

“KEEPING PACE” - #1

(Page 1)

This is the first in a series of bimonthly newsletters which we will be sending to you in the coming years. We feel you will find them to be interesting, informative and educational. Some of them will be taken from the slide presentation which we have given to most of your claims associations this past year and which was so well received. Please tell your secretaries to watch for these newsletters and to forward them on to you.



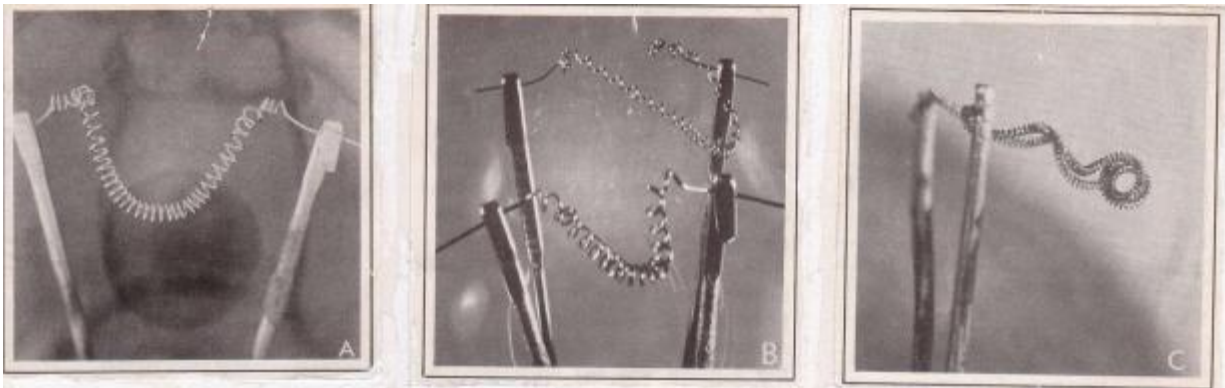
DUMP TRUCK FAILURES:

The above photograph shows the welds on the bottom of a hydraulic ram on a dump truck which raises and lowers the bed of the truck. The truck rolled over, killing the driver, as he tried to jump clear. The welds had been blamed initially, but the real cause was the fact that the driver had raised the bed while on a 10% grade, or unlevel ground. These hydraulic rams are only meant to take vertical forces, not sideways forces. In most such cases the driver will swear he was on level ground, but it isn't so. Broken welds are a lot like short circuits, in that experts blame them all too easily, when in fact they were the result of the accident, not the cause.

Page 2, Continued:

"KEEPING PACE" - #1

(Page 2)



HEADLAMPS ON OR OFF:

The above photographs are views of incandescent headlamp filaments from cars which have been strung out by the forces of impact, because the metal filament was hot at the time. A cold filament would have simply fractured without stringing out, because it would not be at all ductile. Another indication is the coloration left on the filament. When air enters the broken glass envelope of the bulb at the time of glass breakage during impact, the metal filament oxidizes in a very different manner if it is hot than if it is cold. The result is that a very different coloration is left on the filament. The above photographs were taken, with permission, from "Lamp Examination for On or Off in Traffic Accidents," issued by Northwestern University's Traffic Institute. Unfortunately, this publication is out of print.

If you think information in this newsletter and the ones to follow is useful, please let others know about this website.

Sincerely,

Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.
President