

The anatomy of accidents. No.2, Incident in a country lane.

Contributors

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Publication/Creation

[between 1966 and 1969?]

Persistent URL

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This is one of a series on road safety and skilled motoring techniques issued by DUNCAN, FLOCKHART and EVANS Ltd with the enthusiastic help of the INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

the anatomy of accidents



No.2 INCIDENT IN A COUNTRY LANE

Driving peacefully along a country lane on a sunny evening in your red 1800 saloon, you suddenly come upon this scene. What has happened is quite clear: not quite so clear is who is to blame for the accident. Would you consider:—



Mr. George Eyles, Director of Tests at the Institute gives you his verdict overleaf.

- a) The car driver is more to blame?
- b) The tractor driver is more to blame?
- c) Both drivers are equally to blame?

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The driver of the private car, says Mr. Eyles, did not use his powers of observation. He should have seen sand and mud on the road, denoting a gateway: he should also have seen the break in the shadow of the hedge showing that the gate was open, and possibly the shadow of the tractor itself. The tractor driver, sitting higher than the hedge, should have looked out for approaching traffic. Drivers (a) and (b) are therefore equally at fault, and answer (c) is correct.