



### Collapsible Steering May Reduce Injury And Prevent Death

CHAPEL HIL — The danger of that steering post, aiming spear-like at your chest when you drive, may be diminished considerably in the years to come.

Studies conducted by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center here reveals that the collapsible steering assembly installed in some 1967 model cars may reduce the severity of injury and prevent death in certain types of collisions.

"From what we've seen so far," says Dr. B. J. Campbell, Director of the Safety Research Center, "it looks like the collapsible assembly is working quite well."

During the past several

months, the State Highway Patrol has been notifying the safety research center of accidents involving cars equipped with the new steering assembly. The center inspected and studied five of the worst collisions.

One accident involved a Chevrolet and a Dodge. The Dodge was equipped with the new steering assembly. Neither driver was wearing seat belts.

The Dodge had slowed to turn off the highway when it was struck in the front by the Chevrolet, which skidded 89 feet before impact.

Driver of the Chevrolet was ejected, but the driver of the Dodge remained in the car.

The steering column of the Dodge was compressed some 5 one-half inches, says Dr. Campbell, but the driver suffered only bruises across the upper chest and a contusion across the lower abdomen. In addition, the driver's knees were severely bruised and her right ankle broken.

"Undoubtedly, the collapsible steering column prevented more serious injury in this particular case," says Dr. Campbell.

Autos manufactured this year by General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors are equipped with the new energy-absorbing steering column. The equipment was designed by General Motors and sold to the other two manufacturers.

The Ford Motor Company reportedly is developing its own design and will install it on 1968 models.

Key element in the collapsible column currently in use is a section of metal mesh that crushes under an impacting force of 600 pounds. As the mesh is crushed, it absorbs the energy of the force exerted upon it.

Thus, when a driver is thrown against the steering wheel in a collision, the steering column compresses up to 8½ inches instead of impaling him.

The gear shift column and steering shaft, which are located within the steering column, are designed to telescope on impact, thus posing no danger to the driver. Plastic shear pins which break at approximately 150 pounds of pressure are used to hold these telescoping sections in place during normal operation.

An important factor in the design says Dr. Campbell, is that the steering wheel will not be thrust back toward the driver in a collision. Also, important, he says, is the fact



### Hasty... COMMENTS

by Mary Alice Hasty

How do you write what you have purposely tried not to think about . . .

The easiest approach is to tell how this little town is a composite of big people, and at no time is this more true than when a tragedy strikes. Hearts are emptied of every selfish vestige with an outpouring of love and sympathy, and when necessary, pocketbooks are emptied in the same manner. Coolemeec is at its best in its darkest hour.

Death is no stranger, but it customarily comes to us quietly and politely. Many times it is expected, and although the subsequent grief is no less, the very knowing and preparing for its advent softens the shock. We are conditioned to this; it is when death blows the rules of the game and stalks us unaware that we are reduced to a feeling of crushing inadequacy and helplessness . . . and when the victims are children, words fail us. It then becomes violently necessary to act, to do something, anything, to restore the illusion that we are still, somehow, masters of our fate.

Three little girls are dead. I knew two of them. I wish I had never had that pleasure. I saw them daily at school . . . I talked with them . . . laughed with them . . . I taught their brother. There is one fact that should be of supreme comfort to their parents, if and when comfort is allowed to return . . . they were happy children. There is no greater compliment I can pay the family than that one undeniable fact. They were happy children.

that the design permits the auto to be steered after the steering column has been compressed.

The entire assembly is anchored at three points in the vehicle: the steering gear box, the firewall and under the dash. In some models, extra strong metal is used in the gear box connection to prevent breakage at this point during a crash. Breakage at the other two points does not prevent steering of the wheel.

In one crash inspected by the research center, the system failed where the steering column is connected to the gear box. The research center pointed this out to auto engineers in Detroit, noting that the problem poses a potential hazard because the auto cannot be steered after breakage at the gear box.

Dr. Campbell says the research center plans to continue studying accidents involving the collapsible steering assembly in order to obtain as much data as possible.

At present, similar studies are being conducted at the University of California, at Los Angeles and the University of Michigan.

### The Earl Stewarts Have Visitor

One night recently as the Stewarts arrived at their home on Center Street, they found a stranger in the bathtub. This would have been enough to scare any host to death, especially if the visitor was a huge black snake about the size of a silver dollar in width and nearly a yard long. And that is exactly what this visitor was. Earl ran out in the back yard and got a shovel and killed the snake, after Mrs. Stewart informed him that if that thing got out of the bath room, into the other part of their house, that she would certainly be missing around there until it was found and killed. The Stewarts are still trying to figure out how it got into the house, unless it came up through the furnace ducts. But he was making himself at home for the night, because he was coiled around the faucets.

Time spent regretting the past might be better spent planning the future.

### Rowan Technical Institute To Offer Courses In Math This Summer

A number of courses in mathematics will be offered this summer at Rowan Technical Institute to adults who wish to further their knowledge of math or to those who wish to continue their education this fall past the high school level.

Industrial Mathematics will be offered on Tuesday nights from 6:00 until 10:00 P. M. for eleven weeks beginning June 13. This course will include practical number theory, analysis of the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, Fractions, decimals, powers and roots percentages ratio, and proportion will also be covered. Plans and solid geometric figures used in industry, measurements of surfaces and volumes, and an introduction to algebra will also be taught. Cost of the course will be \$12.50 plus the cost of a textbook. Mr. Glenn Deal will be the instructor.

Fundamentals of Algebra will also be offered by Rowan Tech this summer. Basic concepts and operations of algebra: historical background of our base -10 number system; algebraic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; fractions, letter representation, grouping, factoring ratio and proportions, variations; graphical and algebraic solution of first degree equations; solution of simultaneous equations by: addition and subtraction, substitution, graphing; exponents, logarithms, tables and interpolation will be included in this course.

This is an excellent course for those who need additional preparation before continuing their education. The cost of this course is \$7.50. It will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:00 until 9:00 P. M. beginning June 14th for a period of eleven weeks. Mr. Ray Jones will be the instructor.

For those who are interested in the electrical trade, there will be a course in Electrical Math offered on Tuesday nights from 6:00 until 10:00 P. M. beginning Tuesday, June 13th. Included in this course will be a study of fundamental concepts of algebra, basic operation of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; solution of first order equation, use of let-

ters and signs, grouping, factoring, exponents, ratios, and proportions, solution of equations, algebraically and graphically; a study of logarithms and use of tables; an introduction to trigonometric functions and their applications to right angles; and a study of vectors for use in alternating current. The cost of this course will be \$12.50, plus the cost of a textbook. Mr. Ray Jones will be the instructor for the course.

To enroll call Rowan Technical Institute and request an application for the summer session. This should be returned to the institute by June 5th accompanied by a \$2.00 application deposit. The deposit will be applied to the cost of the course or refunded if the course does not materialize. Classes will last for eleven weeks and final registration will be conducted the first night of class. Due to space, enrollment will be limited. Rowan Tech reserves the right to cancel any class for which there is insufficient enrollment.

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