

PSYCHOLOGY THAT BLAMES BAD DRIVING... Twitchell Scores 'Accident-Prone' Theory... ON CHILDHOOD BEHAVIOR IS DEBUNKED

By H. I. PHILLIPS

ON ROAD MENACES

A speaker at a convention of psychiatrists declares that accident-prone auto drivers are people who, at the wheel of a car, behave just as they have behaved from childhood.

tion, his driving will be marked by it. If his life is marked by contrary characteristics his driving will be so marked," the speaker insisted.

Elmer Twitchell, the eminent student of human behavior, disagrees. And hotly. "The delicatessen dealers have a name for it," he said today.

schoolteacher's authority and robbed birds' nests is the bunk. The plain inescapable fact is that the minute a human being finds himself at the wheel of an auto he becomes a different personality.

"A fellow who takes off his hat in elevators, helps old ladies across streets and writes books on politeness will chase his fellow man up an alley, yell at school children and cuss out pedestrians for getting in his way, once he is in a flivver. The kindest gentleman in the community, known for his warm smile, takes on the instincts of a gorilla the minute he finds himself tooling the sedan down Main street.

"I will lay you 50 to 1 that the psychiatrist who made that speech at the convention is a refined, well-bred gent whose heart bleeds for his fellowman when afoot, but who leers at red lights, barks at fellow creatures and snaps at policemen when hurrying through town in the old boiler.

"It's one of the mysteries of life and it has nothing to do with childhood, generally speaking. I can stand on any street in America and point out college professors, lawyers, school principals, gardenia growers, lecturers on good manners and men of Chesterfieldian backgrounds roaring by and snarling at slow-gaited pedestrians with the ferocity displayed by gangsters, fugitives from chain gangs and all around heels.

"I'm no exception, more's the pity. On my feet I am sweet as they come. I am a model of good behavior in any company. I open doors for ladies, show the aged every consideration and try to be gracious on a broad scale. But it's a quick switch from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde when I take the wheel of the old jalopy. And so do you, and you and you! There's something about an automobile that

changes human character. "Early childhood tendencies my eye!"

Here are some interesting case histories on "accident-prone" drivers, offered as subjects for psychiatric study:

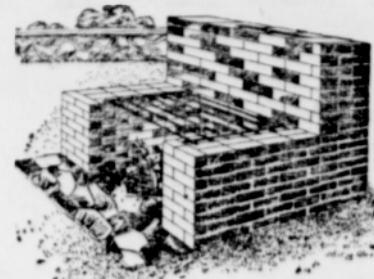
CASE 1.—Jephtha Finchbutt, 32, truck driver. Mr. Finchbutt habitually drives a 15-ton trailer recklessly, ignoring all speed signs, takes turns at 60 per hour and has never been known to heed a stop light. Report: As a baby Jephtha was allowed to pound on highchair with bottle; mother had nine children and was too busy to restrain his early instinct to spear live goldfish with fork; early schooling was under teachers who failed to send all other pupils home and just concentrate on Jephtha.

CASE 2.—Geoffrey Tuffit, 46, oil truck operator and chronic weaver through dense traffic. Geoffrey has a batting average of one bad accident per month, but always seems to get out of it through indifference of authorities. He particularly loves coasting downhill through school zones. Report: His inclinations are all due to a selfish mother who used to wheel Geoffrey around in a baby carriage unequipped with brakes and horn. The father never read Emily Post.

CASE 3.—Twiggsy Cropper, 19, college freshman. Twiggsy feels unnecessarily curbed if asked to do less than 55 per hour in city centers and 70 in suburbs, loves to drive "no-hands" across city playgrounds. Report: From age of six months to year and a half he was allowed to scream at nurse; from age of 3 to 5 instinct to pour hot porridge on the cat uncurbed. Father bought him a velocipede too early and failed to read him the laws on rules of road each night before putting him to bed.

CASE 4.—Mrs. Arabella Priggstone, 29. This woman backs up without signals, makes U-turns or impulse, never bothers to have brakes tightened and frequently forgets to put on lights at night.

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YOU CAN BUILD this outdoor fireplace in a very professional manner by following the step-by-step directions outlined in the pattern now available. However, before building or even buying the materials the pattern specifies, inquire whether local fire laws permit using outdoor fireplaces.

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The pattern explains exactly how to prepare the foundation and lay out the starting course of bricks. It also specifies the quantity of bricks and materials needed. Send 25c for Pattern No. 73. Send 25c additional for Picnic Table Pattern No. 22 to Easi-Build Pattern Company, Dept. W, Pleasantville, N. Y.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

A little jeweler's rouge and a dry chamois will polish brass that is not too tarnished—or rub it with a weak ammonia solution.

Lower the upper sash of a window to let out foul air or cooking odor; raise lower sash of an opposite window in the same or adjoining room; this will create a draft and thoroughly air the room.

Before cutting curtains, always draw a thread so that material will be cut on the thread line—otherwise, it may be almost impossible to get the hems straight.

Mildew stains that are not too old may be removed by applying paste made of soft soap and powdered chalk, keeping moist and laying in the sun.

Kool-Aid advertisement: MAKES 10 BIG, COLD DELICIOUS DRINKS. 6 FLAVORS. 5¢

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"I was irregular for a long time. A nurse suggested eating KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN every morning. It helped where nothing else had!" J. M. Beduch, Fort Clark, N. D. This is one of many unsolicited letters from ALL-BRAN users. You too may expect wonderful results, if constipation is due to lack of bulk in the diet. Just eat an ounce of ALL-BRAN daily, and drink plenty of water. If not satisfied after 10 days, send the empty carton to Kellogg's, Battle Creek, Mich. Get DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

Relieve distress of MONTHLY FEMALE WEAKNESS

Are you troubled by distress of female functional periodic disturbances? Does this make you suffer from pain, feel so nervous, tired—at such times? Then so try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's has a grand soothing effect on one of woman's most important organs. LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

Kidneys Must Work Well-

For You To Feel Well 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

DOAN'S PILLS

PROMISES

THE year will keep its promises to me: Unfailingly the days will come and go; Rivers will take their sure course to the sea; Seedtime and harvest, these will come, I know. The stars will go their quiet silver way; There will be sun and rain and wind and dew; There will be breathless beauty in each day; There will be old loved tasks for me to do.

And I have made my promise to the year (God help me keep it through the hours ahead): I shall be braver, I shall banish fear; I shall not leave a kindly word unsaid; I shall have faith that this, my ancient grief, Will yield at last to laughter and to song; I shall have hope that there will be relief For the old hurts the world has borne so long.

The year will keep its promise. O my heart, We must not, dare not fail to do our part.

Grace Noll Crowell

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO By INEZ GERHARD SHIRLEY TEMPLE'S ability as a mimic did a lot toward making her a child star, and she is still using it as a help in learning the various dialects she's had to master. She has a southern drawl and a Scandinavian accent down pat, but had a bit of trouble with the Irish brogue needed for Warners' "Always Sweethearts."



SHIRLEY TEMPLE

More than once she has confused her mother-in-law by using one of the three when answering the phone; even her own mother can't tell sometimes whether a new southern maid, a Scandinavian one or an Irish colleen is on the other end of the wire when she calls her daughter.

John Dall and the King brothers are discussing rights to Jonathan Latimer's novels featuring detective Bill Crane. They would allow Dall to continue his screen life of crime, but on the side of law and order.

The picnic staged recently by the American Federation of Radio Artists was quite a shindig; raised \$3,000 for its relief fund. Lum and Abner ran the bingo tables and organized square dances. Frank Nelson, of "Blondie," auctioned off supporting roles on such shows as "Sam Spade" and "Philip Marlowe" to ambitious newcomers who bid high for them.

Jane Wyman reports from London that she had her first comfortable voyage; usually gets seasick even when canoeing on a smooth lake. This time, on her way to star in "Stage Fright" for Alfred Hitchcock, she had some new anti-seasickness pills, developed by Canada's medical corps—evidently they were effective in her case at least.

The Fiction Corner TERRY, THE FOX By Richard H. Wilkinson

"YOU CAN'T FOOL an old fox like Terry Oakes," Anse Aetell was saying. "Not even if you're the smartest bank robber and gangster in the country." He chuckled, reflecting on the story he was about to tell.

"Glenville was pretty well wrought up that summer. In June government agents came through, warning all the small town banks in the countryside to be on the lookout, and advising what to do. Duke Insabato and a couple of his henchmen, driven from their haunts in the large cities by a concentrated effort of local and federal agents who were dead set on bringing an end to the current wave of crime, were hiding out in the sticks and whiling the time away by staging spectacular daylight hold-ups of small town banks.

3-Minute Fiction

"The trouble was that no one knew where the varmints would strike next. Duke Insabato was smart. He understood small towns because he was brought up in one and, he chose as the object of his pilfering banks that were pretty well isolated and unprotected.

"June passed and part of July. Gradually the fear of Glenville citizens began to subside. Only one other small town bank had been held up, and that more than 150 miles away. The depositors who had withdrawn their accounts re-established them.

"Terry Oakes, the trust company president, didn't gloat. He was an old-timer at the game and he understood human nature. Early in June he'd had some signs printed and hung around the lobby of the bank. Such things as 'Save for Your Old Age,' 'Deposit with Us and Your Money Will Be Safe.' The citizens smiled a little. Terry was trying to reassure them. One other sign was printed and inserted behind the glass in the front door. This, too, amused them, but it didn't annoy them any.

"On July 15 the quietude of Glenville's main street was abruptly and harshly interrupted. A high-powered black sedan suddenly appeared at the town's south entrance, roared down on the bank and came to an abrupt halt. Loungers in front of the General Store jerked erect. Three men had leaped from the car. Two of them, one carrying a machine gun, ran toward the bank. The third stayed on the curb, a second machine gun nestling in his arm.

"The loungers, pop-eyed and frightened, watched in stupid

fascination. To their utter astonishment they saw the two bandits turn at the bank door without entering, rush back to the car, pile into it and drive away.

"IT ALL happened within seconds. For a moment or two the loungers sat transfixed. Then of one accord they leaped up, raced across the street and entered the bank. Terry Oakes was talking on the telephone. He hung up and smiled at them.

"Two to one," he said calmly. "Sheriff Irons picks up Duke and his gang at Jepson Corners. I just popped him." He looked from one pop-eyed citizen to another. "No harm done, boys. They didn't even get in."

"But why didn't they? What happened?"

"Terry grinned broadly. 'Duke Insabato knows small towns. He was a small-town boy himself. That's why he picked this hour to do his hold-upping. Right after lunch.

"That's where I fooled him. Terry paused to chuckle and glance toward the front door. 'It's lucky Duke knows small towns. Otherwise he might not have taken any stock in my sign.'

"The bewildered citizens turned toward it and read, they were a little dazed, and not quick to understand.

"The sign read: 'Bank Closed. Out to Lunch. Return in One Hour.'"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a small word search grid and the puzzle number 4.

THE HOME TOWN REPORTER IN WASHINGTON

WALTER SHEAR, WNU Correspondent

Inside Story

INSIDE STORY on the house slash of some 15 per cent from the appropriation for European recovery administration funds runs something like this: The administration has been told by the department of commerce and the committee on economic advisors to the President that the national income in 1950 will be definitely lower than now—some say 18 billion dollars lower than 1949. But some Democratic leaders declare that the budgets for domestic appropriations have been squeezed until there is little water left in them, so it will be impossible to slash domestic expenditures which, after all, amount to a very small percentage of the total overall federal budget. The story is that these leaders say that it will be politically more advantageous to pass the domestic appropriation measures as is than to cut them in the election year of 1950.

But, on the other hand, a realistic group in the house and senate, cognizant of the imminent drop in national income, declare that a cut in federal expenditures is absolutely essential if a tax increase is to be avoided, and it should be avoided.

So, although the administration is not going to consent publicly, the slashes in ECA funds will be permitted to go through on the theory that lower prices in the offing may make up for some of the cuts and that there will be less reverberations from the electorate than if domestic appropriations were pared.

With Senate Majority Leader Scott Lucas committed to keeping congress in session until the "major" points in President Truman's legislative program "are disposed of," the makings of a full-scaled row are shaping up.

Already the administration has shelved some of its "must" bills in order to get to the Taft-Hartley repeal measure, an admittedly red-hot subject. Congressional leaders agreed it would be, three weeks before this issue came to a showdown. That would mean the labor question might not be settled until around July 1. With a majority of legislators already on record as favoring adjournment early in August, Senator Lucas may find his hands full in keeping the lawmakers beyond that time, despite the status of the President's revised "must" program at that time.

An obvious indication of the powder-keg potentials in congress is the administration's willingness to put aside consideration of the North Atlantic pact in the senate, so the labor bill could have the right-of-way. In law-making assemblages where the administration has the whip-hand, delays such as that on major questions are not necessary. If the votes are there, then the measures proposed can be passed. Where there is uncertainty and one side or the other must make the best of a bad deal, compromise is the only way.

My old friend Hassil E. Schenck, tall, raw-boned and virile, president of the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation and a member of the AFBF executive committee has said a truism. In a luncheon speech here recently he told his audience: "Normalcy as this country knew it 10, 15, and 20 years ago is not only a present-day impossibility, but it would be catastrophic and we wouldn't want it if we could have it. America has no alternative but to go forward to a new normal."

Hassil Schenck has been boss of the Indiana Farm Bureau almost as far back as I can remember, back to the days of Bill Settle, who was Indiana Farm Bureau president and later became president of the national organization.

Adjournment Row?

The administration leaders still declare they will pass a Taft-Hartley labor law repeal. Labor's political problem for 1950 is two-fold, and it is determined to beat those who have opposed Taft-Hartley repeal.

First it must hold the spectacular gains it made in 1948 and second, it might win at least 15 additional seats in the house and seven more seats in the senate. Actually labor's program is non-partisan, but realistically it is one of electing mere Democrats from the North and West and different Democrats from the South.

In the senate 34 will be elected in 1950.

Economy Talked

In the meantime congress continues to talk economy and to vote for increased appropriations. The biggest money fight was over the army civil functions bill. The Hoover commission had charged colossal waste of money by army engineers. When appropriations for army civil functions came up Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois asked for a 40 per cent cut. Republicans tried for a 5 or 10 per cent slash but they were defeated.