to see a pedestrian on the roadway in time. He did his best to stop, but it was too late.

As the frightened driver stepped out of his car and stood over the crumpled figure of the pedestrian, the "other man" drove swiftly away, completely unconscious of his part in the tragedy.

Sometimes, however, the "third party" is present to witness the horror which he causes. Such was the case with the driver who entered a well-traveled highway without stopping. He had entered the highway in that very place a thousand times before. At first he

had stopped. But as he grew more accustomed to the intersection he satisfied himself by making so-called "rolling stops." On that particular day he made no stop whatever.

How was he to know that on that day of all days a hurried businessman would be driving past?

As he entered the highway, he saw—and stopped. But he was already half-way across the road!

The businessman saw the vehicle blocking the right lane in front of him. He swerved sharply to the left, and his driving skill was such that he passed the obstruction successfully. But coming up from the other direction was a large truck. The businessman tried his best to turn back into his own lane in time, but he failed. He died in the resulting collision.

As we have said, the third man in this "safety triangle" is not necessarily cruel or vicious—just careless. Each one of us has in himself the potentiality of becoming a guilty third party to a traffic mishap.

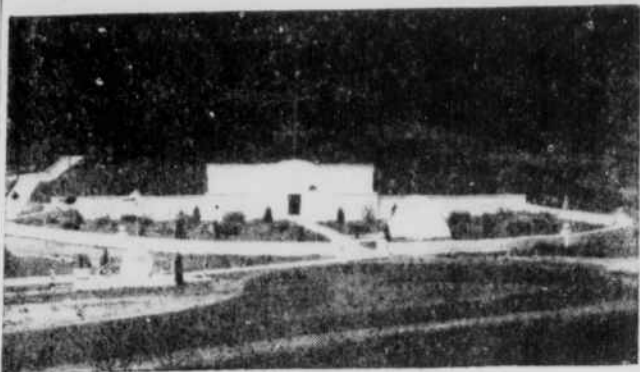
Take, for example, the truck driver who parked on the crest of a small incline without applying the handbrake. He was gone for just a moment, but while he was away another car accidentally nudged the truck and started it rolling. The rolling truck hit a small boy, inflicting painful injuries. It's safe to say that truck driver will use his emergency brake after this.

A more vicious type of "third party" is the driver who itches to pass other motorists, even when there isn't space enough to pass safely. Such a driver seems to expect other drivers to slow down and stop for his own personal gratification. It isn't always so simple as that, however, for many an innocent motorist has been forced off the road because of the ignorance and bad judgment of someone else.

But you don't have to be a driver to become a shady third party in a traffic safety triangle. Records of the Highway Safety Division of the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles show that many collisions have been caused when drivers swerved to avoid hitting pedestrians and bicycle riders who were violating traffic regulations.

Automobile passengers, too, can be guilty of distracting drivers—with disastrous results. Operators of slow-moving vehicles should also be careful lest they become accessories to motor vehicle collisions on the highway. They should look out for cars, and should signal to them if necessary. After dark they should stay off the highway if possible—or else use adequate lights or reflectors to warn approaching cars.

Most typical of all guilty third parties are the fellows who break traffic regulations and "get away with it." They never stop for "thru" streets unless they have



SPULCHRE—Pictured above is the sepulchre in Fields of the Wood which typifies the empty tomb in which Christ was placed

and from which He arose conqueror over death and is alive forever more.

to. They speed whenever they get the chance. They always are on the lookout for the traffic policeman, and when he isn't in sight, anything goes.

"I haven't been in any accidents yet." That's what they say. But such boasting displays thoughtlessness. How about the son and daughter learning to drive? How about others who may be influenced by this careless disregard for regulations? How about the grim possibility of contributory negligence in a serious accident involving these loved ones?

No one has been more generally disliked than the "other man" and the "other woman" in the romantic melodrama. But in the more serious realm of real life it behooves all of us to be safe drivers and pedestrians—to avoid becoming guilty third parties to the tragic and destructive motor vehicle traffic accidents which prey upon our friends and countrymen.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SCOUT

Gives Hints To Homemakers

By RUTH CURRENT
State Home Demonstration Agent

A large market basket provides a handy container in which to keep cleaning supplies. Soap powder, polishes, cleaning cloths, small brushes, and other articles are conveniently stored in one place.

To keep tools and nails from rolling off the top of a stepladder, simply nail a strip of inner tube around it in such a manner that it will form a shallow tray.

It is always a shock to look at the calendar and realize that some friend's birthday or anniversary has just passed and you have neglected to send a gift or a card.

Here then is the solution: Before tacking up a new calendar at the first of each year, go through and encircle in red the dates for all the special birthdays and anniversaries. Then as the days and weeks and months pass, the red circles will serve as reminders and no friends will have forgotten.

For semi-annual freshening up, feather pillows should be aired on a cloudy, windy day rather than allowed to hang in the sun. The sun draws the natural oil out of the feathers and destroys their

resiliency. The bottom of the scouring powder can will not leave rust marks on bathroom fixtures if it is dipped in hot paraffin.

A yearly weeding out of worn-out kitchen utensils, and other odds and ends, will get rid of dust collectors, save extra work and valuable storage space.

Storage holdings of apples as of January 1 were reported at 30 million bushels as against about 27 millions on January 1, 1947. While apples are grown in nearly all sections of the United States and distribution is general, the increase in apple holding over last year is largely on the west coast, the USDA has reported.

was the dinner guest of his sister, Mrs. Bill Barker, Sunday.

Upper Peachtree

The Rev. Leonard McClure preached at this church Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Abernathy and Miss Mae Sudderth of Marble and Mr. and Mrs. George Hayes were visitors of C. W. Thommasson Sunday.

Calvin Lunsford was the dinner guest Sunday of B. A. Breedlove. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Loyd spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Curtis.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Curtis and Mrs. Laura Barker visited Mrs. Lawrence Anderson of Andrews this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewell Curtis and small daughter, Margret, spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brendle of Fires Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Galloway and children of Copperhill spent the week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marison Moore.

Ward Derroberry of Andrews

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