

# Taxi Driver Gets Low Pay; Forced to Serve Same Low Characters

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The taxi-driver's life is a hard one, pay is bad, and his fares are often very bad, says Sol Auerbach, winner of the New York Nation's first prize for a write-up of American college student's summer work.

In his article Auerbach wrote about pay:

"We were paid on purely commission basis of 33 1/3 percent. The cab people had the Sesquicentennial hysteria. There were twice as many Yellow Cabs on the street as in a normal summer. The average pay was about \$20 a week to which can be added \$10 in tips.

Further:

"I 'played' regularly, after 1 a. m., the busiest street intersection of West Philadelphia. On the second story of one corner building was a large gambling joint. A few doors along, a saloon. A door or two on the other side, a cafe where drink and women were for sale. Two girls also 'played' that corner regularly. Every night they were there and every night they were 'picked up,' sometimes by cops, sometimes by smart men in automobiles. Many a girl was transferred from a private car on that corner to a cab to be taken home. Men have stepped into my cab to go home and have picked a companion out of the street. I have had to lift drunks out of my cab who were so powerless that they could not open the door. During the day this corner is the business and trading center for the respectable families of West Philadelphia. These things do not happen once a week, or even once a night, but all night long in all parts of the city.

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