

CATECHISM ON NEW ORDINANCE

QUESTIONS WHICH BOTH ARE
MADE CLEAR

Question and Answer Method Sets
Readers Right on Many Points

Numerous points and questions have arisen since publication of the new traffic ordinance, and there are a whole lot of people who don't understand all there is to be understood about it. The Observer, police officers and officials generally, have been frequently quizzed about the new law, all of which prompted the Observer to conduct a class in catechism. Armed with questions that have cropped out, the Observer ascertained the true and correct answer to each from various city officials who drafted the measure, in conjunction with auto club committeemen, upon the basis of the Portland traffic ordinance, prevailing state laws, and sprinkling of common sense. Here are some of the most frequently fired quizzes, and their explanations:

Q. How do vehicles pass?
A. When overtaking another, must pass to the left and not annoy the persons passed with dust. In meeting another, turn to the right giving at least half of road.
Q. What is procedure when vehicle approaches an intersection?
A. Must have vehicle under control so as to give right of way to those coming on his right. A man on the right has the right of way.
Q. The new ordinance says "A

vehicle shall not reverse its direction where traffic will be congested." Assuming the driver believes he can turn in the center of the block in safety, raises his hand as required, clearly, and is crashed into by car from the rear. Are either or both liable for prosecution.

A. Only the man in the rear can be prosecuted (in such case) the same as with teams on the road. Further the ordinance requires that no car shall follow another too closely for safety.

Q. Are automobiles required to keep mufflers on, and if so what parts of the day?

A. They are at all times.

Q. What is legal parking?
A. Left side to street, right to curb, not occupying more than 12 feet from the curb into the street, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 6 p. m.

Q. The ordinance says: "A driver stopping or turning or slowing down shall give timely and unmistakable signal by outstretched arm—especially when turning to the left." Which arm is meant?

A. Left arm is customary.

Q. How about leaving cars standing on streets: first, engine running? 2nd, lights out? 3rd, in alleys?

A. Engine must be stopped. 2 Lights required under ordinance requiring lights on obstructions on streets or alleys. 3 Requirements same as streets.

Q. Can a child, say 12 or 13 years, lawfully operate an automobile on the streets or highway, even though no accidents occur by the act?

A. He can if he can operate same with safety to people and other vehicles.

Q. Must a red tail light and two white front lights be burning at night?

A. Yes, but if tail light accidentally is extinguished unbeknown to the driver he is not held responsible unless it becomes a persistent practice.

Q. While the ordinance requires that in case of accident all parties must stop their machines and ascertain all pertinent facts concerning the accident, thereby, probably determining the person at fault, which of the party shall notify the police, and if the guilty party so notifies the police, is the notification prima facie evidence of his guilt?

A. No. The ordinance says distinctly, no. All parties notify police.

Q. Is a farmer-auto owner from Elgin, or North Powder driving in La Grande as amenable to this ordinance as a La Grande auto owner?

A. Yes. Just as much as a stranger visiting California is amenable to its laws.

Q. When will the police begin to enforce the ordinance, and will it be enforced upon everybody, or upon those who live in La Grande alone?

A. Will begin immediately and be enforced upon all alike.

Q. Is it the policy of the police department to arrest tourists who pass through La Grande who may violate the ordinance unknowingly, or who may not have complied with the state laws concerning auto travel in general?

A. The ordinance requires the number plates of their own states. The majority of the requirements are laws of the road. All are taken either from the state law or the Portland ordinance. A sign gives the speed limits on roads entering city.

Q. Does the driver of a team and wagon fall within the pale of the ordinance?

A. Yes. To the above is quoted "General regulations" taken from the ordinance, as follows:

General Regulations.
Section 13. Pedestrians, drivers of vehicles and persons driving or in charge of horses, shall follow and conform to the following regulations:

(a) During parades, the police may clear the streets and prohibit vehicles and pedestrians from crossing the street.

(b) No pedestrian or vehicle shall break or cross through the line of a funeral procession upon any street, road or highway.

(c) A horse shall not be unbridled or left unattended in a street, road or highway without being securely fastened unless harnessed to a vehicle with its wheel so secured as to prevent its being dragged faster than a walk or unless such horse be hampered by a weight sufficient to control it.

(d) A driver of a horse shall hold the reins in his hands at all times while riding, driving or leading a horse.

(e) No one shall, upon any public street or highway, within the city, over-load, over-drive, ill-treat, or unnecessarily whip or permit or allow to be so treated any horse.

(f) No one shall crack, or so use, a whip or other thing so as to excite any horse other than that which he is using or to annoy, interfere with, or endanger any person.

(g) No one shall use a horse or permit a horse under his control to be used upon any street or highway within the City of La Grande which such horse is not fit for its work or is not free from lameness or sores likely to cause pain, or is not free from vice or disease likely to cause accident, injury or infection.

Restriction as to Vehicles.
Section 14. The following restrictions shall be observed by the owners, operators and drivers of vehicles upon the streets and highways of the city, to-wit:

(a) A vehicle, without a driver, shall be left so secured that it cannot be moved without human action and the machinery of a motor vehicle, so left, shall be at a stand-still.

(b) A vehicle shall not be used which is so constructed, enclosed, equipped or loaded as to be dangerous, retard traffic or prevent the driver from having a view sufficient for safety.

(c) No one shall enter, ride upon, attach himself, or his vehicle to any vehicle without the driver's consent.

(d) No one riding a bicycle or motorcycle shall hold on to another motorcycle or motor vehicle, while running.

(e) No motor vehicle shall be oper-

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ated with offensive exhaust or with muffler open.

(f) No vehicle shall be driven along a side-walk.

(g) Traction engines having lugs or spikes on their wheels shall not be driven on hard surface streets except upon planks affording sufficient protection to prevent injury to the pavement.

(h) Vehicles shall not be allowed to carry or be driven or propelled upon the streets of the city, while carrying

a load weighing more than five tons.

(i) Vehicles shall not be so loaded as to spill their loads upon the streets or highways.

They were talking about the effort of the department of the interior to protect the nation's big game, when the man in the corner sat up and said that he thought that the government ownership of baseball was going too far!—Chicago News

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