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BEST METHODS FOR BLOWING OWN HORN

USE OF AUTOMOBILE SIREN

Expert Tells When to Blow and When Not to Blow; In City and on Country Roads; Use Judgment

(By H. Clifford Brokaw)

One of the most essential parts of an automobile is the horn. But the less it is used the more important it becomes. In some respects the story of the boy who cried "wolf, wolf," when there was no wolf applies to the use of the automobile horn. If motorists generally blow their own horns excessively folks will become so used to the din that they will become ineffective means of warning when there is real danger.

Must Use Judgment

On the contrary the motorist who conserves his horn excessively must use judgment when varying from this custom. For instance, suppose a pedestrian is walking along the highway ahead of an approaching car. If the driver should give his horn a sharp blast it may startle the walker, cause him to become confused and jump directly in the path of the approaching machine. But if the driver does not sound his horn, the man on foot, not realizing his danger, may suddenly change his direction and put the driver to the severe test of avoiding an accident. The matter can best be handled by blowing the horn mildly and before getting too near the man on foot.

Bombastic blowing of the horn may be a characteristic of the owner who is operating his car for the first few times. There may be some excuse for the somewhat nervous beginner who does not feel quite sure of his control. He has reason for calculating that people who may be walking on the highway will be more certain to get out of his line of procedure if he gives his horn plenty of exercise. The novice at driving can be excused for over tooting.

Happy Medium

More experienced drivers sometimes fail to sound their horns when they ought to. They think when they use their horns it advertises them as amateurs in operating a car. The best tears in driving. The best form in horn blowing lies in following the happy medium between too much horn noise and not enough. There are certain times when motorists ought to sound a warning in the interest of safety. This is a moral obligation. In general, the driver of an automobile should exercise common sense when it comes to the use of his horn.

If there is any certain time when one can blow his horn with unrestricted freedom it is when nearing a public school just as it lets out its many pupils. There are other times when a driver should be especially thoughtful not to blow much, as when going by hospitals, passing churches on Sundays and other places where people have a right to quiet. Late at night is another time when silence is golden and is greatly appreciated by those who deserve a good night's sleep.

Sane Horn Program

The driver who watches other motorists and pedestrians carefully will likely develop a sane horn program. If he is alert and if his direction and speed of travel are such that those ahead are reasonably sure to be out of the way before the driver arrives at the spot, there is no need of making a lot of noise. If there is the least possibility of danger instinctively the horn should be sounded and instinctively the driver's foot should go to the brake pedal at the same time his hand goes to the horn.

When one is driving in the country and desires to pass another car going in the same direction, it is both customary and safer to sound the horn once so that the driver of the car ahead can judge as to when and where he will give the follower his best chance to pass since he can see the road before him better and knows what obstructions are to be avoided. Usually he will give way when signaled. If he does give way and there is any doubt about his having heard the signal, it is good practice to sound the horn again for it is usually undesirable to pass another car unless the driver desiring to pass is certain that the driver ahead knows of the follower's intention.

Useful Signals

It is not a bad idea for a motorist to signal just before reaching the top of a hill, particularly if the road is narrow. If anyone is coming up on the other side he may be guided accordingly. Likewise, the horn should be blown before coming to a cross road unless there is a plain view of both roads for a sufficient distance to make sure that a collision is not likely to occur. And the horn should be sounded before taking dangerous curves in the road.

In the main, the horn should be used as sparingly as possible consistent with safety and good sense. When the other fellow blows his horn heed this signal. You will want him to do as much for you. On this basis will be built up a normal horn blowing philosophy for motorists.

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MAKING WOOD LAST; HOW IT IS TREATED

Right and Wrong Ways to Apply Creosote, Says Department of Agriculture

By treating them with coal-tar creosote such short-lived woods as soft maple, birch, beech, sweet gum, young sap pine, and red oak are made durable for use in the ground as fence posts for 10 to 20 years or longer, says the United States Department of Agriculture.

Round sticks are more satisfactory for treatment than split timber since they have a uniform absorbing surface of sapwood. Practically all of the soft woods or sap woods may be treated and profitably used as posts.

Before treating, it is important that the timber be peeled and thoroughly seasoned. Small flakes of inner bark left on the wood prevent proper absorption of the preservative at those places. Peeling is done most easily during the spring months, but may be carried on at other seasons of the year. The posts to be treated should be peeled from 3 to 4 months, depending upon the weather, before treatment, and open-piled in a dry place to effect proper seasoning.

Application of creosote by brushing over the whole post is only slightly effective in preventing decay. Open-tank treatment with a hot bath, followed by a cold bath is recommended for fence posts. The sapwood surrounding the heartwood takes treatment readily and is thereby protected against the entrance of decay.

The fate of the franc is not the only cause of resentment in France against the United States. Americans are reported to be crowding the French out of their own divorce courts.—Boston Transcript.

INTELLIGENCE MAY BE ON THE DECREASE

Lothrop Stoddard Suggests Possibility in His New Book; Worth Reading

Considering its comparative rarity, high intelligence might conceivably be bred out of the human race, says Lothrop Stoddard in his new book, "Scientific Humanism." That would be an appalling calamity because it is to the small minority of highly intelligent individuals that mankind owes its advance through the ages. Every new idea, every mechanical invention, is the product of superior minds, and the vast accumulation of knowledge and power, slowly amassed in the past and culminating in the

splendid present, is in the last analysis due to humanity's elite—that infinitely precious minority in whose hands lies the destiny of the race.

Surely, never was high intelligence so needed as in our complex modern civilization. Yet the weight of scientific evidence apparently reveals the alarming fact that this most vital quality is today on the decline. All over the civilized world the conditions of modern life seem to handicap the most intelligent elements, whose numbers are stationary or diminishing; whereas the low-grade and mentally defective elements of the population are rapidly increasing.

Kickers may be all right on the football field, but they receive less applause in home town affairs.

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