

Summer Madness Starts This Week End; Racing Veteran Urges Caution on Roads

BY JOHNNY PARSONS
Written for United Press
America's summer madness begins this week end.

There are going to be lots of cars on the highways in the vacation season, and some of the drivers are going to do crazy, unaccountable things.

They're going to make right turns from left lanes; they're going to stop without warning or suddenly veer out into yellow-marked middle lanes even though you're already there; they're going to be tired, sleepy,

unconcerned—even mad.

You can expect to meet these guys any time, any place. But the main thing is: Don't you be one of them.

I drive up to 60,000 miles a year from race to race and cover 150 schools a month for the Champion Spark Plug Company's highway safety program. I talk safety to youngsters, many of whom look upon race drivers as dare-devils. I tell them that speeding and reckless driving are signs of immature driving.

One of the reasons way 40,

000 lives are lost each year on U.S. highways is the complete lack of mental alertness. In other words, keeping your eyes open—watching your own actions as well as those of other drivers.

We have no idea whether the man coming towards us will turn in front of us. If we travel bumper to bumper at unsafe speeds, a sudden turn or stop will make a line of automobiles look like a crumpled accordion. You can't control 300 horsepower if you wave your hands in conversation while driving.

At the Speedway, every crew has somebody ready to go in relief if the starting driver begins to show undue strain. Daily our highways are loaded with people trying to drive themselves to a frazzle to complete a trip. Take a common sense tip:

When there is more than one driver in a car, split the driving assignments regularly. If not, then a practical suggestion would be to take a break every 100 miles. On a long trip a lot of mileage can be covered—covered safely—under that plan.

There is also the matter of

courtesy. To us on the Speedway courtesy is absolutely essential. If we don't show it, the people who run auto racing will ask us to find another way to make a living. On the racetrack—or on the highway—there is no excuse for carelessness or rudeness.

There are some discourteous acts which lead to trouble: Leaving the curb without looking; stopping bumper to bumper in traffic and not giving some guy a break when he's trying to get away from the curb; speeding up after someone's started to pass you; cutting in and out of slow-moving traffic.

And there is the "hometown" driver who turns off or stops without thinking to signal—the one who if you hit him gets mad and says, "Why you oughtta know I was going to turn here. I've been doing it every day at this time for 20 years."

Just for the fun of it, leave your home tomorrow with the idea you're going to give every motorist a break. You'll be surprised how good it will make you feel. And who knows? It may rub off on the other fellow and start a chain reaction that can save a life—maybe yours.



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Pattern of Liquor Laws Across Nation Enough To Drive a Traveler To Drink

New York—In Kentucky bartenders are forbidden by law to sell drinks to men who are not supporting their families.

In Michigan the law against free food with liquor is so strict taverns cannot even put potato chips, peanuts or popcorn on the bar.

Pennsylvania bars must have enough food, tables, chairs, silver chinaware and cooking utensils on hand to convince an inspector they could serve a meal immediately.

Sunrise To Sunset
In Indiana cocktail lounges must not be dimly lighted. In South Carolina you should know

the time of sunrise and sunset to buy bottled liquor for that is when the law says stores open and close.

In most states bars close at 1 a.m. In New York City they stay open until 4 and in Nevada they go around the clock. Oklahoma and Mississippi are the only two entirely "dry" states in the nation, but in both you can get all you want to drink.

The pattern of liquor laws across the nation is so varied, contradictory, unobserved and often pointless as to dizzy a transcontinental traveler. The United Press took a survey of the 48 states and these are some

of the things discovered:

Despite constant "local option" battles, the country is getting "wetter" all the time. Last year some 215 million gallons of spirits were sold, 8 per cent over 1955 and the biggest year in history except 1956 when sales hit 231 million gallons.

Women do not have equality in the barroom in many places. A bill in the Washington legislature this year to let ladies sit at bars was soundly beaten. Rhode Island draws the line between bars (sell food-women allowed) and saloons (no food—no women). Chicago prohibits women sitting alone at a bar.

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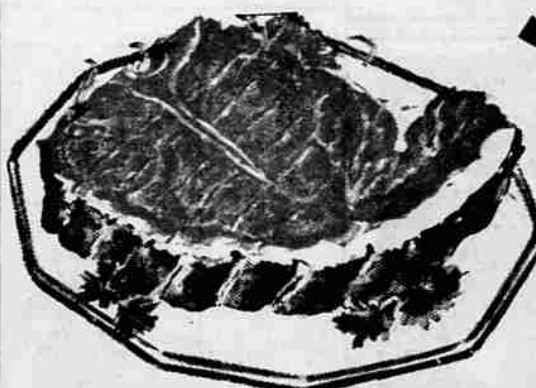
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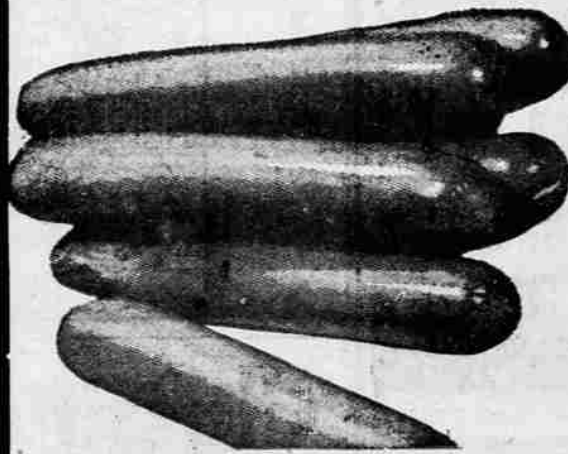
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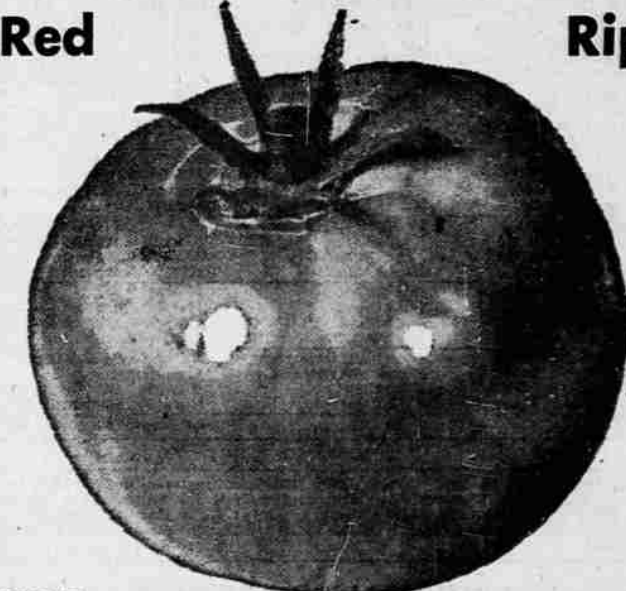
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