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Public Safety Digest



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

NON-CIRCULATING

June, 1981

Volume 4/No. 6

SUMMER SAFE: 1981

As Texas youngsters leave the classroom to enjoy the next three months of summer fun, it's time for parents to make sure their children know and obey some simple rules of traffic safety.

If a child is old enough to play without supervision, he's old enough to know that bicycles and tricycles belong in the yard or on the sidewalk and not in the street.

For children who must walk unattended to or from summer activities or errands, explain that they should never accept rides from strangers and that all walking must be done on sidewalks when possible. To walk along a street or highway, show him how to walk against traffic so he can see what's happening in the road ahead.

To be safe after dark, children should be dressed in white or light-colored clothing so they're easier seen by motorists. The popular white "T-shirt" is usually a part of every child's wardrobe and is a good choice. Because summer fun knows no age limit, the same considerations apply to adults as well.

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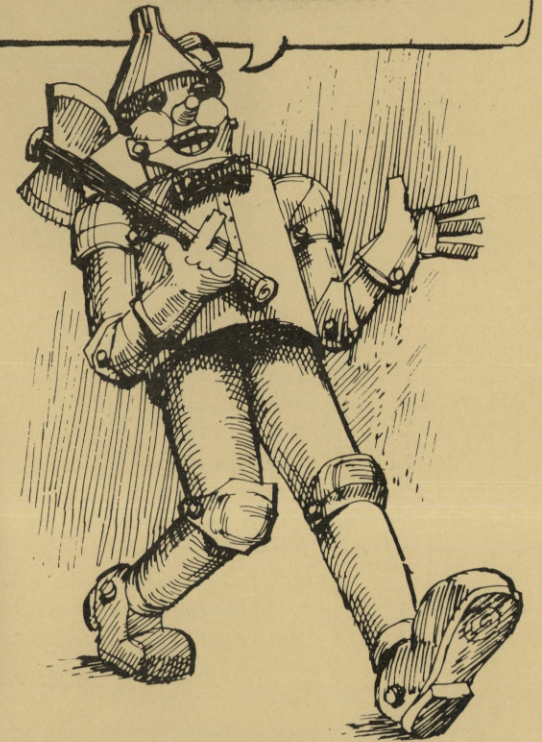
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"I might be saved if I'm thrown clear of the car in an accident."



Rubbish! The fact is that your chances of being killed are almost 25 times greater if you're thrown from the car.

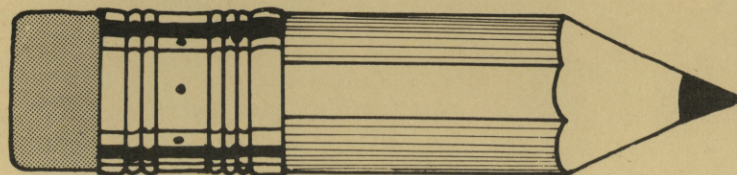
The forces in a collision can be great enough to fling you as much as 150 feet — about 15 car lengths.

Safety belts can keep you from

- plunging through the windshield
- being thrown out the door and hurtled through the air
- scraping along the ground
- being crushed by your own car.

In almost any collision, you're better off being held inside the car by safety belts.

VACATION NOTES

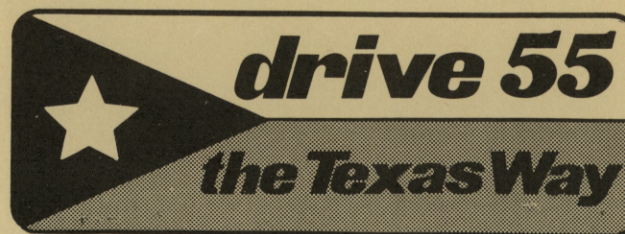


If you plan to vacation this summer by car, make sure you're really ready for the trip by taking these precautions before you go.

FOR YOUR CAR: Make sure it's in top working condition. Trying to make emergency roadside repairs in the heat of day or the black of night can ruin the best planned vacation, and it doesn't help your budget since emergency repairs are often more costly than preventative maintenance.

FOR YOUR HOME: Check to see that all doors and windows are locked. Leave some lights on for security. A timer device is a good investment if you're gone often. Tell a neighbor where you can be reached and how long you expect to be away from home. Stop mail delivery and paper service.

FOR YOURSELF AND PASSENGERS: Allow plenty of time to reach your destination without rushing or speeding. Take a brief rest break at least every two hours. Alternate drivers when possible. Wear your safety belts. When they're adjusted correctly you should be able to drive and ride in comfort and SAFETY!



DRIVELINE

Future File: The RCA Corporation is developing a "third eye" car radar system that warns drivers or even automatically applies the brakes when a collision is imminent. The radar devices have lots of bugs so far, but some optimists predict they will be optional on U.S. cars in three to ten years.

Question: Are you required to stop for a school bus?

Answer: Indeed you are. If you approach a school bus from *either* direction, front or rear, and the bus is displaying alternately flashing red lights, you *must* stop and not pass until 1) the bus has resumed motion, or 2) the driver signals you to proceed, or 3) the red lights cease flashing. *Red lights or not, always be cautious near a school bus.*

Only 11 percent of car passengers ever fasten their seatbelts. Too bad, because accident records show you are 57 percent less likely to be injured if you are wearing a lap/shoulder type seatbelt . . . and 31 percent safer in an ordinary lap belt.

Houston To Los Angeles—On One Gallon! You may have to wait a bit for this little beauty to appear in your dealer's showroom, but West German engineering students built a torpedo shaped three-wheel car that gets fairly good mileage. Tearing along at six MPH on an oval test track, the 200 cc diesel got 1,580 miles to the gallon.

Think About It . . . Once it gets going, a car is hard to stop. Travelling at 65 MPH, your car will go 71 feet during the three-fourths of a second it takes you to react to danger and push on the brake pedal. Then, under average conditions, the car will roll another 235 feet before stopping. *From start to finish, you will have travelled the length of a football field. That's why speed can kill . . .*

Like Magic

To prevent your windshield from streaking during the first few minutes of a Texas summer shower, turn your windshield washers on at the first sign you need your wipers. The additional moisture should do the trick.

* CB'ers BEWARE! The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has warned citizen's band (CB) radio operators that improper placement of transmitters in cars may cause gasoline explosions. Especially hazardous are transmitters installed in the trunk or with bumper mounted whip antennas (because of their proximity to the vehicle's gas tank and filler pipe). *The FCC says CB'ers should never transmit while their cars are being filled with gas because sparks from the radio equipment could ignite gasoline fumes.* Explosions and flash fires are rare, the agency says, but definitely possible when loose antennas or power connections create sparks. *

No Speeding !

The first traffic ordinance in America was probably the one passed in 1652 in New Amsterdam, not long after the Dutch bought Manhattan from the Indians. It required "that no wagons, carts, or sleighs shall be run, rode or driven at a gallop in this city". Traffic laws were nothing new even then; Julius Ceasar issued a decree ruling against reckless chariot drivers in Rome.