

LONDON TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE SEEN WITHIN 10 YEARS

Narrow Streets Will Be Completely Jammed if Present Vehicle Increase Is Long Continued Say Experts

By Joseph Grigg, Jr.
United Press Staff Correspondent
LONDON, (UP)—Nightmare visions of London's traffic tangles during the next ten years conjured up by experts here are giving Londoners a bad attack of traffic "blues."

Some of these prophets declare that traffic in the narrow thoroughfares of the metropolis will be slowed down to a one-mile-an-hour tortoise-like crawl by 1945. If the volume of taxis, trucks, private automobiles and elephantine busses continues to increase. In 1923, there were 198,979 vehicles registered in the London county council area. Last year there were more than half a million.

Traffic Merry-Go-Rounds
The big street "merry-go-rounds," which are the chief barometer of traffic conditions in London, show greater congestion every year. London's busiest roundabout at Hyde Park Corner now is passed by 82,000 vehicles a day compared with 56,000 ten years ago. The number of vehicles passing Trafalgar Square daily has increased from 42,000 to 65,000 in the last ten years, and at Blackfriars Bridge from 30,000 to 42,000.

In ten years the total number of vehicles registered in the whole of Great Britain has increased from 1,141,000 to 2,282,000. Some experts now are predicting that they will have reached a total of 5,000,000 by 1945.

Visions of the chaotic conditions which may prevail by 1945 have been given additional color recently by the annual dog-days road-mending epidemic which resulted in the temporary closing of a number of main arteries. Unwary motorists found themselves jammed for long periods in traffic blocks extending hundreds of yards. Similar congestion has been caused by the demolition work now in progress on old Waterloo Bridge.

Life Tough Problem
Life also is going to be a tough problem for the already harassed pedestrian here if the experts are right. Despite the crop of colored traffic lights, pedestrian crossings equipped with orange "beacons" and new one-way streets which constantly are making their appearance in London, the Londoner is coming to the conclusion that crossing a main street is developing into a rough-and-tumble game of hide-and-seek.

Londoners also are getting more and more into the habit of using subway crossings under busy thoroughfares and traffic "merry-go-rounds" like Piccadilly Circus. In fact it looks as if the man in the street of 1934 will become the man under the street of 1945.

Some of the traffic "futurists" believe that going underground will be the chief solution of London's road difficulties.

Another idea is the construction of elevated roadways and the covering in of main-line railroads out of London to create new highways similar to Park Avenue in New York. Some of the most radical "futurists" would like to build broad new arterial highways slashed across the metropolis from north to south and east to west linked by concentric circular roadways.

HUMMING BIRDS TAMED BY LADY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UP)—A group of humming birds, most restless and timid of all birds, have been tamed by Mrs. O. M. Evans. It was a feat bird experts told her was impossible. Mrs. Evans first decided to make friends with the tiny birds—smallest of all feathered creatures—when she noticed several about her flower garden. For weeks she sat in the garden, motionless for long periods. Finally, after several weeks, one bird perched on her hand. It was the beginning between the Evans family and the birds. That was four years ago. Today there are nine humming birds spending their days about the Evans yard and sometimes in the Evans home.

The birds return each summer from the south, Mrs. Evans said, and build their "nest" about the size of a half dollar, in the bushes about the yard. They will attack any bird, regardless of its size. If it comes too near the nest, she has discovered.

"I've gotten so familiar with the birds that I know each one individually," Mrs. Evans said. "I've even named them. One is Tommy Tucker, so named because he makes such a fuss if I'm late putting out his supper."

On damp days Mrs. Evans leaves the back door of her home open and it is not unusual for the birds to come inside where it is warm. Occasionally they make themselves guests at the dinner table.

JUDGE WARNS WOMAN 6 DIVORCES TOO MANY

ST. LOUIS — (UP) — When Mrs. Grace Thomason Diefenbach obtained a divorce decree from her sixth husband, Judge J. Kirkwood told her: "Next time, be sure you love your husband and stay with him. If you come back here again, you won't get a divorce."

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