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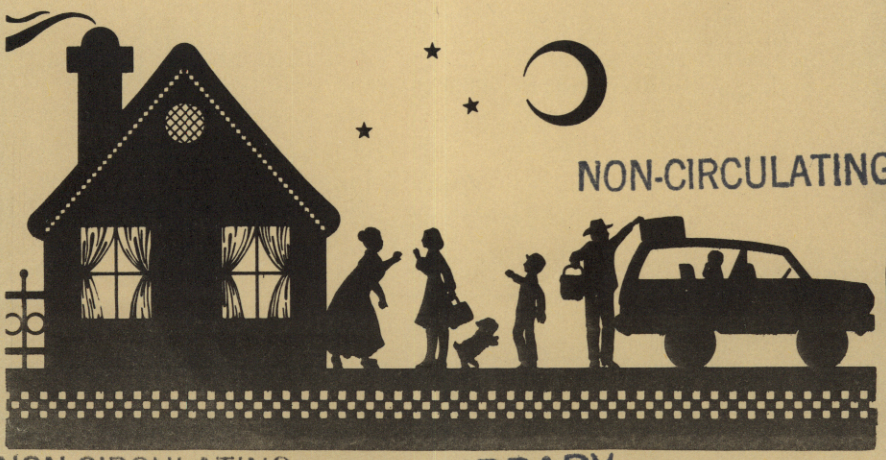


Published monthly by the Office of Traffic Safety
The University of Texas at Tyler

November, 1980 NON-CIRCULATING Volume 3/No. 9

Drive Thankfully

The Pilgrims were lucky they didn't have to drive to their Thanksgiving dinner. Holiday traffic can be tough. So be extra careful driving to and from your celebration. Relax, obey speed limits, and be alert for other drivers. It's a great life . . . so Drive Thankfully.



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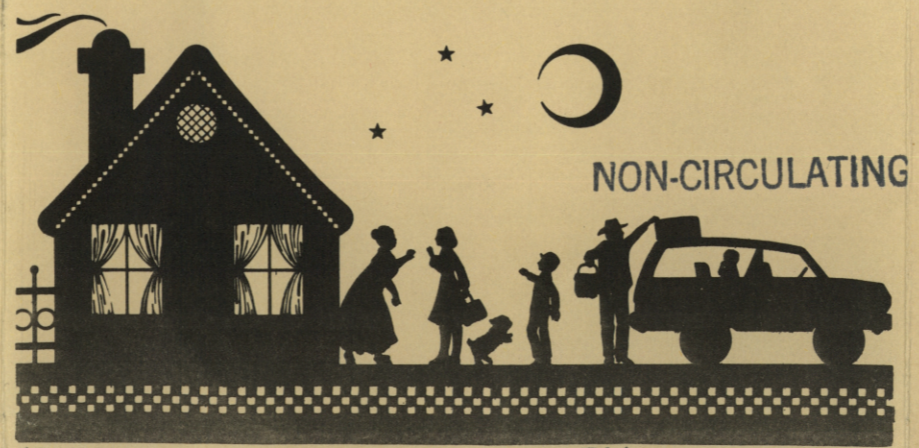


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Of all the persons killed in passenger cars, trucks, and buses during 1979, 98.4% were not wearing seat belts when the fatal wreck occurred.

HOLIDAY SPIRITS

When drivers drink and drinkers drive, people die . . . Last year in Texas, 928 men, women and children were killed in highway accidents when someone decided to drink and then drive.

During the holidays when friends and family gather to celebrate the season, make sure they enjoy your hospitality . . .

As a Host

1. Always serve food with alcohol.
2. Offer non-alcoholic drinks.
3. Measure mixed drinks.



As a Friend

1. Don't let friends drive drunk.
2. Drive anyone home who needs it or call a cab.
3. Invite a guest to spend the night.

Drunk drivers are a threat to themselves and others. Let them know you care about their well-being.

Based on DPS statistics for reported accidents in 1979:

- 1 person was killed every 2 hours 5 minutes
- 1 person was injured every 2 minutes 51 seconds

Tire Tips

To be an informed tire buyer, you need to know that Uniform Tire Quality Grades are stamped on each tire to indicate a rating for treadwear, traction, and temperature resistance.

The treadwear grading system uses number sequences beginning with 80, 90, 100, and so on. The higher the treadwear number, the greater mileage you should receive. A tire with a grade of 150 will give 50% more miles than one graded at 100 provided you maintain it properly. The system is for comparison buying and will not indicate how many miles of treadwear to expect.

Traction is graded in letter symbols of A, B and C. The top "A" grade will allow you to stop your car on wet roads faster and in a shorter distance than tires of a "B" or "C" rating.

Temperature resistance is graded in the A, B and C symbols also. The "A" or highest grade indicates the coolest running tire. Excessive temperatures can lead to blow-outs and tread separation.

Use these Uniform Tire Quality Grades the next time you comparison shop. You may find exactly what you need at lower cost.

STOPPING AT 65



Once a car gets going, it's hard to stop. Traveling at 65 MPH, your car will go 71 feet during the three-fourths of a second it takes you to hit the brakes. The car will travel another 235 feet before stopping. From start to finish, you will have traveled the length of a football field.

CORRECTIONS?

It's time to update the mailing list for the Traffic Safety Digest and we need your help.

If your name or address as shown on the mail label needs correcting or, if you no longer wish to receive the Digest, mark the box and return to:

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Tyler, Texas 75701

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DRIVELINE

Improbable But True Department . . . Last year nine persons were killed and 743 injured when their cars collided with animals on Texas roads. And while we're on the subject of collisions . . . over 70 persons die every year in Texas in car versus train encounters . . . So be careful, slow down and look at railroad crossings. . .

AMERICANS SLOW DOWN, AND LIVE LONGER! Government studies show average life expectancy among Americans increased by 1.7 years from 1972 to 1976 — a truly remarkable statistical leap. The reason? Hold on to your hat, or your steering wheel: the 55 MPH speed limit gets most of the credit! New England Mutual Life Insurance Company says that according to their actuarial tables, the sudden advance in life expectancy is due to medical progress and better self care, "but mostly to the 55 mph speed limit on the highways." The new limit has dramatically reduced highway death rates, simply because reduced speeds mean fewer fatal accidents.

"What's the legal standard of drunk driving in Texas?" — A.A., San Antonio

Under Texas law you are presumed drunk if your blood alcohol content is one-tenth of one percent or more. It all depends on your size, whether you've eaten, etc. But a 120 pound woman will probably reach that level after only two mixed drinks in one hour. Three to five drinks in two hours will probably do it for most folks. Traffic safety officials point out that *any* amount of alcohol reduces your concentration and reflex time . . . so be careful . . .

Seatbelts Save Lives . . . And Fuel
Chalk up another one for the seatbelt! All the attention and research being paid to making a gallon of gas go further has turned up an interesting fact — wearing a seatbelt steadies your foot on the gas pedal. This means gas savings!