

# PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Animals And Birds Cause Many Freak Accidents

Sunday evening a deer crossing Highway 48 was struck by a motorist whose car suffered \$250 damage in the collision. The deer, using a plainly marked "deer crossing", was killed.

Earlier the same day, a motorist on the King Sideroad was suddenly confronted by two Black Angus steers. In avoiding one on the road the car crashed into one in the ditch. Resulting damage was estimated at \$700 to the car and an equal amount to the steer which was killed.

An exchange weekly newspaper records that a pheasant, startled by dogs, crashed through a farmhouse window. Two children asleep in the bed beneath the window suffered facial cuts from flying glass.

Yes, birds and beasts cause many freak accidents. It is a startling experience to have a bird fly into a windshield or have an animal dart in front of the car. A motorist's natural inclination is to swerve to avoid the furred or feathered creature.

A few years ago a young lad did just that to avoid a dog south of the town limits on Yonge Street. He lost control of the car which crashed into a pole and his life was snuffed out.

It is also an unerving experience to see a deer or smaller animal appear suddenly in the beam of a car's headlight and stand transfixed. The animal seems paralyzed by fright and the driver's condition is not much better.

A few months ago a dog on the Maple sideroad caused a driver to swerve her car. Not only was she unable to avoid the dog but she crashed head-on into another car. Total estimated damage was \$1,800.

Dogs accompanying bicyclists are also a menace. Canine Control Officer James Ryan claims, and horses, deer and moose on the highways have been the direct or indirect cause of many accidents.

The lessons to be learned, of course, are to drive carefully at all times and keep domestic animals under control, Mr. Ryan points out.

Although he will not admit to having bats in his belfry, Mr. Ryan will freely admit to having 28 bats in his home one very cold winter. At one time he counted 11 flying around the house. In the fall a painter had nailed closed a loose board trapping the bats inside the house. They then made their way into the ducts of the heating system, which Mr. Ryan describes as an old-fashioned octopus hot air system.

When their location was determined he made a ball of a bath towel and lowered it into the pipes, carefully removing to the outside the bats which clung to the terry cloth. Not one bat lost its life in the rescue operation and after three very chilly days without heat the Ryan family were able to enjoy the comforts of their home again.

Mice gnawing electric wires, kittens playing with an electric cord and pulling a hot iron onto the floor, squirrels chewing on matches, all have been known to cause fires which have destroyed thousands of dollars worth of property, Mr. Ryan continued.

Nor are animals and birds the only offenders in this regard, Mr. Ryan notes, referring to Vaughan Township School Board Supervisor Administrator Norman Jackman's recent brush with death when stung by a

bee. Mr. Ryan recalls that in Ireland one of his neighbors was killed by a wasp sting. The man was sipping a sweet cool thirst-quencher when a wasp, also sipping from the glass, entered his mouth. It stung his palate which swelled, cutting off his supply of air. He was dead before the doctor could be summoned.

Bees, wasps, and other flying insects have been known to cause car accidents, the canine control officer noted. These accidents are not necessarily caused by stings but by attempts to kill or brush the insect out of the window. If they bother you, he suggests, pull off onto the side of the road before attempting to kill or get rid of them.

None of these accidents, although nerve-racking and expensive, can compare with the classic example of all time. We refer of course to Mrs. O'Leary's cow which, in kicking over the lantern, started the great Chicago fire.

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