

SUGGESTIONS MADE FOR SAFE DRIVING

CAREFULNESS FIRST NEED

Automobile Disasters May Be Reduced to Minimum by Care in Operating Cars, Is Belief

By H. Clifford Brokaw, technical advisor, New York City West Side Y. M. C. A. Automobile school.

One motor fatality for every 1,000 registered cars in the United States is the 1925 record, a total of 19,828 serious accidents or 54 per day. This was an increase of five per day over 1924. However it must be remembered that there were 2,360,470 more motor vehicles on our highways in 1925. The record is inexorable. Yet there are some encouraging facts. There were 17 cities of 100,000 population or over, which had fewer fatal motor accidents in 1925 than during the previous year. There were 13 in the 50,000 to 100,000 class and 21 in the group of cities of from 25,000 to 50,000 population.

Carefulness Is Remedy
How can these automotive disasters be reduced to a minimum? The answer is not so difficult as is the task of getting folks to recognize the answer and act accordingly. The answer to a large extent is careful drivers. People who operate automobiles must exercise more care if such accidents are to be reduced. But there is another answer—careful pedestrians. All the responsibility for auto accidents cannot be laid up against the drivers. Some pedestrians are more reckless than the most reckless drivers. They invite disaster by the way in which they violate traffic rules.

In spite of prohibition a chief evil which affects the auto accident situation is drunkenness. More than half of the licenses revoked during a six months period by the New York State Motor Vehicle bureau were due to drunkenness. Other causes included reckless driving, speeding, immaturity, couldn't read signs, had wrong plates.

A motorist desiring to avoid accidents should consider several points. When going driving he should be sure his machine is in first-class condition. That will insure better control in an emergency. Then he can well afford to drive at a moderate rate of speed. Hurrying to get ahead of a train, a street car or another vehicle saves only a moment or two at the ultimate destination.

Dusk Critical Period
He should be especially careful at dusk. There is then neither enough daylight nor sufficient artificial light to make objects distinguishable at ordinary distances. Slow up for all turns in the road. Blind corners are dangerous. When it is impossible to see what is coming from around the corner be prepared to stop. Sound horn a short distance before reaching the intersection.

He should use chains whenever there is danger of skidding. Drive slowly at bridges. A bad rut or a stone in the road may throw a driver's car against the structure. When attempting to pass another vehicle going in the same direction start turning out to the left at least 75 feet to the rear. If he gets too close his view of the road ahead is obstructed and he may turn directly in front of another car coming toward him. When

he has passed a car he should not cut back into the road nor slow down too soon.

In Backing
Always be careful when backing. Mirrors are valuable in this connection. Bumpers also make for safety. Clean windshields give the driver a clear view ahead. Every car should have a windshield wiper which will prevent snow or rain from obstructing the driver's view.

Safe driving demands the full and undivided attention of the driver. Be sure to signal when driving toward or away from the curb.

Anyone can easily conform to these few simple suggestions and can also help in arousing a strong public sentiment to back the enforcement of existing motor vehicle laws.

Educate Youth
A start could be made by educating the boys and girls in schools by giving a prize to the pupil who would submit the most complete list of possible ways an automobile accident can happen. City ordinances that make for safety should be passed and strictly enforced. They should apply to both motorists and pedestrians. There should be more playgrounds for children. Motor accidents can and should be reduced in number.

ENGINE WHISTLES ARE COSTLY CONTRIVANCES

Writer Claims Loss of Fuel to Keep Them Blowing Is Enormous

Locomotive whistles are not so good as they might be, says Arthur Foley, of Indiana university. High-pitch whistles are far more effective than low-pitch whistles, he believes. The usual position of the whistle complicates a forward projection of the sound. We are told that the sound is deflected by the smokestack, bell, steam dome, generator, and a blanket of gases. Every year, says Professor Foley, 2,434,026 tons of coal are burned in making steam to blow locomotive whistles. He wants to see the whistles placed farther forward, and adapted to a high-pitch note. Those improvements, he thinks, would help to save many lives and many dollars—how many lives, he doesn't know, but the saving in railroad coal bills, he figures, would amount to \$5,000,000 a year.

The professor seems rather low in his mind about our whistles. To him they are mostly sound and fury signifying nothing. Well, this thing of blowing off steam does seem a bit expensive—it costs a lot of money for men or engines to go on a toot. But easy there, professor. You may let us in for officious tuning of our whistles. Even a poor toot is worth more than a bureaucratic toot, says The Nation's Business.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS STATE

The Illinois river is navigable 223 miles upstream from its mouth and another 229 miles water highway, the Mississippi, joins the head with Cairo.

Economically, LaSalle county is regarded as one of the richest and most completely balanced counties in the entire United States.

Illinois' first central electric station rented forty lights to businesses of the community at a flat daily rate for ten hour service.

Employment in the state is 6 per cent above the scale for 1925 and 5 per cent above that of 1924 and industries have continued through the summer without a lull.

Another passenger transportation record was made a short time ago by the Chicago "L" system when 969 cars entered the loop during the early morning rush hour.

Illinois ranks third among the states in the growing of peaches, shipping during the season past 2,443 carloads of the fruit or more than four times as much as the preceding season.

During 1925, 66,900,359 tons of coal, valued at \$146,492,000 were produced by Illinois mines, says the Department of Commerce.

The first stretch of Lincoln Highway paving west of Chicago was in Sterling township and followed a "hewn trail" marked out years ago by Hezekiah Brink, a pioneer trail maker.

REFUTES OLD CLAIM, PHILADELPHIA SLOW

Head of Baldwin Locomotive Co. Takes \$3,000,000 Order In 3 Minutes

Philadelphians have long endured mocking measures of their pace of life. If they have taken their own time to do things, they have been able to speed the affairs of busy men throughout the world. Some of the fastest passenger trains in this and other lands are pulled by locomotives made in Philadelphia. They come from the Baldwin works. They are sold by Samuel Vauclair—sold over the telephone, many of them. By way of illustration, it may be said that Mr. Vauclair recently took an order for 375 Decapods for use by the Pennsylvania railroad. The order amounted to \$30,000,000, and the time required to take it was three minutes. The estimate of profit has been placed at \$3,000,000.

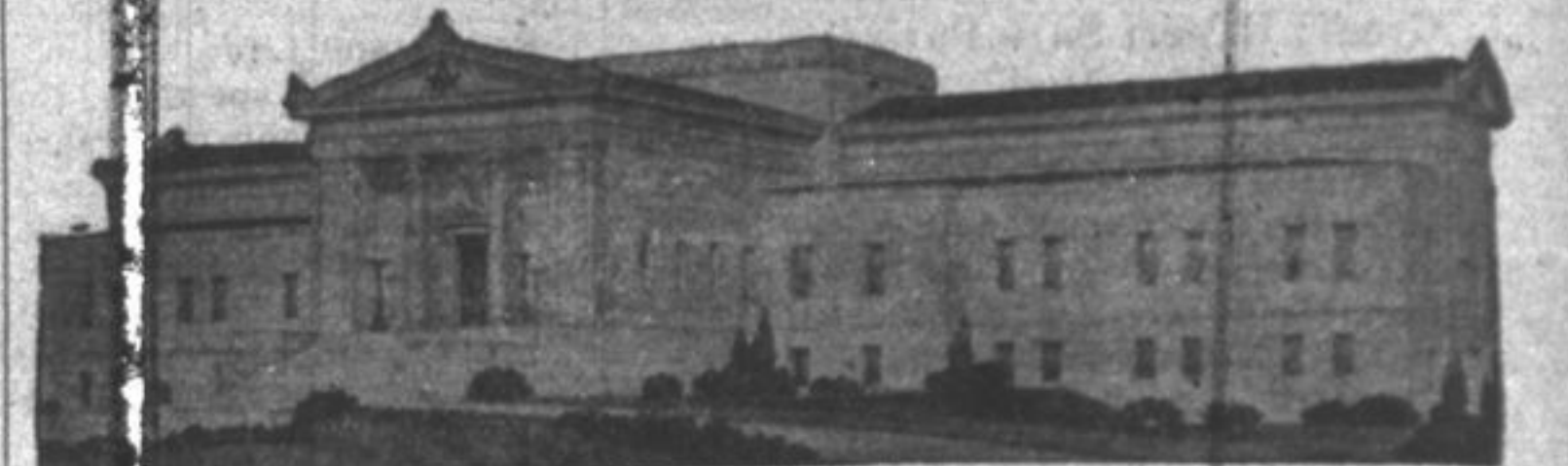
The telephone saved the railroad company's time, saved Mr. Vauclair's time, saved the time of men in the works who got at the order directly it was confirmed. Mile-a-minute locomotives! Million-a-minute works! And still there be those who look upon Philadelphia as the torrisse of our cities. Sleepy Philadelphia! Ha! Ha!

American politics is said to need a good housecleaning, but it will take something more than the whitewash brush to provide the same.

It is claimed by politicians that it is safer to use the telephone than write letters, and some might do well to confine themselves to sign language.

The government of the United States is assisting in building 52,000 miles of roads. It is obvious that your car should be reared to become a motor car manufacturer or a tire maker.—Milwaukee Journal.

Another thing that makes life on this planet a little bit difficult and depressing is that the man always comes to give the furnace a good, thorough overhauling on the coldest day yet.—Ohio State Journal.



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