

Private Drivers, Especially Some Women, Cause Majority of Automobile Accidents

The truck driver, Mr. and Mrs. Private Driver, doesn't think much of your ability to pilot an automobile safely!

For years you've called this same truck driver a road hog or worse, and screamed that there ought to be a law to keep trucks off the road.

But times have changed. And the National Safety Council of Chicago, today announced results of studies that show the commercial vehicle driver has greatly improved his safety record in recent years, while that of the private car driver has become worse.

Since 1927 the number of trucks involved in fatal accidents has decreased 25 per cent. The number of buses involved in fatal accidents has dropped 41 per cent during the same period.

But the number of passenger cars involved in fatal accidents 1927 has increased 21 per cent!

Truck Driver Safest
Is it any wonder, then, that the truck and bus driver feel they are entitled to toss back a few opinions of their own at the private driver?

"There are a number of reasons why the average commercial vehicle driver is a safer driver," says James G. Hayden, commercial fleet engineer for the National Safety Council. Foremost among the reasons listed by Mr. Hayden are:

1. The commercial driver makes his living behind the wheel. He's at it an average of eight hours a day and the very volume of his experience pounds home the need for safety in his driving habits.

2. The commercial driver has safety drilled into him by his employer day after day. He is made continually aware that accidents hurt company good will, boost his employer's public liability insurance rates and place his job in jeopardy.

Mr. Hayden will conduct a one-week course in vehicle fleet safety during the program of the National Institute for Traffic Safety Training to be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, August 14-25.

The course will cover every detail of the balanced fleet safety programs, which are producing better and safer commercial drivers and vehicle fleet safety records that should put the private car driver to shame.

Many of these fleet records run to many hundreds of thousands of no-accident miles by the entire crew of drivers. The best such records aggregate well over a million no-accident miles, several are over 2,000,000 miles, and the very best no-accident record of which the National Safety Council knows is held by a commercial fleet—more than 4,000,000 consecutive miles without a single accident!

Private Driver Chided
Curious as to the truck driver's reaction to the verbal brickbats that have been tossed at him for years by private drivers, the National Safety Council polled a representative number of city and in-urban truck drivers for their opinions of the manner in which the average private driver handles his car.

Excerpts from their replies are something for you to think about, Mr. and Mrs. Private Driver. Here they are:

"Their worst habit is passing you on the left and then cutting sharply in front of you to make a right hand turn on an intersection (they agreed the driver who cuts across from the right for a left hand turn is just as bad)."

"I think conversation causes a lot of accidents. A fellow and a girl will drive along chinning about things, or couple of business men will be closing a deal, and they'll drift all over the street, when we give 'em then their minds back on their driving, they glare at us as though they were going to pull a gun."

"The private driver thinks he has the right of way everywhere all the time. He even thinks you should pull away from a parking hole and give it to him, even though you're there first and have begun to pull into it."

"Ever see those guys come out of a parking spot at the curb? Zip whammy, and they're off in a cloud of exhaust smoke! Boy, I swallow my heart a dozen times a day for drivers who pull that stunt."

"I don't think these guys (private drivers) really know how fast they drive."

"Gastaken drivers are O. K. They drive about as much as we do and they know what they're doing."

Office Workers Rush
"Those office workers and business people! Did you ever see a street car or bus at five o'clock? They dash headlong into the street. Some of them don't even look for approaching traffic. Private drivers are the same way. All they think about is getting home, speeding through intersections, growing at every body, cutting in and out."

The private driver takes advantage of us. He knows we have to give way to him because our jobs depend partly on staying out of accidents. If his fender does get nicked, he never will admit it is his fault and he doesn't let any grass grow under his feet in

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First G. M. Car Off Line Is 1940 Buick



THE FIRST 1940 Buick has rolled off the assembly line and production will go forward at an accelerated pace according to announcement by Harlow H. Curtice, Buick president and general manager. Completion of Number One car, a Buick Wildcat, Buick general sales manager, O. W. Young, general manufacturing manager, Mr. Curtice, says the first Buick is the first of the General Motors units to launch 1940 output.

shows the first Buick being inspected by Buick officials and artist Russell Patterson, noted stylist and designer, who can be seen studying the new design of the first 1940 model. Left to right, Mr. Patterson, Buick general sales manager, O. W. Young, general manufacturing manager, Mr. Curtice, says the first Buick is the first of the General Motors units to launch 1940 output.

getting a suit started against the outfit we drive for."

Women Worst Drivers
The drivers were asked what they thought about women drivers. The consensus was that if a woman's place isn't in the home, it's some place other than behind the wheel of a car until they learn more about driving. Here's what they say, ladies:

"Women are terrible drivers. They pay no attention to your horn and if you waited for them to give you a hand signal to find out what they intend to do, you'd block traffic for four miles before they'd get going."

"Window shopping from her moving car is the woman driver's worst trick. How they ever figure they can read price tags from the middle of the street and keep from getting hit or hitting someone is too much for me."

"Sure, maybe there are fewer women drivers involved in accidents. But the women cause more of 'em then men do—men drivers get forced into accidents trying to stall clear of women drivers. Really, Boy, I stay as far away from women drivers as I can." (This brought a chorus of agreement.)

There is supreme confidence in the way they say it. But the accident records indicate there may be a lot in what they say!

S'mythology
By A. LAURENCE SMITH

There Are Drawbacks
Television may not be altogether satisfactory if it enables us "to see ourselves as others see us."

Whose Responsibility?
If war comes to Europe, Britain, France and the stupid Versailles treaty will be largely responsible. It is a court case to build a fire under the steam boiler that lacks a safety valve.

Unemployment Through Taxation
Another daily, the Fordland News-Telegram, has suspended publication, and gives several reasons, ranging from "greatly increased costs of production to an ever increasing tax burden." The President, Congress, and State Legislatures haven't learned that industry cannot continue to operate unless it takes in.

"Honest Graft"
Chicago's experience in building its 28 mile water front park system should be an object lesson to all other cities of how not to do it. The "honest graft," that is, the real estate speculation that develops through the expenditure of taxpayers' money, and the private profits that result, is a disgrace that can be stopped whenever we are ready.

Precedent Versus President
Alfred M. Landon is afraid that the third term idea sets a dangerous precedent, but all we need fear is this connection is a dangerous precedent.

"Two Cars in Every Garage"
Herbert Hoover, in speaking of the possibility of war, is quoted as saying: "but the horrible invention of the automobile is a lower standard of living for at least a quarter of a century." Why wasn't Mr. Hoover thinking of this when he signed the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill, which has made such a tremendous contribution to establishment of friction between nations, and to lower the standard of living, not only here at home, but in Europe and throughout the world? It isn't possible to make things cost more and at the same time have more of them.

No Dice
Police Chief Charles Dice, of

Santa Monica, Cal., had a red face when he discovered that his nice, new, shiny automobile had been stolen. It is only "natural" to think that some "Big Dick" came along and wanted to give "Phoebe" and "Little Joe" a ride in a "Box car" for "seven" or "eleven" hours. But there is no suggestion of crooked dice.

Who Are the Rubes?
When we poke fun at the Rubes who drive the Brooklyn Bridge and the City Hall, we are laughing at the wrong people. The real Rubes are the city councilmen who give the taxpayers' money for values already belonging to the people. A Detroit jury has just awarded \$507,000 to property owners (?) in connection with a street widening. It is alright to pay for damage to buildings and other improvements, but what are known as land values are really popular values, created by the public; whose ownership should be recognized as belonging to the public without further payment.

Crooners and Cows
There is one thing certain about radio crooners: they were never raised on farms. No one who has ever heard a sad cow moan in agony could possibly make the terrible noises of these alleged singers put forth through the innocent microphone.

Friendly Enemies?
Can't you imagine Hitler and Stalin signing their new pact, each with a pen in one hand and a knife in the other? And can any really Boy, I stay as far away from women drivers as I can." (This brought a chorus of agreement.)

Bad Smells
Residents of Pleasant Ridge Michigan, are complaining of "nauseous odors" arising from a chemical factory in their neighborhood, and perhaps with reason. However, a much worse smell arises from the Intangible Tax bill passed by the recent Michigan Legislature, and it is much more of a menace; and there is little, if

Rodeo Stars at Michigan State Fair

ESTELLE BUTLER AND RALPH CLARK, two of the featured stars of the N. Y. World's Fair "Cavalcade of Centuries", looking over the corral and chutes with Alice Adams, a bronc rider at the Michigan State Fair, where they are to compete with 250 other riders. The rodeo is to be but one of the great outdoor attractions, which also include harness racing, at the greatest agricultural fair that Michigan has ever had.

Flash—City Commissioner W. E. Moody, chairman of the Parade Committee for Birmingham's City Loyalty Day, has invited the Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts of Birmingham to participate in the parade on Civic Loyalty Day, September 10. The Scouts will also have a float in the parade, for which Scout Commissioner Ralph Main is making plans.

The great name-your-boat contest is drawing to a close, and all entries, must be in by this Saturday, Sept. 2. Winner of the Placed Nickel award will be announced next week.

Those young gentlemen wandering around town of late with faces so long that their chins radiate against their knees, or murmuring frantically, "It was this way, sir," are probably Sea Scouts. For further details, see your nearest Sea Scout.

Now that vacation joys are beginning to pall, we have noticed a large number of scouts bettering their minds (we trust) at Baldwin Library. To help the mind-betterers at their work, Miss Lucille George of the library staff has offered a list of fine books for Scouts and Sea Scouts which we present herewith. For Sea Scouts we have Captain Horatio Hornblower by Forester; The Correct Thing by Stevens. Bird of Dawn-

ing by Mansfield. Dream Along the Mahawk by Edmonds. Northwest Passage by Roberts; and especially recommended were all books by Sandhoff and Hall and Midwestern Dave Jones by Toner. There is a much larger selection for Boy Scouts, including, of course, all books by Scott and Stevenson; and in addition, Back to Treasure Island by Callahan. Then there were Prester John by Buchan, Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze by Lewis and The Young Fella's Book of the Sea by Bridges. In addition there are always the old favorites, the Merit Badge booklets.

What's He Doing For It? A hand, playing away for dear life, marched proudly along a city street when a pale-faced woman ran out of a house and grabbed the bandmaster's arm.

"Oh, sir, she gasped, 'will you please stop playing as you pass our house? My husband is very very musical.'"



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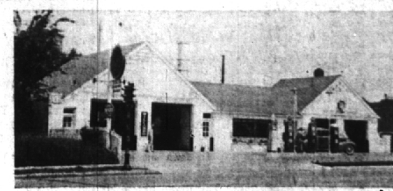
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