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EDITORIALS

THE GIRLS CAN HELP

"Two young men and a girl, aged 17 and 19, were killed instantly late last night returning from a dance, when their car crashed into a tree at a high rate of speed. The fourth member of the party is in a critical condition in a local hospital"

This news-item, differing only in minor detail, has appeared a thousand times, and in papers in every state in the Union. It reflects one of the most tragic phases of the automobile accident problem — the reckless drivers in their teens and early twenties. Out for a good time, they careen about he highways and by-ways—and at regular intervals death follows in their tracks. Immature minds regard it as an act of enviable bravado to "see what the old bus will do." In many cases the cars they drive should have been sent to the junk pile long ago—brakes are gone, lights are bad, the steering mechanisms are faulty, and tires are down to the fabric, ready for blowouts.

The larger part of the blame for accidents that kill and maim young people must be put squarely on the shoulders of their parents. The fathers and mothers who permit their children to endanger their lives with reckless driving or are too lazy to find out the true state of affairs, are, to put it kindly, derelict in duty. Even worse are the parents who, when their children are arrested for dangerous driving practices, move heaven and earth to have them freed without punishment—thus, in effect, telling them to go out and do it again.

But youth itself, in the form of the young girls who go riding with their boy friends, can be of the greatest assistance in reducing this toll by bestowing a bit of praise and showing admiration for the safe driver and simply refusing to ride with the reckless one—make safe driving the price of a date and watch the boy friend slow down.

Various sections of the country like to commemorate events that accompanied the development and growth of state and nation—rodeos, frontier day celebrations, pageants, state fairs and world fairs keep history alive.

An event of this kind will take place in Escanaba, Michigan, on August 13 to 15, where the World's Championship Log Rolling Tournament will be staged. In the old days, the annual log drive on rushing rivers was a great event in many communities. Today the steam locomotive and motor truck carry millions of feet of logs to the mill in a much less exciting and romantic manner. That mythical hero, Paul Bunyan, could not roll logs with Satan on a freight car as he is reputed to have done in the rivers of the North West country.

So, revival of the log rolling contest at Escanaba keeps alive the traditions and the sports tha developed around a great industry as it furnished the lumber to build the homes in the cities and on the farms of the North Country and he Middle West.