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Improper Turns Important Factors in Traffic Mishaps

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of six articles on the new accident prevention system adopted by Birmingham.)

By Alice E. Morgan

A left turn often is complicated because the driver may have to cut across the path of oncoming traffic, through a pedestrian crosswalk. It also requires all traffic behind the turning vehicle to slow down, stop or go around.

The new system lists three specific left-turn violations on the ticket. The least serious is spotted as "no signal", meaning the driver does not give the hand signals required by law (putting the arm straight out), or operating a mechanical turn signal.

The failure causes accidents, maneuver and so attempt to pass. The driver behind the vehicle about to turn may not expect the Traffic ahead or to the left of the vehicle making the turn may think the vehicle is not going to turn and find that it is too late. Pedestrians may not figure on the turn and be hit.

The more serious left-turn violation is "cut corner". The driver must go around the two points formed by the intersection of the center lines and the near side of the crosswalk, whether painted or unpainted. If the driver cuts inside either one of these, police will stop him.

Wrong Lane Turn

The most serious left-turn violation is "turning from wrong lane". The motorist must start to make the left turn from the lane nearest the center line. If he starts to make it from a different lane, everyone is confused. A vehicle behind may try to pass. One coming from the opposite direction may try to go straight through. And pedestrians may find themselves trapped.

Regarding right turns, the least serious and most serious are the same as on left turns—failure to give a signal for the former and turning from the wrong lane for the latter.

The more serious right-turn violation is "turning into wrong lane". The driver must turn into the lane of traffic nearest the right-hand curb, otherwise he is violating the law and executing a maneuver which may lead to an accident.

(NEXT WEEK: Disobeying traffic signs and signals causes accidents.)

LEND AN EAR

By MADELEINE BRODIE

"THE HEART OF THE MATTER"

We all know about the old argument of heredity versus environment—one that usually lasts far into the wee hours of the morning as if settling nothing. Another energy-waster is the one about program music versus "absolute music."

The seasoned listener resents this controversy, considers it just a bit ridiculous, much ado about nothing; and the musical layman probably wonders what these particular terms mean and why some musicians continue to tear their hair out on the subject.

In any case, it might be well to define these two bothersome phrases—program music versus absolute music. To begin with these are actually arbitrary terms. They are based on style or poem.

Program music is that which is based on a story, or a poem, or a definite description, using these extra-musical ideas for its inspiration. Absolute music is music which has no story to tell, but which attractively invokes ideas and moods.

We might even divide program music into two types: the first merely suggests a general picture as in Debussy's "Clair de Lune"; there are given a picture of the moon on water, or the same composer's "Cloude"; and "Afternoon of a Faun" which tells no story but, nevertheless, suggests definite pictures and subjects.

The second kind of program music is that which actually traces the story from beginning to end.

Orchestra Is Story-Teller

Here the orchestra acts as a story-teller, depicting one sequence after another as in Richard Strauss's Tone Poems "Don Juan" and "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" or Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, called the "Pastoral" which has movements that are entitled as follows: "Pleasant feelings which awake in man on arriving in the country"; "Scene by the water-side"; "Thunder and storm"; and "Benevolent feelings associated with gratitude to the god-head after the storm."

Another example of this type of program music is "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakoff.

Now, no one questions just which music falls into these convenient categories. The argument is usually whether program music is inferior to absolute music, because the former makes use of other than pure musical ideas.

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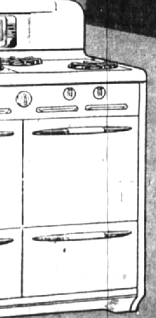
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