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Traffic Safety Digest



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

April, 1981

NON-CIRCULATING Volume 4, No. 4

KIDS "N" CARS

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With April highlighting National Bicycle Safety month, it's appropriate to remind ourselves that children's behavior in traffic is not always predictable.

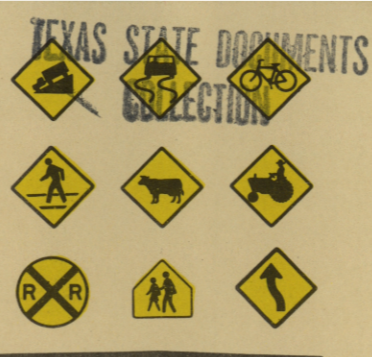
As a motorist, make it your responsibility to do more than your share to keep young ones safe. Assume that they do not look before crossing streets and then be ready to take defensive action in case they dart out from a sidewalk or driveway.

As a parent or teacher, take every opportunity to teach children about traffic and the consequences of taking chances. Kids will be functioning in traffic for the major part of their lives, so lessons taught at an early age will help protect them and you from pain and injury.

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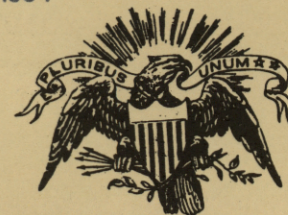


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a good idea.
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TEXAS

The State of Texas will be 150 years old in 1986, and to celebrate this occasion, the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission has planned a statewide contest to devise an official logo. The logo or symbol will be used to publicize the celebration through printed material and other celebration activities.

Entries are limited to one design per person. All entries must meet the following requirements to be accepted:

- A. Submit your design on a plain white 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- B. Print your name, address, school affiliation (if any), and telephone number on the back side, and
- C. Mail your entry flat. Do not fold.

All entries must be postmarked no later than April 21, 1981. The winning entry will be announced on May 5, 1981.

Entries should be mailed to:

Texas
Box 19860
Southeast Station
Austin, Texas 78760

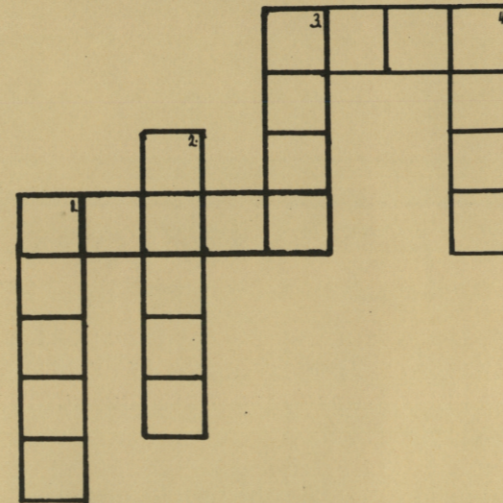
The winner will receive a two-week tour of Texas for a party of four. Expenses are paid for food, lodging, and sightseeing. Each of four honorable mentions will receive an expense-paid weekend anywhere in Texas for a party of four.



DRIVELINE

SAFER RIDING HABITS

- 1) Riders are at the mercy of every car, bump, and sewer grate, so be alert and cautious at all times!
- 2) Warn children against riding double and playing hazardous games and stunts.
- 3) For increased visibility in the dark, apply retro-reflective trim to clothing or strap front-back flashlights on the legs and arms.
- 4) Avoid loose clothing or long coats that can easily catch in pedals or wheels or cover reflectors. Leg clips or bands keep pants legs from tangling in the chain.
- 5) Always ride near the curb in the same direction with traffic. Children should not ride in traffic until they can understand and obey traffic rules, such as stopping, caution and yield.
- 6) When possible, avoid congested intersections and heavy or high-speed traffic. At busy intersections or hazardous left turn corners, walk — don't ride — your bicycle across the street.
- 7) Avoid riding in wet weather. When wet, hand brakes are especially unreliable and may require a long distance to stop.
- 8) Adult riders should set a good example for children (and protect themselves) by also obeying all traffic rules.



ACROSS

1. Wear it at night.
3. Not a bike horn.

DOWN

1. _____ for cars.
2. _____ your bike.
3. Smaller than a car.
4. _____ both ways.

Bikes Aren't Just For Kids Department: Bike sales are booming because of the energy crisis . . . 10 million new two-wheelers sold in this country every year . . . And four of every ten Americans ride a bike at least once a year.

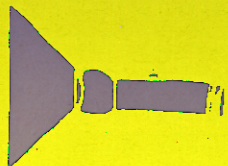
Fastest bike ride in history? 70 MPH . . . 80? Believe it or not—140.5 MPH! It wasn't downhill, either. The record was set at the Bonneville Salt Flats, with the bike rider pedaling madly behind a special pace car with a windscreen mounted on the back. Considerable help was provided by the "slipstreaming" effect of the pace car.

Here's more trivia. The longest bicycle in the world is the "Vestergaard multipede" built in Denmark in 1976. It is 72 feet long, weighs 2,600 lbs., and seats 35 riders.

In a collision between car and bike, there's no way the cyclist can win. Bikers need to be extra careful to be sure they've been seen by other traffic before turning or passing through an intersection . . . Texas law, by the way, requires a bike traveling at night to have a white light on the front which is visible for 500 feet. The back of the bike must have a red reflector visible for at least 300 feet.

Experts say the best thing you can do is just be careful. Drivers often don't notice bikes, and bike riders don't think about the risks of racing through intersections, weaving through traffic, etc.

Carry a light.



BICYCLE SAFETY MONTH

Wear some white.

