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Knowledge of Night Driving Is Needed to Prevent After-Dark Accidents

By Julian H. Harvey
Manager,
National Conservation Bureau

(This is the seventh in 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.)

The hours of darkness are the most dangerous for both motorists and pedestrians. Despite the fact that more than half of the annual number of hours are daylight, and that traffic is lightest between midnight and dawn, the nighttime mileage death rate continues to exceed the daytime rate, year after year.

The reasons for this are well known to safety specialists. If drivers will learn them, too, and adapt their driving habits to combat the special hazards created by darkness, much human tragedy and economic waste can be prevented.

Visibility is a vital element in safe driving at all times. At night it must be provided by proper street lighting and proper driving lights. In those places the measurement of good street lighting was thought to be the amount of candle power at the light source and the number of lights on a given roadway.

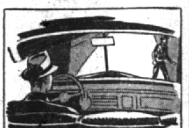
Essential to Safe Operation Now, however, engineering specialists have established as fact that our chief concern should be the road surface brightness and its effect on the visibility of an object, and modern street lighting is thus being designed in accordance with that knowledge.

Obviously, adequate street and highway lighting is basic and essential to safe operation of our automobiles on their surfaces. However, for visibility on hundreds of thousands of miles of road, where traffic density does not justify special types of high-

way lighting, we must depend on headlights. Indeed, we must rely on efficient headlights at all times. When properly used, modern headlights of the "sealed beam" type provide safe seeing conditions for night driving. In addition, a wise motorist plans his vehicle opera-



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SAFE
FOUR ROAD LIGHTS AND TWO MORE SPEED FOR NIGHT DRIVING

tion in an entirely different way than when he drives during the day.

One of the first rules of night driving is to remember that, however well lighted the road, and however powerful the headlights, visibility is always lower at night. Decreased visibility naturally demands decreased speed. It is most important for motorists to resist the temptation to speed at night, even though traffic may be very light.

Other Hazards, Too There are other very definite

darkness hazards besides their half-cars. Pedestrians may be walking on the highway, there may be unlighted bicycle or horse-drawn vehicle, even an unseen stone or road depression may throw a speeding automobile from the highway.

The following precautions are recommended by safety specialists:

When approaching a curve or hill, speed should be reduced to the point where the motorist can easily stop within the range of his headlights.

Temporary blindness caused by the glare of approaching headlights is a frequent cause of death and injury at night. When confronted by dazzling headlights, the motorist should keep his eyes fixed on the side of the road, away from the glare, and at the same time change his own lights to lower beam.

Drive Intelligently Intoxicated drivers are a special night-time hazard. Studies have shown that between 75 and 91 percent of accidents involving drinking drivers occurred at night.

If possible, a window should be kept open for better circulation of air and for better hearing. A clean windshield and crystal-clear headlight lenses are essential.

No city or town can afford to be without proper street lighting. Every citizen can help reduce accidents by seeing that adequate lighting is provided in his community. And every motorist can make it his individual responsibility to drive intelligently at night.

Hat's failed to score in their half of the inning.

This was Green Hats first loss in five starts this season.

7th Inning Rally

Murray Irwin's timely single in the last inning broke up a grueling tussle between A. H. Dukas (Highland Park) and Birmingham Merchants. Irwin's safety sent in Owens who had opened with a single and advanced to third on Butkavski's double. The final tab was a 4-3 edge for Highland Park.

Butkavski had a perfect game in his grasp until the seventh when Birmingham sent in two pinch hitters and hoped on him for three hits and three runs in that frame, tying up the tilt. Jim Hubbell's homer accounted for a pair of tallies.

Elijah Burt bagged a first inning homer.

The Merchants meet Cashey Drug of Royal Oak tonight and Gordon Clothes on Saturday, June 12. Both games are at Memorial Park at 8:30 p.m.

Memorial Park Sport Calendar

Thursday, 8:30 p.m.: Birmingham Merchants vs Cashey Drug.

Friday, 7:00 p.m.: Beverley Hills vs VFW.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m.: Birmingham Merchants vs Gordon Clothes.

Sunday, 8:30 p.m.: A. H. Dukas (Highland Park) vs Royal Oak Hobbs Motors.

Monday, 7:00 p.m.: Pascoe Marines vs Beverley Hills.

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B'ham Merchants Win Two, Lose 2 in RO League

Birmingham Merchants and Shaw's Jewelers of Pontiac battled to a five inning 5-5 deadlock before rain stopped the first contest in the Tri County Traveling League, played at Beaudette Park in Pontiac.

The Birmingham Merchants' Softball Team has been playing some very good ball in the Memorial Park League at Thirteen Mile and Woodward, winning two and losing two.

When the Birmingham Merchants and the Detroit-Green Hat Bar tangled recently something happened which wasn't good baseball but was at least interesting from the spectator standpoint.

It was a nip-and-tuck contest all the way with each team having four runs going into the seventh and last inning.

Very Close Play With bases loaded and none out in their half of the seventh, Martin, second baseman for B'ham, hit to first base and the forced play at home was very close but the runner scored.

McDonald, Detroit's catcher, was very put out with the decision and he demonstrated his anger by heaving the ball far into center field.

He had neglected to call time before making the toss, however, and as a result three more Birmingham runs scored. Birmingham scored twice more, making the score 10-4. The Detroit Green

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