

Old Game of 'Bumper Tag' Helps To Sharpen Wits of Truck Drivers

By DICK WEST
Washington — (AP) — Many Americans feel that vacations are a time for fun and frolic. Many others seek rest and relaxation. I have just returned from one of the educational type vacations. I didn't plan it that way, but that's the way it worked out.

While making an extensive, cross-country automobile trip, I became an involuntary expert on the recreational habits of truck drivers. In fact, I was able to evolve a theory as to how the drivers amuse themselves during long hauls over the more-or-less open road.

Scholarly conjecture, plus deep draughts of diesel fumes, led me to conclude that they keep their wits sharp and their driving skill at peak condition by playing a variation of the old game of "bumper tag," otherwise known as "Detroit chess."

The rules go something like this: Each driver receives five points for every automobile that he can "capture," or force into a queue, while laboring up a steep hill or rounding a blind curve in low gear.

Any Number Play
Any number of trucks can play and a driver may "capture" cars either as a solitary player or while playing in partnership with another truck. At times, a partnership offers certain advantages.

For example, if one truck takes a position immediately behind another truck at the bottom of a hill or the beginning of a curve, they are said to be "tailgated." Passing becomes twice as difficult and the scores of both drivers are doubled.

If, however, the second truck cannot maintain the "tailgate" position and drops back in the procession, then each driver only gets credit for half of the automobiles "captured" on that particular hill or curve.

All drivers, whether playing alone or in tandem, lose five points for every car that "escapes," or manages to pass, on a straightaway. Here again, partnership, or "team" play, can be advantageous.

Employ Pass Play
When a straightaway is sighted, the most commonly employed strategy is for the "lead" truck to signal to the second truck to attempt to pass. This blocks both lanes of the highway and prevents the "captured" automobiles from "escaping."

The object is for the two trucks to take turns passing each other until they reach another hill or curve.

On rare occasions, a driver may be unable to find a "partner" on a straightaway and will lose all of the cars that he has "captured." When that happens, he must either forfeit all of his points or go back to the nearest weighing station.

The drivers turn in their score cards at "truck stop" restaurants, where the points are added up by a waitress on the back of a menu.

The driver with the most number of points is declared the winner and, as a prize, receives a life-size portrait of Jimmy Hoffa, autographed by Bobby Kennedy.

Oregon to Host National Meeting

Eugene — The University of Oregon will be host to the annual meeting of the directors of vocational rehabilitation counseling or training programs.

This is the first time that this national meeting has been held in Oregon. Last year's session was in New York City.

A grant of \$34,185 has just been received by the University from U.S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to finance the meeting. The counselors will meet at the Multnomah hotel in Portland Dec. 3-5. About 100 directors, counselors and government officials are expected to attend.

Thirty U.S. colleges and universities, including the University now have vocational rehabilitation counseling or training programs. For the last five years the University has received federal support for its two-year graduate program, which trains students as counselors to work with physically or mentally disabled persons.

Dr. Martin H. Acker, assistant professor of education and director of the training program here, is in charge of arrangements for the December meeting. Dr. Acker came to the University last year from the Stanford University Medical school, where he was chief of vocational services in the division of rehabilitation medicine.

The topic of the meeting will be "the skill and knowledge of the counselor as they affect the problems of job placement of the handicapped." Several experts on counseling will be speakers.

Premature Baby May Be Born to Smoking Mother

Washington — (AP) — The expectant mother who smokes stands a greater risk of giving birth to a premature baby than the woman who does not smoke, according to a government-sponsored research project.

The U. S. Public Health Service reported that early findings also indicate that the infant born to a cigarette-smoking woman is likely to be smaller at birth than the baby of a nonsmoking mother.

The health service released some of the preliminary findings of a research project now in its fourth year. It said the results so far should be "viewed with caution" because the research activities are still going on.

But it said that what has been learned so far "may prove to be promising leads for future investigation."

The research program dealing with the connection between birth defects and events during pregnancy has involved more than 23,000 expectant mothers and 17,000 children, the health service said. It is being conducted by 15 medical centers and under the coordination of the service's National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness.

Income Tax Audit Nels State Money

Salem — (AP) — An agreement giving the state access to federal income tax audits has been reached by the State Tax Commission, an extra \$800,555 through June 30, Chairman Fred Hoefke said Monday.

The agreement was signed with the Internal Revenue service last December. The state picked up the extra money by checking 2,445 federal audits. In most cases, taxpayers haven't paid enough.

The state's cost under the agreement has been \$10,000. Federal officials also are permitted to study tax audits performed by the state.

The commission is still probing another 1,921 cases where federal audits altered the returns filed by taxpayers.

BOMB BRINGS FINE

Farnborough, England — (AP) — Research student John Pond was fined \$39.20 Monday because his experiment was a success. Police said that Pond's experimental bomb exploded and uprooted a tree near his home in addition to flattening surrounding shrubbery.

Safety Tips For Boaters Given By Red Cross

Seamanship and safety are one and the same, the Red Cross reminds owners of small boats.

"There's no treat quite like owning a boat," said Alfred W. Cantwell, national director of ARC safety services, "but there is a trick to staying alive afloat."

The boatman must realize that water does not stay put the way the pavement of a highway does. He must learn how to handle his boat in the constantly changing conditions of winds, tides, and currents.

"With more than 8,000,000 small boats, a majority motor-powered, on America's waterways, and nearly 40,000,000 persons taking part in this increasingly popular sport, certain additional safeguards are essential," Cantwell added.

He recommended these precautions "that can help keep you afloat and alive":

1. Check U.S. weather bureau forecasts before taking your boat out on open water.

2. Have aboard life jackets and other gear required by federal and state regulations.

Other recommended equipment includes an anchor, compass, charts, fire extinguisher, extra line, tool kit, first aid kit, and boat hook.

3. Equip your boat with running lights if you intend to take it out at night.

4. Don't overload your boat — limit the number of passengers. A safe loading rule for a small boat is — keep at least a third of its depth, amidships, above the water line.

5. Don't overpower an outboard boat. Your dealer can tell you what size motor is safe for your boat.

6. Don't smoke while refueling.

Great Plains Land Damage by Blow Season Estimated

Washington — (AP) — The final report of land damage in the Great Plains during the 1961-62 blow season December-May shows that 1,430,000 acres suffered from wind action.

This compares with 2,324,000 acres damaged by wind during the comparable period a year earlier.

The land damaged during the current season includes 1,148,000 acres of cropland, 233,000 acres of rangeland, and 49,000 acres of other land.

The Northern Plains States reported 734,000 acres damaged compared with 1,633,000 acres damaged a year earlier. The Southern Plains states reported 696,000 acres damaged. A year ago the Southern Plains damage covered 691,000 acres.

The Soil Conservation Service said emergency tillage was applied on about 2.3 million acres during the current blow season. Texas reported the largest acreage, 2 million, of emergency tillage. Several states reported it effective in keeping the total acres of land damage to a minimum.

Several of the Southern Plains states reported a considerable acreage of land in condition to blow, but relatively few high velocity winds and some precipitation in late May resulted in less land damage than expected.

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN
Des Moines, Iowa — (AP) — Ronnie Hartsell, 6, was found by police Monday, two hours after his uncle reported him missing, furiously pedaling

Eagle Scout Ceremony Is Held by Yreka Troop 34

Yreka — The rank of Eagle Scout was conferred upon Glen Schmidt at a ceremony held in the Veterans hall July 10 at 8 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 34 is sponsored by the American Legion and it is believed that this is the first Eagle Scout rank in this troop.

Glen, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Schmidt, will enter his senior year at Yreka High school this fall. He has been a scout since he was 11 years old. He has a brother named Bill, who is also a Boy Scout.

Glen and his parents were escorted to the council table by scouters Lloyd Flock, former troop scout master, made the presentation and Mrs. Schmidt pinned the badge on her son. Troop 34 then presented Mrs. Schmidt a necklace with eagle and Mr. Schmidt a tie clasp with eagle.

There were two second class ranks given. One to Ronnie Orr and the other to Rodney Dallaire. Legion Commander Guy Castellano presented the pins.

Various merit badges were also presented. Lester Fasig, Medford, who is the coordinator between scout troops and Crater Lake council, spoke to the scouts about the aims of scouting. W. M. vanOver, scout official, told how one became an Eagle Scout and listed the requirements. Clyde June, scout master, was master of ceremonies.

Mrs. Clyde June, president of the American Legion auxiliary, presented Misses Sonja Franson, Yreka, and Sandra Farley, Fort Jones, who attended Girls' State at Davis, Calif. Clyde June introduced Wayne Miller, who attended Boys' State. All three students were sponsored by the American Legion.

The girls reported they each held office of a Supreme Court justice. Some 521 girls attended. Wayne Miller reported that 850 boys at the event set up city government and elected officials, then did the same for county and state. This experience taught them the functions of public office and it took on a deeper meaning, they said.

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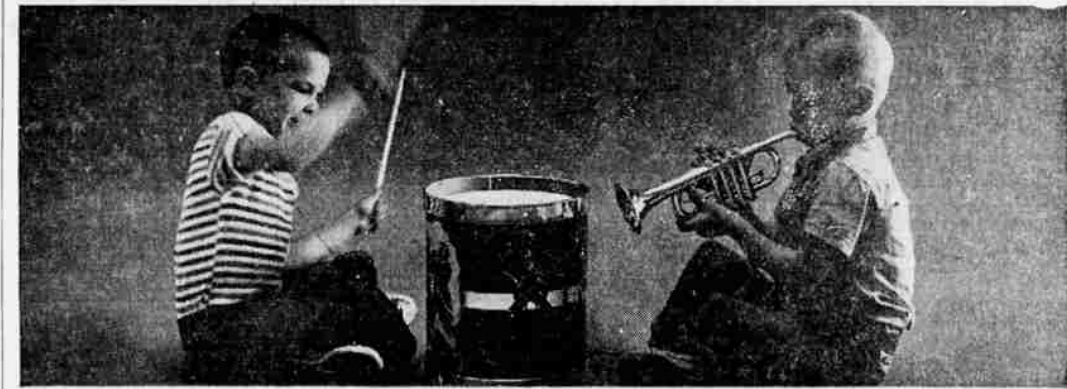
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