



Court Appearance for Driver in his 70s

Tisbury magistrate's, Colonel F S Kennedy Shaw C B, presiding, on Thursday ordered a septuagenarian motor driver to pay £6 15s costs and disqualified him from driving for ten years for having driven a motor lorry dangerously in the parish of East Knoyle.

Inspector Townsend told the Bench that proceedings were taken because of an accident which occurred at what was aptly known as the "Devil's Back", a hill leading down into Chicklade on the main London-Exeter road.

It was alleged that defendant drove a lorry toward Chicklade at a speed of 40 miles an hour and that when he got to the top of the hill he saw a small car coming up the hill. He applied his brakes and the lorry skidded for 270 feet, hit the bank on the offside of the road, went on for another 60 feet, somersaulted and landed the right way up with the front wheels on the bank, and the rear of the lorry on the roof of the car, which was proceeding in the opposite direction.

The driver of the lorry and his mate were injured, and were in Salisbury Infirmary for three or four weeks, two soldiers to whom the defendant was giving a lift were injured and taken to hospital, the driver of the car and his front seat passenger received cuts, but a woman and a three weeks old baby riding in the back seat of the car escaped uninjured.

The defendant, Albert Edward Matten of Braunton, North Devon, told the Bench that he was 70 years of age and only had the Old Age Pension to live on, so he took the job of driving the lorry to London. He had been driving for 40 years and this was the first complaint against him. He formerly drove for Cooks Tours, and thirty years ago was instructor to the Passengers Transport Board. He could not remember anything of the accident, but his speed just before it was 30-35 mph.

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