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VOLUME 3

1958

NATIONAL SAFETY CONGRESS TRANSACTIONS

UTOMOTIVE & MACHINE SHOP POWER PRESS & FORGING



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
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3
4
5
6
7
9
10
11
12
13
14
17
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

CONTENTS

AUTOMOTIVE AND MACHINE SHOP SECTION

Teamwork for Living.....	Carl C. Byers	3
Tradin' Post (Idea Exchange).....		6
Beginning a Power Press Guarding Program.....	Henry B. Duffus	8
Our Safety Program.....	Arthur J. Ziraldo	12
POWER PRESS AND FORGING SECTION		
Progress Report by General Chairman.....	T. A. Kraklow	17
Safety Aspects of Press Design.....	George E. Wind	19
Officers, AUTOMOTIVE AND MACHINE SHOP SECTION, 1958-59.....		20
Officers, POWER PRESS AND FORGING SECTION, 1958-59.....		22

AUTOMOTIVE AND MACHINE SHOP SECTION

TEAMWORK FOR LIVING

By CARL C. BYERS

Lecturer (sponsored by General Motors Corp.), Cleveland, Ohio

Teamwork for living! Teamwork for survival! Common sense is safety sense! Safety is a full-time job! Safety is everybody's job!

Power here, power there, power everywhere. Instantaneous power, engineered precision, mechanical perfection. Everything is super-duper-powered, except the eye, the reflexes, the emotional temperament, and the brain of the human anatomy.

The Bible admonishes us with the Commandment, "Thou shalt not commit murder." Yet due to carelessness and indifference man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.

We are intelligent, civilized human beings. We have God-given common sense. Why can't we apply what we know?

Pretty thoughts, passive pacification, and wishful thinking won't guarantee safety results. You can't have a good crop by just sitting in the shade of self-complacency and daydreaming. A good garden, free of weeds, demands work, a struggle, and constant care. Weeds of carelessness and indifference can only be eradicated by digging up their roots. Likewise, a program of safety education (or any constructive effort), needs constant attention on the part of you, and you, and the other fellow—it's shareholders.

Teamwork for living! Teamwork for survival! That's why we have a National Safety Congress.

Look about you. Right now thousands of us are gathered together here in Chicago from all corners of this great U.S.A. Our problems are as different and yet as common as are the variegated assortment of people you'll see up and down Michigan Boulevard.

Why are we here? I don't have time to be here. Neither do you. That's why we're here. Busy people are the best kind. They're not dissatisfied; they're unsatisfied. They

know that the spirit which emanates (teamwork for living) from meeting to discuss common safety problems, provides oxygen for the soul.

Meetings, such as the National Safety Congress, are as typically American as are county fairs and church suppers. Business, industry, and all of the professions are keenly aware of the importance of such "get-togethers." What better method can there be for up-grading morale, creating enthusiasm, and acquainting interested people with "what's new?" in the field?

Maybe I'm a sentimentalist, but I still believe that people can be inspired. I believe that a team consciousness works to the same advantage in a Safety Education program as it does on the athletic field.

So, the title, "Teamwork for Living." The reason for teamwork is contained in a paraphrase from the timeworn adage "Stay green and grow—don't ripen and rot," which I would change to "Stay alive and grow—don't get careless and be a statistic."

New methods, new techniques, new tools, an interchange of new ideas with Friends of Safety from across the latitudes and longitudes of America—whether at a general session, in a discussion group, at the exhibits, or in a good ol' bull session in a hotel lobby—all of these and many more are the reasons we get together safety-wise or otherwise to promote teamwork for living.

A bit of rooster psychology can help point up what I'm trying to emphasize. You remember the old story of the football which was kicked into the henyard. The rooster looked at it quizzically for a moment, then quickly called all the hens about him and said: "Now, girls, I don't want you to feel that I'm being critical of your work, but I do want you to see what they're doing in some of the other yards." You'll agree that it adds to our enthusiasm

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