

Holidays Bring Out Worst (in) Drivers

Watch out for the "sleeper" on your Labor Day week end—the State Safety Commission urges.

In politics, a sleeper is an issue or a person who seems to be existing along in a routine way and who or which suddenly becomes energized and charges ahead to a spectacular finish.

On the horse track this brings the customers up cheering.

On the highway it's another matter.

IN TRAFFIC this could be the guy who is drifting along five miles below the limit. You get a good clear chance to pass and you try it. All of a sudden he wakes up and moves out.

So you drop back. Then he does too.

Seemingly a creature of moods he becomes absorbed in conversation within the car or sinks into it.

ding people—all dependent on him. Is he going to admit he isn't the iron man they think he is? Will they make fun of him or urge him on in spite of his sandy eyelids?

Do they have to get there by X hour? Which is worse—to be a little late or not get there at all? Everybody has a choice—except the people who depend on the driver.

There are things you can do. Talk up a storm. Sing—you don't have to be Sinatra or Day. Laugh, about, sure everybody will think you are nuts, but it is better than what might happen to you if you black out for just one big fat second.

Beast of all—pull off the road, get out and exercise. Go in for some nonalcoholic refreshment if it is available. Get the blood corpuscles churning around. Rouse up the little gray cells inside your skull. If this doesn't do it, call it a day or a night and move off the highway to a convenient stay-over area.

TAKE ANOTHER case. The sun may be glaring down on a clear straight road in the middle of the day—and the driver is as sleepy as he should have been at midnight.

The car is full of relaxed motion.

Tourist Centers Serve Record

Almost 10,000 more tourists used the Tourist Information Centers operated by the Michigan State Highway Department in July of this year than in July of 1963, State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie reported.

A count of visitors showed 99,741 tourists served last month, compared with 90,458 in July of 1963, Mackie said. For the full year up to August 1, the Centers served 149,921 visitors.

"This increase reflects the general increase in the whole tourist traffic into Michigan," Mackie said.

"LAST YEAR we handled about 280,000 visitors at these Tourist Information Centers, but this year I think we will go well over the 300,000 mark," Mackie said.

The centers are located at Ironwood, Menominee, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Huron, Monroe, New Buffalo and Mackinaw City.

By far, the busiest center was Mackinaw City where 40,763 tourists were served in July.

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