

SAFETY

Lightning Welds Soldier Into His Sleeping Bag

► THE SAD CASE of a soldier who was welded into his sleeping bag by a bolt of lightning striking the zipper is among the odd accidents occurring during 1943. A round-up of accidents by the National Safety Council shows unusual as well as orthodox ways of getting hurt.

Huddled in a foxhole in the Solomons, a private skilfully dodged enemy shot and shell. But a stray bullet dislodged a coconut from a tree limb overhead which fell kerplunk on the private's left leg, breaking it. This was the Army's first coconut casualty, according to Paul Jones of the National Safety Council.

A city-bred horse in Detroit, well-behaved in the heaviest auto traffic, ran away and wrecked the buggy when he met a disturbing sight—another horse.

A rancher in Washington state had a run-in with his reaper. The spinning rod caught his overalls and tossed him into the air. When he landed, he was clad in shoes and eye glasses.

During a hard-fought foot-ball game in Chicago, none of the players on either high school team was hurt. But as a touchdown was scored, an overjoyed substitute on the bench yanked his coach's arm so violently that his left shoulder was dislocated.

The safe way to handle matches was being demonstrated in a junior high school class in Oklahoma. "First, remove the match," the professor explained, "then close the container." As he flipped open the container to demonstrate the wisdom of these directions, all the matches caught fire. When his burned hand had been bandaged, he closed the lecture with these words of warning, "That, students, is what happens when one becomes momentarily careless."

Science News Letter, December 18, 1943

AERONAUTICS

Parachutists' Hatch Devised for Plane's Tail

► FIRST MOMENT of serious danger to a parachute jumper comes just as he leaps through the door in the side of the plane. There is always a chance that his parachute, opening prematurely, may foul the tail assembly, not only killing or seriously injuring himself but perhaps causing the plane to crash.

To eliminate this hazard, T. W. Swiech of New York Mills, N. Y., has

designed a hatch with sliding doors for the tail of large airplanes. Parachutists leaving through such an opening would immediately be completely in the clear, he points out. Patent No. 2,335,090 has been issued on this invention.

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AERONAUTICS

Veteran Army Airplanes Used in High Schools

► VETERAN airplanes and parts, retired from the Army because of old age,

will serve as instructors in the nation's high schools.

As a part of Civil Aeronautics Administration pre-flight aeronautics program, they will be used to train boys in the upper grades of high school for service in the Air Forces, and at the same time, to condition all high school students for life in an air age.

Requests from 737 schools, in every state except Florida and Arkansas, are already being handled. Classrooms have received 59 airplanes and 226 engines.

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