

If everything I possess of a material nature were taken from me to the twinkling of an eye, I prize that the God that indwelt with me will give me courage to start anew bravely, happily.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART THREE

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 15

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1948

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- FIFTH GRADE**
Abbott, Phyllis; Appleford, Robert; Balcock, Patricia; Ball, Linda; Bates, Mary; Beck, Milly; Becker, Marion; Bennett, John; Bernier, Evelyn; Berry, Kathleen; Black, Carol; Bonser, Anita; Borchart, Ann; Boston, Nancy.
- SIXTH GRADE**
Brown, Janet; Campbell, David; Cary, Janet; Chalk, Sylvia; Cobb, Elizabeth; Crim, Peggy; Cupp, Nancy; Curran, Norma; Davies, Dorothy; deBoschien, Peggy; Donaldson, William; Dorman, Carol; Duncan, Anne; Elliott, Karen.
- SEVENTH GRADE**
Ferguson, William; Fry, Beth; Fowler, Kendall; Frost, Judith; Fulton, Mary; Garitz, Russell; Galt, Joan; Graber, Jane; Halder, Susan; Hall, Gale; Hannaum, Lynn; Harley, Susan; Hartkopf, Susan; Haugan, Gail; Ingham, David; Howard, Gail; Hubbard, Pat.
- EIGHTH GRADE**
Knights, Meridelle; Lanning, Shirley; Latham, Marlene; LeMessurier, Judith; Lewis, Beverly; Lewis, Ellen; Loomis, Linda; Malender, William; McCombs, Nancy; McDonald, Cynthia; McDonald, Paula; McKinley, Nancy; Miller, Linda; Minor, William; Moore, Lois.
- NINTH GRADE**
Noonan, Joyce; Olmstead, Elizabeth; Oswald, Beverly; Pedder, Joanne; Pilon, Carol; Reed, Sarah; Richards, Ellen K.; Robertson, Virginia; Robinson, Cherrill; Schwarz, Ted; Simonsen, Patricia; Snyder, Andrea; Stark, Jerine; Simonson, Tom; Stradinger, Beverly; Taylor, Robert.

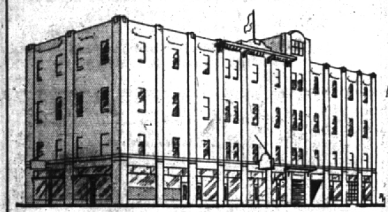
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WE LOSE A DAY THIS WEEK

Since the July 4 holiday will be observed here next Monday, July 5, it will mean The Eccentric's editorial staff will have one day less this coming week to gather and prepare editorial copy for next week's issue. This was the case over the Memorial Day weekend, too.

Therefore, it will mean that news items should be submitted by the end of the week, or this Saturday, as far as possible. Otherwise, it may be necessary to shorten considerably, or possibly leave out, items which are received here on Tuesday. We never like to do this, but it can readily be seen that no one can do two days' work in just one day.

PLEASE BRING OR PHONE IN YOUR NEWS BY THE END OF THIS WEEK

Better Attitude on Safety and Rules of Road Would Reduce Traffic Deaths

By Harold R. Danford
Superintendent of Education, National Conservation Bureau

(This is the tenth of a series of 10 articles on street and highway safety, written by nationally recognized accident prevention specialists and published by The Eccentric in the interests of greater traffic safety.)

"I'll show him who has the right of way." "I'll pass that slowpoke if it's the last thing I do!" Those are "famous last words" of the highway—short cuts to injury and death. They are symptoms of bad driving attitudes which have their roots in other causes.

Often they stem from frustration, irritation, emotional upsets... a calling-down by the boss, a quarrel with the wife or husband, a business deal gone wrong... or a thousand and one other things which have little to do with the motorist's immediate driving problem.

Human nature? Maybe, but if there is a single underlying factor to blame for the vast majority of our highway deaths and injuries, safety specialists believe it is a faulty driving attitude on the part of motorists.

These Leading Causes of Traffic records gathered over a period of many years show that driver violations or unsafe practices contributed to 84 per cent of all accidents. Of these, excessive speed, intoxication and driving on the wrong side of the road

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continue to be named as the three leading causes, accounting for 40 per cent.

But they are only the final physical causes observed by witnesses of the accidents, the last link in a chain of events which probably began with an emotional upset, the driver was unable to forget when he got behind the wheel; or, even farther back, with a basically wrong outlook on the privileges and responsibilities of driving a car.

Two Types of Actions

Driving a car is a combination of two types of actions. The first are the automatic acts, such as shifting gears, avoiding obstacles, and the like. The second, and more important, are the acts involving problems and decisions, such as, "Should I pass that car?" "Do I have the right of way?" The decisions that a motorist makes determine the kind of driver he is.

In turn, the driver's ability to make wise decisions on short notice depends to a considerable degree on the kind of person he is. We often describe drivers as reckless, foolhardy, chance-takers; discourteous "show-offs." "day" drivers; "road hogs." Extremes of anger, impatience, anxiety, timidity and bravado, all are signs of maladjustment. All are dangerous attitudes on the highway.

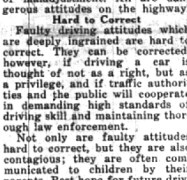
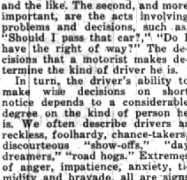
Hard to Correct

Faulty driving attitudes which are deeply ingrained are hard to correct. They can be corrected, however. If driving a car is thought of not as a right, but as a privilege, and if traffic authorities and the public will cooperate in demanding high standards of driving skill and maintaining thorough law enforcement.

Not only are faulty attitudes hard to correct, but they are also contagious; they are often communicated to children by their parents. Best hope for future drivers lies in the programs of driver education and behind-the-wheel training being inaugurated in increasing numbers in the nation's schools.

These courses not only teach the rules of the road, the mechanical skills of driving a car, and a knowledge of proper car maintenance, they also inculcate those vitally important habits of courtesy and emotional control which are the best means of saving life.

Anyone who carelessly drops a match or cigarette or leaves a burning fire in the woods is a public enemy.



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