BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

VS.

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the Estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AT LAW

No. 5063

APPEAL BY PLAINTIFF

Now comes the Plaintiff and appeals to the Supreme Court of Alabama from final judgment rendered in this cause in and by the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, Law Side, on to-wit September 13, 1962.

DATED this 24th day of October, 1962.

Attorney for Plaintiff

SECURITY FOR COSTS

I, the undersigned, do hereby acknowledge myself as security for the costs of the appeal taken by the plaintiff in this cause.

Taken and approved on this the $\underline{24}$ day of October, 1962.

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama

BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

VS.

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AT LAW

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Now comes the Plaintiff in the above styled cause and amends the complaint heretofore filed in said cause as follows:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff claims of the Defendant the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for that heretofore on to-wit, September 27, 1961, the Plaintiff was a guest passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by the Defendant's intestate and while said vehicle was being driven at the said time in a Westerly direction on a public highway in Alabama, namely, Highway 98, located in Baldwin County, Alabama, at a place on said highway about one-half mile East of the center of Foley, Alabama, the Defendant's intestate did wantonly injure the Plaintiff by driving her said automobile at a wantonly excessive rate of speed and wantonly causing, allowing or permitting the said vehicle to turn over on said road several times, and as a direct and proximate cause of said willfulness and wantonness the Plaintiff was willfully and wantonly injured in this: Plaintiff was caused to suffer multiple lacerations of the face and a sterno-clavicular separation; Plaintiff has suffered much pain and will continue to suffer much pain as a result of these injuries and Plaintiff alleges that she has sustained permanent injuries all to her damage as aforesaid. Plaintiff has also been caused to incurmuch medical, drug and hospital bills due to her said injuries. Plaintiff further avers that all of her said injuries were caused as a direct and proximate result of the willful and wanton negligence of the said Defendant's intestate at the time and place complained of, hence this suit.

SEP 10 1962

ALIGE I. DUCK, CLERK REGISTER.

Attorney for Plaintiff

52 Moorer, Uhle S., Laborer, Day Minette
53 Duck, Horace Harold, Laborer, Bay Minette
54 Post Office, Bay Minette
55. Hodges, Willie Lee, Sawmill, Bay Minette

51 Friel, William E., Agriculture, Bay Minette

BETTY JEAN STANLEY,	X	
Plaintiff,	X	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
vs.	X	DAT DUITAL COLLANDS AT A DAMA
WII CON HAVES on Adminis	X	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
WILSON HAYES, as Adminis- trator of the estate of	Ĭ	AT LAW
EVELYN SHORES, Deceased,	X	
Defendant.	X	

Comes the Defendant in the above styled cause and demurs to the complaint filed in said cause and each and every count thereof, separately and severally, and assigns the following separate and several grounds, viz:

- 1. That said count does not state a cause of action.
- 2. That count "ONE" of said complaint attempts to set out the manner in which the Defendant's intestate was negligent, without setting out sufficient facts in regard to such negligence.
- 3. That said complaint does not allege any duty owing by the Defendant's intestate to the Plaintiff.
- 4. The allegation in count "ONE" of the complaint that the Plaintiff was a paying passenger fails to allege that she was paying the owner or operator of the vehicle in which she was riding.
- 5. Count "TWO" of the complaint affirmatively shows that the Plaintiff was a guest in the vehicle which was being driven by the Defendant's intestate and such count charges only simple negligence.
- 6. Count "TWO" of the complaint affirmatively shows that the Plaintiff was a guest in the vehicle which was being driven by the Defendant's intestate and such count does not charge willful or wanton negligence.

Attorneys for Defendant

BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AT LAW

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DEMURRER

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'APR 30 188

ALICE I DUCK CLERK REGISTER BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

VS.

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
AT LAW

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Now comes the Plaintiff in the above styled cause and amends the complaint heretofore filed in said cause as follows:

COUNT ONE

Plaintiff claims of the Defendant the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for that heretofore on to-wit, September 27, 1961, the Plaintiff was a passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by the Defendant's intestate, having paid said Defendant's intestate a valuable consideration therefor at said time, and while said vehicle was being driving in a Westerly direction on a public highway in Alabama, namely, Highway 98, located in Baldwin County, Alabama, at a point on said highway approximately one-half mile East of the center of Foley, Alabama, the Defendant's intestate did negligently cause, allow or permit said vehicle to turn over on said road several times and as a direct and proximate cause and result of said negligence the Plaintiff was injured as follows: Plaintiff was caused to suffer multiple lacerations of the face and a sternoclavicular separation; Plaintiff has suffered much pain and will continue to suffer much pain as a result of these injuries and Plaintiff alleges that she has sustained permanent injuries all to her damage as aforesaid. Plaintiff has also been caused to incur much medical, drug and hospital bills due to her said injuries. Plaintiff avers that all of her injuries were caused as a proximate result of the negligence of the Defendant's intestate, hence this suit.

COUNT TWO

Plaintiff claims of the Defendant the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for that heretofore on to-wit, September 27, 1961, the Plaintiff was a guest passenger in a vehicle owned and

174

operated by the Defendant's intestate and while said vehicle was being driven at the said time în a Westerly direction on a public highway in Alabama, namely, Highway 98, located in Baldwin County, Alabama, at a place on said highway about one-half mile East of the center of Foley, Alabama, the Defendant's intestate did wantonly injure the Plaintiff by willfully and wantonly causing, allowing or permitting the said vehicle to turn over on said road several times, and as a direct and proximate cause of said willfulness and wantonness the Plaintiff was willfully and wantonly injured in this: Plaintiff was caused to suffer multiple lacerations of the face and a sterno-clavicular separation; Plaintiff has suffered much pain and will continue to suffer much pain as a result of these injuries and Plaintiff alleges that she has sustained permanent injuries all to her damage as aforesaid. Plaintiff has also been caused to incur much medical, drug and hospital bills due to her said injuries. Plaintiff further avers that all of her said injuries were caused as a direct and proximate result of the willful and wanton negligence of the said Defendant's intestate at the time and place complained of, hence this suit.

MOORE, SIMON & LAYDEN and JAMES R. OWEN

MAY 28 1962 MAY 28 1962 MUCE J. DUCK, CLESTER Attorneys for Plaintiff

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
DATIONAL CONTROLS AT A DARGA
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
AT LAW
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Comes the Defendant in the above styled cause and demurs to the Amended Complaint filed in said cause and each and every count thereof, separately and severally, and assigns the following separate and several grounds, viz:

- 1. That said complaint does not state a cause of action.
- 2. That the allegation in "COUNT ONE" of the Amended Complaint "having paid said Defendant's intestate a valuable consideration therefor at said time" is not a sufficient allegation that the Plaintiff was a fare paying passenger at the time of the accident.
- 3. That "COUNT ONE" of the amended Complaint fails to allege what permanent injuries the Plaintiff has received as a result of the accident.
- 4. That "COUNT TWO" of the Amended Complaint does not allege that the Defendant's intestate wantonly allowed or wantonly permitted the vehicle that she was driving to turn over.
- 5. That "COUNT TWO" of the Amended Complaint does not allege what permanent injuries the Plaintiff has received as a result of the accident.

Attorneys for Defendant

JUL 16 1962
ALICE J. DUCK, REGISTER

BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the Estateof Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AT LAW

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DEMURRER

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AUG L DUN, PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE PERSON NAMED AND PERS

BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

VS.

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
AT LAW

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Now comes the plaintiff in the above styled cause and amends the complaint heretofore filed in said cause as follows:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff claims of the defendant the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for that heretofore on to-wit, September 27, 1961, the plaintiff was a guest passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by the defendant's intestate and while said vehicle was being driven at the said time in a westerly direction on a public highway in Alabama, namely, Highway 98, located in Baldwin County, Alabama, at a place on said highway about one-half mile east of the center of Foley, Alabama, the defendant's intestate did wantonly injure the plaintiff by driving her said automobile at a wantonly excessive rate of speed and wantonly causing, allowing or permitting the said vehicle to turn over on said road several times, and as a direct and proximate cause of said wantonness the plaintiff was wantonly injured in this: $_{\Lambda}$ plaintiff was caused to suffer multiple lacerations of the face and a sterno-clavicular separation; plaintiff has suffered much pain and will continue to suffer much pain as a result of these injuries and plaintiff alleges that she has sustained permanent injuries all to her damage as aforesaid. Plaintiff has also been caused to incur much medical, drug and hospital bills due to her said injuries. Plaintiff further avers that all of her said injuries were caused as a direct and proximate result of the wanton negligence of the said defendant's intestate at the time and place complained of, hence this suit.

FILED
JUL == 1984

Attorney for Plaintiff

ALICE I JUCK CLERK REGISTER

BK 32 p. 178-A

BETTY JEAN S	TANLEY,	No.	X	3	
	Plaintiff	>	ğ	IN THE CIRC	CUIT COURT OF
vs.	134 134	#* ##	Q		
	*.		. x	BALDWIN COU	JNTY, ALABAMA
WILSON HAYES	s, as Admii	nis-	Ţ		
trator of th Evelyn Shore			Q	AT	LAW
Lvelyn Shore	·	-	ğ		· ···· .
	Defendant	•	Ŏ		
			PLEAS		

Comes the Defendant in the above styled cause and for plea to the amended complaint filed in said cause, says:

- 1. Not guilty.
- 2. That the allegations of the amended complaint are untrue.

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BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

٧٤

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,

Defendant

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AT LAW

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BETTY JEAN STANLEY,	X
Plaintiff,	Ĭ
vs.	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
WILSON HAVES on Administration	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the Estate of Evelyn Shores,	
deceased,	ÂT LAW
Defendant.	Ŷ

Comes the Defendant in the above styled cause and for plea to Count Two of the amended complaint says:

- 1. Not guilty.
- 2. That the allegations of the complaint are untrue.

ALIGE L DUCK, CLERK REGISTER

5063

PLEAS

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

BETTY JEAN STANLEY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

5.3

WILSON HAYES, as Administrator of the Estate of Evelyn Shores, deceased,

Defendant.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

AT LAW

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ALICE J. DUCK, CLERK REGISTER

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We, the Jury, find the issues in favor of the Defendant.

Plaintiff,

Plaintiff,

VS
WILSON HAYES, as Administrator (1)
of the Estate of Evelyn Shores,
Deceased,

Defendant.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA,
AT LAW.

CASE NO. <u>1063</u>

COUNT ONE

Plaintiff claims of the Defendant the sum of TEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS for that heretofore on to-wit, September 27, 1961, the Plaintiff was a paying passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by the Defendant's intestate. Said vehicle being driven at the time west on a public highway of Alabama, namely, Highway 98, located in Baldwin County, Alabama, at a place on said Highway about one-half $(\frac{1}{2})$ mile east of the center of Foley, Alabama, when the Defendant's intestate did negligently cause, allow or permit the said vehicle to turn over on said road several times, and as a direct and proximate cause of said negligence the Plaintiff was injured in this: Plaintiff was caused to suffer multiple lacerations of the face and a sterno-clavicular separation; Plaintiff has suffered pain and will continue to suffer pain as a result of these injuries and Plaintiff alleges she has sustained permanent injuries all to her damages. Plaintiff has also been caused to incur medical, drug and hospital bills due to said injuries.

COUNT TWO

Plaintiff claims of the Defendant the sum of TEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS for that heretofore on to-wit, September 27, 1961, the Plaintiff was a guest

170

passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by the Defendant's intestate. Said vehicle being driven at the time west on a public highway of Alabama, namely, Highway 98, located in Baldwin County, Alabama, at a place on said Highway about one-half $(\frac{1}{2})$ mile east of the center of Foley, Alabama, when the Defendant's intestate did negligently cause, allow or permit the said vehicle to turn over on said road several times, and as a direct and proximate cause of said negligence the Plaintiff was injured in this: Plaintiff was caused to suffer multiple lacerations of the face and a sterno-clavicular separation; Plaintiff has suffered pain and will continue to suffer pain as a result of these injuries and Plaintiff alleges she has sustained permanent injuries all to her damages. Plaintiff has also been caused to incur medical, drug and hospital bills due to said injuries.

MOORE, SIMON & LAYDEN

Lionel L. Layden

Attorney for Plaintiff

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Defendant may be served: At his office in

Bay Minette, Alabama

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ALICE J. DUCK, CLERK REGISTER

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,

BALDWIN COUNTY

No	5063	CIRCUIT	COURT,	BALDWIN (CUNTY
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TO ANY SHERIF	F OF THE STATE OF	F ALABAWA:	
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You Are Hereby Co	mmanded to Summon_	Wilson Haves	
59 500 514		Wilson Hayes, as Administrat	or of the Estate
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		of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,	
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to appear and plead	l, answer or demur, wi	ithin thirty days from the service hereof, to th	e complaint filed in th
Circuit Court of Ba	ldwin County, State of	Alabama, at Bay Minette, against <u>WILS</u>	ON HAYES, As
Circuit Court of Ba	ldwin County, State of the Estate of Ev	Alabama, at Bay Minette, against <u>WILS</u>	e complaint filed in th ON HAYES, As Defendant
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No. 5063 Page		
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CIRCUIT COURT		3/5, 1962
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Defendant's Att	ornev	MI 11. Zellech
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THE STATE OF ALABAMA---JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

October Term, 19 63-64

To the_	Clerk	of the	Circu	it	Court of	
	B	aldwin	C	ounty, Greeting	:	
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whereir	n by said Court	it was considered	adversely	to said appell	ant, were brou	ight before or
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appelle	ерасухW	ilson Hayes,	as Adm	c., of the	Estate of E	velyn
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THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

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THE STATE OF ALABAMA - - - JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

THE SUPPEME COURT OF ALABAMA

OCTOBER TERM 1963-64

1 Div. 110

Betty Jean Stanley

W a

Wilson Nayes, as Adm'r, etc. Appeal from Baldwin Circuit Court

FUR CURLAN.

Plaintiff, Betty Jean Stanley, appeals from a judgment for the defendant following a verdict directed by the trial court in favor of defendant.

The complaint as amended alleges that plaintiff "... was a guest passenger in a vehicle owned and operated by Defendant's intestate and which said vehicle was being driven at said time ... on a public highway in Alabama, ... the Defendant's intestate did wantonly injure the Plaintiff by driving her said automobile at a wantonly excessive rate of speed and wantonly causing, allowing or permitting the said vehicle to turn over on said road several times, and as a direct and proximate cause of said willfulness and wantonness the Plaintiff was willfully and wantonly injured in this: (injuries are here catalogued)."

The plaintiff undertook to prove her allegation that defendant's intestate was driving the vehicle at the time by questions to plaintiff as follows: "Nave you ever driven this automobile that was involved in the accident?" and, "Who was in the automobile with you?"

The trial court sustained objections to these questions presumably on the ground that the plaintiff was disqualified to amswer because of § 433, Title 7, Code 1940, often referred to as the "dead man's statute," which reads as follows:

"In civil suits and proceedings, there must be no exclusion of any witness because he is a party, or interested in the issue tried, except that no person having a pecuniary interest in the result of the suit or proceeding shall be allowed to testify against the party to whom his interest is opposed, as to any transaction with, or statement by, the deceased person

whose estate is interested in the result of the suit or proceeding, or when such deceased person, at the time of such transaction or statement, acted in any representative or fiduciary relation whatsoever to the party against whom such testimony is sought to be introduced, unless called to testify thereto by the party to whom such interest is opposed, or unless the testimony of such decessed persom in relation to such transaction or statement is introduced in evidence by the party whose interest is opposed to that of the witness, or has been taken and is on file in the cause. No person who is an incompetent witness under this section shall make himself competent by transferring his interest to another."

As said in <u>Southern Natural Gas Co. v. Davidson</u>,

225 Ala. 171, 142 So. 63(3,4), this section applies, among
other conditions, when (1) the witness has a pecuniary interest
in the result of the suit, and (2) the deceased acted in a representative relation to the party against whom the evidence
is offered, and (3) he testifies to a transaction with the deceased. The facts in the case at bar show the existence of (1)
and there is no contention that (2) is involved. The question
is whether the allegations of the complaint, if so, show a
transaction with deceased.

An application of this statutory exclusion was made in the case of Southern Natural Gas Co. v. Davidson, supra, but denied in the case of Gibson v. McDonald, Admr., 265 Ala. 426, 91 So. 2d 679. In this latter case, this court summarised the situation by observing that there was an automobile accident at a street intersection in Birmingham, in the early hours of January 28, 1953, to which there were no eyewitnesses except the drivers of the two cars, both of whom were killed, and Ruby Gibson (appellant), who was riding as a guest in the Buick car driven by Josephus Perry. The other vehicle was driven by one Fortenberry, intestate of defendant.

In the Gibson case, we observed: "... To put it smother way, does the testimony sought to be introduced fall within the category of testimony 'as to any transaction with, or statement by the deceased person whose estate is interested in the result of the suit or proceeding?" (265 Als., 428)

We said in the Davidson case, supra:

"... that to come within the influence of the statute (dead mam's statute) the testimony 'must be [of] some act done by the deceased, or in the doing of which he personally participated.' In both of these cases (previously cited) the evidence related to what was called 'colleteral facts,' but there is excluded all 'negotiations, interviews and actions between the parties.' It was also shown that a 'transaction' involved the idea that 'something (was)

done by both parties acting in concert, in which both took part, and does not include matter which did not come to his knowledge by personal dealings with the deceased.

(Cases cited)

* * * * *

"It is said in 5 Jones on Evidence, §§ 2228 and 2261, that such a rule of exclusion as our section 7721 applies to tort actions as well as others. Our cases make no distinction. The authorities do not seem to be influenced by the kind of suit, but the character of the incidents related by the witness. Our cases exclude conversations, orders, and all forms of communications between the parties, and all their personal dealings and conduct. The evidence of matter which is open and public is not the test. But the test is that it relates to some personal dealings whether others have equal opportunity to see and observe or not. The concurring conduct of the participants constituting the res gestee of a personal conflict or encounter between them has been held to be a transaction within the effect of such statute. (Cases cited)

"The conduct of Rd Green constituting that which is alleged to have been negligent

and a breach of duty to plaintiff causing
his injuries and damage, which occurred in
his presence, and a part of the res gestac
of such negligent conduct was of the nature
of personal dealings with plaintiff under
the rule, and constituted a 'transaction'
within the meaning of our statute. Appellant duly excepted to the rulings of the
court as to such evidence, and we think
that in this there was reversible error."
(Imphasis supplied) (225 Ala., 173-174)
Adverting again to the case of Gibson v. McDonald,

surra, decided by this court since the Davidson case, <u>surra</u>, we made some distinctions and observations which we think are pertinent and have application to the case at ber.

"... She (Ruby Gibson) had no supervision or control over what he did or failed to do in the operation of this car. Under these circumstances, even if Josephus Perry was guilty of negligence, such negligence could not be attributed to Ruby Gibson. She was not occupying the automobile driven by defendant's intestate, Howard Wallace Fortenberry, nor was he driving his car as her servant, agent or employee, and it was not being operated under her supervision or control. In short, she was free from any fault in connection with this accident. She was

innocent of the result which took place outside of her control. She took no part in the occurrence other than to be present in the car of Josephus Perry when the collision occurred. She was more or less as observer of the accident, and had no dealings with defendant's intestate pertaining to any phase of this accident. She did not mutually participate in it with him. He made no statements to her and she made no statements to him about anything pertaining to the accident. Nuby Gibson attempted to testify to facts and circumstances regarding this accident within her own observation and knowledge. She attempted to state to the court what she saw take place between the car driven by defendant's intestate and a third party. This testimony the court refused to allow her to give. Suppose Ruby Gibson had been standing on the sidewalk at the time of the collision and was injured by reason of the collision. Could it be said by reason of this statute she was barred from giving her version of the circumstances and the details of the eccident as she saw them? Plainly we think that she was not barred. If this is true, what is the difference between a situation where she received injuries on the sidewalk and a

situation where she received injuries simply riding in the car driven by Josephus Perry involved in an accident, as in the case at bar? It seems to us that there can be no valid distinction between the two situations and that the view here expressed is supported not only by Alabama suthorities which have construed the Alabama statute but by authorities from other jurisdictions.

* * * * *

"In Warner v. Warner, 248 Ala. 556, 28 So. 2d 701, 702, the rule was reaffirmed that the statutory rule disqualifying a witness who is interested in the result of a suit from testifying to facts coming to his knowledge through personal dealings with decedent whose estate is affected by the issue, is limited to personal dealings in which both parties participated.

"The above cited cases show that while the word 'personal' does not appear in § 433,

Title 7, Code of 1940, the statute has been construed by the Supreme Court of Alabama to require that the transaction sought to be excluded must be a personal one. As shown by the facts which we have recited above, how can it be said that the transaction between Ruby Gibson and Howard Wallace Fortenberry, was a personal transaction? Obviously, it could not be so."

(Emphasis supplied) (265 Ala., 429-431)

Thereupon, we adverted, with approval, to the case of <u>Selimen v. Hemmond (Orth)</u>, 205 Wis. 199, 236 N. W. 115, 117, wherefrom we quoted:

"We do not regard these questions and answers as dealing with a personal transaction or communication with decedent.

They are the history of an event in which the decedent, with others, was involved, but not one personal between him and the witness. It was partly, also, a description of what the driver of the other car was doing, and in part a description of the place where the accident occurred, and of the individual acts of the defendant in driving his car and in seeking to avert an accident. The defendant was competent to testify to any relevant matter, not being a transaction with the decedent personally."

We also quoted with approval from the case of <u>Krentz</u>

v. Krentz, 211 Wis. 249, 248 N. W. 155, 157, as follows:

"This case again squarely presents the question as to whether a passenger, who did not participate in the operation or control of an automobile at the time of the accident, is completent, notwithstanding the death of the driver, and the provisions of section 325.16, State., to testify as to his observations of the driver's movements and actions in operating and controlling the automobile.

That question was given extended consideration recently in Waters v. Markham, 204 Wis. 332, 235 N. W. 797, and Seligman v. Hommond, 204 Wis. 199, 236 N. W. 115, 117. There are conflicts in the results at which courts have arrived, under the statutes, on this subject in other states. To some extent those conflicts are due to differences in the wording of the statutes involved. Under section 325.16, Wis. Stats., the prohibition as to a party (or other person included in the class described in the statute) testifying is solely that he shall not testify 'in respect to any transaction or communication by him personally with a deceased or insane parson," etc. When due significance is accorded the italicized words, 'by him personally with,' the transaction meant in that statute is, as we held in Seligman v. Hammond, supra, a mutual transaction between the deceased and the witness who survives, in which both, the survivor, as well as the deceased, actively participated. The statute does not probibit the survivor from describing an event or physical situation, or the movements or actions of a deceased person, quite independent and apart, and in no wey connected with, or prompted or influenced by resson of, the conduct of the party testifying. Seligmen v. Hemmond, supra. Thus construed, the statute did not ber the testimony of plaintiff
as to his observations and descriptions of the
physical situation, and the movements and
actions of the driver at the time of the accident." (Dephasis supplied)

Again quoting from <u>Cibson v. Nobonald</u>, <u>supra</u>, we said:

"It will be noted from the last cited authority (Krantz v. Krantz) that under the Wisconsin Statute the prohibition is that the witness 'shall not testify "in respect to any transaction or communication by him personally with the deceased or immane person." The word 'personally' is emphasized in the opinion, but as we have pointed out while the word personally is not in the Alabama statute the Alabama statute has been construed to mean a transaction which the witness has had personally with a deceased person. 70 C. J. 8 398.

See also Hardison v. Gregory, 242 N. C. 324,

If the plaintiff was only a guest or passenger in the automobile, was not exercising any supervision or control over what the driver did or failed to do in the operation of the car, was free from any active fault in connection with such operation, and took no part in the occurrence other than to be present in the car as a guest or passenger when the accident occurred, we think she was in a situation factually parallel to

the plaintiff in the Krantz case, <u>supra</u>, and should be permitted to testify that Mrs. Shores was driving at the time of the accident, and to answer the aforequoted questions to her, which are negative but of like import. Also she should be permitted to testify to facts and circumstances regarding the accident, the driver's movements and actions in operating and controlling the automobile, all within her observation and knowledge, but not to statements by or conversations with her.

If it should appear, however, from the evidence without dispute that plaintiff was not a more guest or passenger, or if either, she did exercise supervision or control as outlined above, or was not free from active fault in connection with such operation, and took some part as a participant in the occurrence, the trial judge should exclude from the jury on motion the evidence of the witness so admitted.

participation well non of the plaintiff in and about the supervision or the operation of the automobile, or as to plaintiff's status as a guest or passenger, and the jury is reasonably satisfied from the evidence that the plaintiff did not supervise or control the operation of the car, or that plaintiff's status was not that of a mere guest or passenger, then the court should instruct them to disregard such testimony of the plaintiff, and, if there is no other admissible testimony as to the identity of the driver, to return a verdict for the defendant.

We held in <u>Gualla v. Monroe County Bank</u>, 229 Ala. 315, 156 So. 846(2), that both negative and affirmative testimony are within the rule prohibiting a witness from testifying as to statements or transactions with a decedent whose estate is interested in the result of a suit. The questions propounded to the witness in the case at bar sought negative testimony that in our opinion was not precluded by the "dead man's statute." The court committed reversible error in sustaining objections thereto.

Mrs. Robert Hagel, a witness for plaintiff, testified that on September 27, 1961, she heard a loud crash about 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning near her home; that she ran outside immediately, where she saw a wrecked car and two women, one of whom was lying in the middle of the road and the other (plaintiff) in the ditch on the grass; that she ran back to her home, called the telephone operator, and told her to notify the police. In just a few minutes Officer Osburn arrived, followed shortly by an ambulance. She also testified that there was a warning or blinker light in operation close to the scene of the accident. Also she stated that she went immediately to the scene of the wreck after the crash, and that she saw no one there other than the two women involved in the wreck until the officer and the ambulance arrived.

Frank Osburn, a witness for plaintiff, testified that he was at the time Assistant Chief of Police of Foley, and had served as police officer for sixteen years. We will not detail the training and experience which the witness testified he had had with respect to investigating automobile accidents, but it suffices to say that the training he stated he had received, together with his experience, was in our opinion ample to qualify him as an expert on the subject of such accidents and details relating thereto, including speed of automobiles involved in collisions as shown by skid marks and kindred physical signs.

The witness stated that at the time of the accident there were present on the highway at the scene of the accident two thirty-mile-an-hour speed zone signs, a horizontal S curve sign, and two slow signs on the right hand side of the black-top; and also a "reduce speed" sign; that the character of the road some 700 feet towards Elberta to the place where he found the automobile was on a rise; that it was an S curve for a distance of some 700 feet.

He also testified that when he arrived at the scene of the accident he found a 1961 Comet automobile in the left lame of the road at the west end of the curve; that the car blocked the right lame going east. He also described the condition of the Comet car at the scene of the accident.

He further observed that he found skid marks leading east to west 657 feet that lead up to the place where he found the wrecked car; also that the skid marks started 632 feet "back here coming into the curve in here," Also he stated that he found "debris from the car" scattered all over this lame, to where the car stopped on the blacktop.

- "Q. What is the distance from the point where you first observed the skid marks back towards Elberts to where the skid marks ended? -- Will you refer to your notes and tell the Court and jury that?
 - A. To where the skid marks ended?
- Q. Yes sir?
- A. That was 432 feet.
- Q. Now far was it from where the skid marks ended up to the place you found the automobile?
- A. 225 feet.

** * * * *

- Q. Getting back to where these skid marks ended the 225 feet between where the skid marks ended
 and the place where you found the automobile,
 did you find anything between those two points?
- A. Yes, I found a lot of debris from the car; found dug-out holes where the car top dug out in the ground.
- Q. Did you find any glass?
- A. I did sir."

The witness then testified that when he arrived at the scene three ladies were present - Mrs. Hagel, the plaintiff, and Evelyn Shores; that Mrs. Shores was on the east side of the 1961 Comet on the driver's side right even - her feet right even with the door - lying on the blacktop; she was completely out of the automobile with her head close to the center

line of the blacktop. Mrs. Stanley was down in the ditch west of the car. Both were injured. Also he testified that he found some lady's shoes under the accelerator of the Comet car and that Mrs. Stanley had on her shoes.

We think under the facts and circumstances here presented that the witness Osburn should have been allowed to give his judgment as to the speed of the automobile at the time of the accident. The record is not clear to us on what grounds the court sustained objection thereto. There is evidence as to lengthy skid marks (432 feet) made before the automobile presumably turned over; that was no inference or evidence that the car hit a moving object, so as to make it "behave in a menner which seemingly defies all laws of physics." - Mobile City Lines v. Alexander, 249 Ala. 107, 112, 30 So. 2d 4, 8; Jowers v. Demohin, 273 Ale. 567, 143 So. 2d 167. We hold the rule emunciated in Jackson v. Vaugha, 204 Ale. 543, 86 So. 469(3), here applies. It sustains the principle that one shown to be an expert, as here, may express an opinion as to the speed of an automobile predicated on the distance the tires "skidded" or were dragged along the highway before impact. This case was cited with approval in <u>Johnson v. Battles</u>, 255 Ala. 624, 52 So. 2d 702.

The triel court admitted in evidence, over the objection of defendant, a copy of a license tag receipt issued to Mrs. George P. Shores for a 1961 two-door Comet, bearing license tag No. 5-1608. This copy was duly certified by the Probate Judge of Baldwin County as a full, true and correct

copy of the 1962 License Tag Receipt No. 5-1608 as it appears of record in his office.

This license receipt copy, when properly shown that the licensee and Evelyn Shores, the decedent, were one and the same person, was admissible in evidence, and created a rebuttable presumption that Mrs. Shores was the owner of the Comet car involved in the wreck. - Con v. Roberts, 248 Ale.

372, 27 So. 24 617(3); Shipp et al. v. Davis, 25 Ale. App.

104, 141 So. 366; Ford v. Bankins, 209 Ale. 202, 96 So. 349(1).

Appellant contends that the rebuttable presumption of ownership created by the issuance of a license top receipt and top to the decedent, Mrs. Shores, gives birth to a rebuttable presumption that she was driving the automobile at the time of the accident. Appellee contends that no such presumption obtains because it would be contrary to the rule that an inference cannot be predicated on another inference.

The Alabama rule is that where a driver of an automobile is involved in an accident, a rebuttable presumption of agency exists between him and the owner of the car on proof of an administrative presumption of ownership or other competent proof of such ownership. It is further proof that such agent was acting within the line and scope of his authority, but subject to rebuttal. - Barber Pure Milk Co. v. Holmes, 264 Ala. 45, 34 So. 24 345.

This court being committed to the rule that a rebuttable presumption of agency exists between the driver and the owner of the vehicle involved in an accident on proof that

defendant's name appears on the vehicle, or that the vehicle is licensed or registered for a license plate in his name, we think it logically follows, and we so hold, that proof of such ownership also raises a presumption, in automobile injury cases, that the machine was at the time of the accident, the owner being then and there present, under the owner's control or was being driven by him, and the burden of rebutting this presumption passes to such owner. -Robinson v. Workman, 9 III. 2d 420, 137 N. E. 2d 804(9); <u>Kavale v. Morton Salt Co.</u>, 329 III. 445, 160 N. E. 752; Watt v. Yellow Cab Co. et al., 347 Ill. App. 207, 106 N. E. 2d 760; <u>Rose v. Ruan Transport Corp.</u>, (7 Cir.), 214 F. 2d 583(L2); 61 C. J. S., Motor Vehicles, § 511(b), p. 218, and cases cited; Renner v. Pennsylvania R. Co., 61 Ohio L. Abs. 298, 103 N. E. 2d 832(7): Rodney v. Steman, 371 Pa. 1. 89 A. 2d 313(6,7), 32 A. L. R. 2d 976.

We conclude the evidence as to the physical condition of the road at the time, the distance the car skidded, and its physical condition after it came to rest, and the presence of warning signs on the side of the road, together with the estimated speed of the car at the time, would be admissible for the jury to determine whether or not the driver of the car was guilty of wantonness in its operation as charged in the complaint. - Shirley v. Shirley, 261 Ala. 100, 73 So. 24 77(14, 15).

We pretermit any discussion of the everment that defendant's intestate willfully and wantonly injured plaintiff. When such everment is in the conjunctive, as here,

proof of willfulness or design or purpose is necessary. - <u>Dickey V. Russell</u>, 268 Ala. 267, 105 So. 2d 649(3).

We cannot say what the evidence of plaintiff would have been had she been allowed to testify as to the operation of the car. Hence, we cannot sustain a directed verilet for failure of such proof under the directedness here presented.

The trial court committed reversible error as herein observed, and also in directing the jury to return a verdict for the defendant. It is ordered that the judgment be reversed and the cause remanded for further proceedings.

The foregoing opinion was prepared by B. W. Simmons, Supernumerary Circuit Judge, and was adopted by this court as its opinion.

KIVERSID AMD KIMANDED.

Livingston, C. J., Goodwyn, Coleman and Merwood, JJ., concur.

STATE OF ALABAMA--JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

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THE SUPRI	EME COURT OF AL	3773380
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	Az	pellant,
	v.	
Wilson Hay	es, as Administra	itor of
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	Opinion	

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DIV. No.	CERTIFICATE OF APPEAL. (Civil Cases,)
No5063	
2003	
	BaldwinCounty, Circuit Court.
BETTY JEAN STANLEY	
Plainti vs.	ii.
LITT CORT TIATING	
Defenda:	of the Estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased,
I. Alica I Pro-	
Of Political	Clerk of Circuit Court,
Saldwin	County, Alabama, hereby certify that in the
cause ofBetty Jean Sta	vs. plaintiff,
	V 3 •
Wilson Hayes, As Administrator	of the Estate of Evelyn Shores, Deceased, defendant,
which was tried and determi	ined in this Court on the 13th day of
September 1962 in	which there was a judgment for the Defendant
**Annadatandant	Temporations of the test of the content of the cont
the Plainti	on the 24th day of
October 19	9 62 , took an appeal to the Supreme Court
of Alabama to be holden of a	nd for said State.
I further certify t	hat James R. Owen , Attorney for Plaintiff
filed security for cost of a	ppeal, to the SupremeCourt, on
the 24 day of October	19 62, and that James R. Owen,
is sure Views on the appeal	The state of the s
i further certify th	at notice of the said appeal was on the
day of19	, served on Chason & Stone
as attorney of record for s	said appellee, and that the amount sued for
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×II	he seal of this govern
day of October	he seal of this Court, this the 24th
and the second s	- Clark Duck
	Clerk of the Circuit Court of
	BaldwinCounty, Alabama.

Div. No.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County - Circuit Court

5063

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA — GREETING:

Whereas, at a Term of the Circ	uit Court of Baldwin Count	y, held on the	
13th day of September, 196	52 Monday in	, 196 , in a cer-	
tain cause in said Court wherein	Betty Jean Stanley		e i strangantin i nasheti ti shakiti i saditirakiyayatif ke
F	Plaintiff, and Wilson Hay	ves, as Administrator of the	
Estate of Evelyn Shores	Defendant, a judg	ment was rendered against said	
Betty Jean Stanley			
Decey Dean Ocaniey	***************************************	NO	
to reverse whichJudgment	the said Betty	Jean Stanley	
		:	
applied for and obtained from this off			
Term of our Supreme Courthe day of		next, and the necessary bond	and the second second
having been given by the said	James R. Owen		
Now, You Are Hereby Common of the Estate of Evelyn Shores,	anded. without delay, to cite	the said Wilson Hayes, as Admi	inistrato
, attorney, to a	ppear at the next	Term of our	
said Supreme Court, to defend agains	t the said Appeal, if	they think proper.	
Witness, ALICE J. DUCK, Cle	rk of the Circuit Court of	said County, this 24th	
day of October, A. D	., 196_2		

Attest:

alief. hick, Clerk

CIRCUIT COURT Baldwin County, Alabama

Betty Jean Stunley

Citation in Appeal

Issued day of , 196 ,

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TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff By W. G., Falled D. S.

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