

Teheran Traffic is Campaign for Mayhem Writes Wife of Army Captain To Parents

"Many Americans, critical of the U.S. methods of handling traffic, might enjoy a typical day on the streets of Teheran where everyone makes his own rules," wrote Mrs. Robert M. Shoemaker recently to her parents, Gen. and Mrs. Roy V. Rickard, 901 South Newmarket street. Mrs. Shoemaker's husband, a captain, is with the United States military advisory group to the Iran government, and the couple lives in Teheran.

"The foundation of this strange and hazardous situation is the sacred right of the individual to 'save face,'" she wrote. "First, look at the participants—the sedan and the camel; the water cart and the 'shedora' cutters and the policeman; the bus and the 'drosky'."

"Start with the premise that all have equal rights. To make progress under the rules one must be aggressive, hence if a car sounds its horn, it simply means someone is challenging that right. To increase pace involves loss of face. Since the driver also has rights, we then either have an accident or a close miss. The pleasure of driving is greatly enhanced by one's efforts to 'skin through' by as minute a margin as possible. Anyone can pass with a foot to spare, but the expert can reduce that margin to mere inches.

"The 'shedora' woman, with one dark eye surreptitiously peeping from the folds of her flowing cloak, never knows the degree of danger to which her life is exposed. Her 'shedora' blinds her to the dangers, and her fatalistic attitude shields her from harm as she shuffles aimlessly out into the traffic stream. Bicyclist Superior

"The bicyclist is a bit superior to the man on foot, and he makes no concession to the man in the car with considerable confidence in the speed of his wheel, he sees no reason for expending energy to change position. His ability to dart in front of vehicles approaching from either direction, displays a daring skill that leaves the uninitiated spectator breathless.

"The camel caravan presents a different problem. The team, of from 10 to 30 follows the 'bell mare' at intervals fixed by a rope from the tail to cheek strap. While there is no attempt here to save face, the camel being a slow, plodding methodical fellow, will not deviate from his position. The 'Shortoban,' in charge of the team, with his many duties as engineer, conductor, load inspector and brakeman, is so busy that usually the 'bell mare' makes the decision, namely to continue on the charted course.

"Polo was invented and first played by the Persians. The art of 'riding off' has been inherited by the taxi driver. While body contact is usually avoided, the 'ride-off' is accomplished with considerable skill. After pushing his adversary out of the way—often into the path of another vehicle—he is ready for a new victim.

Confusion Reigns

"Flocks of sheep, donkeys with loads many times their size, the horse drawn 'drosky' or taxi, two-wheeled carts, rubber-tired wheelbarrows, and even baby carriages add color and confusion. Add to this the water cart, each two-wheeled, drawn by one undersized, gaunt, tired looking little horse. These carts, competing for sales, stop at any place, without notice to traffic behind them, to transfer their water into earthenware gallon jugs. Often the Abbas or Ali will whip his horse into a spectacular race at a furious slow trot—which is top speed for the emaciated animals—with two or three carts abreast—in order to be first at a desirable location.

"The taxi is small and quick the agile polo pony of the Teheran traffic game. The bicycle is the tiny banty rooster darting about so antagonistically. The water cart, the disdainful pedestrian, the donkey and the camel are but painful nuisances. But the almighty bus with its wild-eyed driver is the absolute monarch of Teheran traffic. Take a small capacity high speed

American truck chassis and put an Iranian built body atop—bulbous at the sides, tiny windows, and no rear view mirrors. Paint the bus at least five different bright and glaring colors add modern Cadillac tail fins for effect, crowd at least twice as many people into it as was originally intended and now you are almost ready to enter the lists for the traffic tournament. But not quite. The bus driver and the bus conductor must be especially qualified. The driver must never stop at a bus stop, but always in the middle of the traffic stream. He must never look to the right or left, front or back at any time the bus is on the Teheran battlefield. But most of all he must be a four-wheeled guided missile.

"The autobus conductor is an entirely different breed. He is one of the most important participants in the Teheran campaign of mayhem. He stands on one foot on the bottom step of the bus entrance at least three-fourths of his body dangling outside the bus. No vehicle in the streets of Teheran ever passes a bus in motion! The bus driver and conductor team up to assure against such a disgrace. If a vehicle pulls abreast on the left, the driver senses this affront and cramps his wheel 'hard sport' to quickly rid his majestic vehicle of its pestiferous intruder. Should a vehicle have the effrontery to attempt to pass on the right, the conductor comes into his own; with wild gesticulations, informing the bus driver, the oncoming vehicle driver, the bus passengers, and the world in general, most volubly, concerning the approaching insult.

"The driver, taking his cue from the conductor, veers crazily to the right and eliminates automatically, any possible contender for first place in the traffic stream. But the conductor really begins to enjoy his field day at the bus stops. Foreigners in Teheran might consider it courteous to allow debarking passengers to alight before the oncoming passengers board the bus. The Teheran conductor would never, could never tolerate such orderly procedure. His job is to quickly round up the entering passengers and crowd them into the path of the debarking passengers, creating a sizeable melee at the door and further obscuring the vision of the driver. At precisely the right moment he must shout to the driver to get the bus in motion.

"The white lines appearing in the middle of the streets serve principally as decorations. To stay in one's zone shows lack of initiative and skill. Without lessening his speed, the skilled local driver dodges across the street at an alarming angle to avoid holes in the paving, then with surprising dexterity zags back. Near Miss Misses

"Another interesting experience is the manner in which accidents are settled when a near

miss misses being a miss! Here again both parties have equal rights. This is where, for the first time in all of Teheran's traffic congestion, a policeman appears. He picks out the smallest man involved and starts to give him a severe verbal chastisement. However, if the small man develops into a fast, loud talker, he soon has many advocates in the ever-growing crowd. Meanwhile, the vehicles involved are left in the middle of the street, knotting traffic in both directions. The argument has progressed either up or down the street as the antagonists choose, many others have gathered, and soon the policeman is pushed to the outside of the crowd. When the crowd is finally dispersed by police reinforcements, the chances are that the original participants in the accident will have disappeared in the crowd—confederates having, if the crash permits, already moved the vehicles away from police jurisdiction.

"It has been said that if you arrive in Teheran with patience you develop impatience. Howev-

Mrs. Harnish Hostess For Eagle Point Club

Eagle Point — Eagle Point Garden club met at the home of Mrs. Ray Harnish January 2 with Mrs. Glenn Hale cohostess. Mrs. Cliff Green spoke on the planting of perennials.

Plans were started for the spring flower show. The next meeting will be the annual supper for members and their husbands. It will be held in the Grange hall February 6 at 6:30 p.m. Members will be notified prior to the supper what they are to take. Mrs. Glenn Clymers is chairman for the annual affair.

To Visit Mothers

Gold Star Mothers will meet at the home of Mrs. Oscar Anderson, 218 Winema Way, Medford, Tuesday, January 8, at 1:30 p.m.

Plans will be arranged during the meeting for the visit of Mrs. Rose Decker, Portland, department of Oregon president, who will be here Wednesday, January 9 for the department of Oregon birthday party at Camp White.

er, if you arrive with impatience you soon develop insanity. To survive one must develop that fatalistic devil-may-care, hell-for-leather desire to get there first, stay there and 'save face.'"

Rogue River PTA To Hold Auction

Rogue River — Rogue River PTA will sponsor an auction at the Rogue River high school gymnasium Wednesday, January 9, at 8 p.m.

Any usable article will be accepted for the auction and contributors are asked to bring the articles to the Rogue River Feed store before Wednesday or to the high school gymnasium on the day of the auction before 6 p.m.

Articles donated should be marked with name of donor's children's favorite teacher. Ray Jenkins from Pacific Auction House will be the auctioneer. Furniture, toys, plants, baked food and farm produce are among the acceptable items for the auction.

Daughter Leaves After Visit Here

Miss Dorothy Wright returned to Chicago Thursday after spending two weeks here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wright, 113 Mistletoe street, and her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Huntley, 2179 Craier Lake avenue.

Miss Wright is in the personnel department of George Fry and Associates, business management consultants in Chicago.

Knights, Sisters Plan Installation Monday Evening

Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters will hold joint installation of officers Monday, January 7, at 8 p.m. at the Pythian building. Miss Florence Bain will be installed as most excellent chief, and James O'Duane as chancellor commander.

The installing officers are Mrs. W. L. Walden and Hugh Welsh, grand chancellor of Oregon. Entertainment will be provided preceding the ladies' installation and also before the men's initiation, with refreshments being served.

All the staff members are reminded to be present and to wear their formal gowns. Mrs. Mildred Tolle, retiring excellent chief, will call a special meeting prior to installation for the purpose of presentation of the auditing committee's report.

Installation Set By Two Lodges

Mt. Pitt Rebekah lodge 167 and Central Point IOOF lodge 197 will hold a joint formal installation Monday, January 7, at 8 p.m. at the Central Point Grange hall.

The public is invited to attend.

Luncheon Meeting Set For Women of Rotary

Women of Rotary will meet at Rogue Valley Country club Wednesday, January 9 at 12:30 p.m. Mrs. John Dickson will be the hostess.

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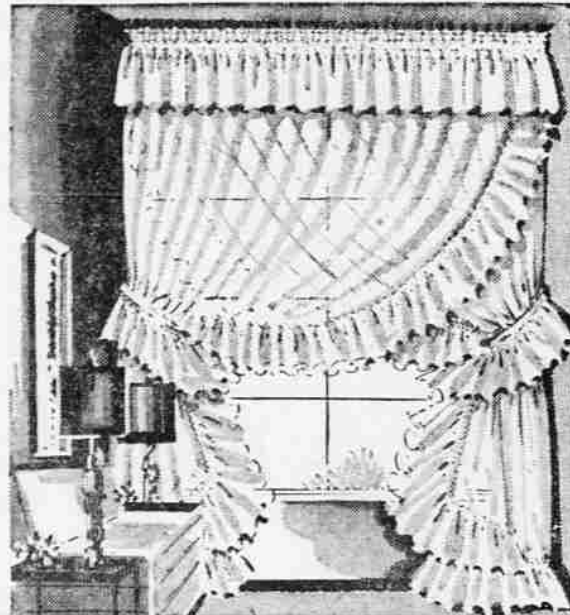
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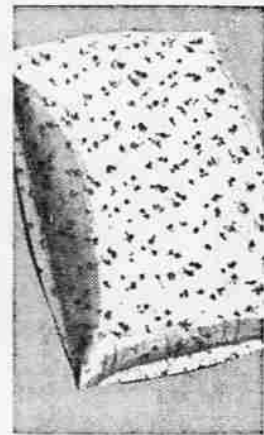
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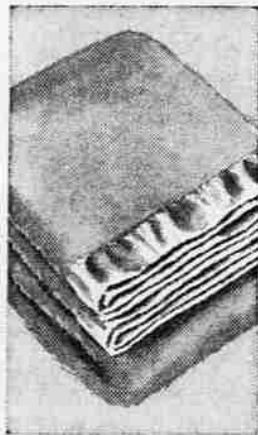
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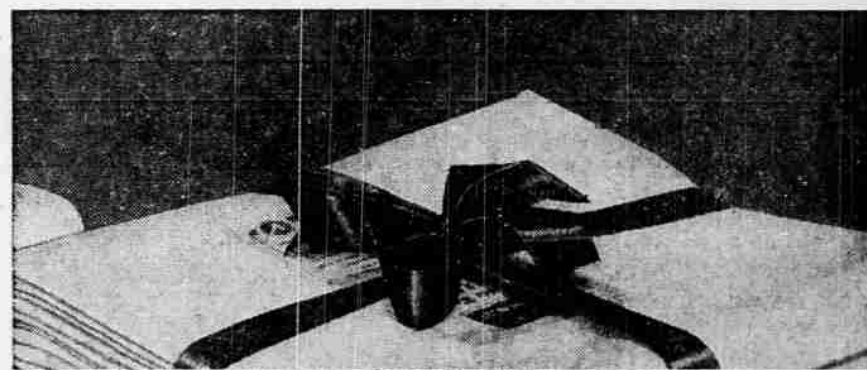


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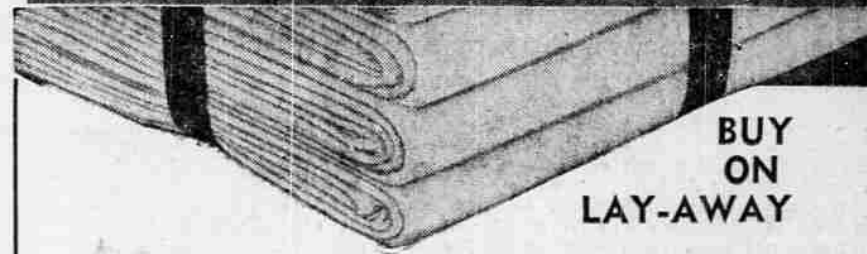
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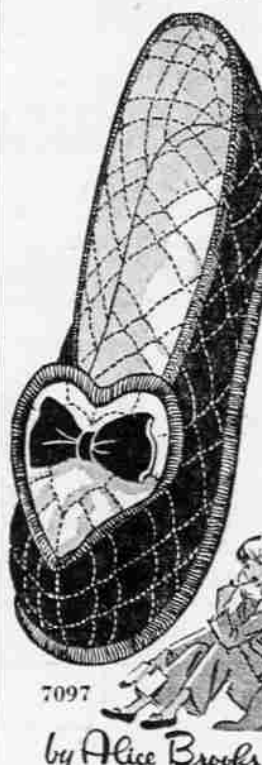
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