

are you Too Good a Driver?

Are you an exceptionally skillful automobile driver?

If you are, you probably do not realize ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~ that you are in constant danger when you drive.

There is danger on the highways, on the parking lots and in the city streets. Due ~~in~~ to an ever increasing vehicle load on our streets and highways, the saturation point ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is rapidly being reached. Soon, now, we will have to take turns driving, which in effect, is what is happening now. Toll highways are becoming more and more accepted in our driving expectancy.

This increasing congestion is the cause for increasing danger, whether you are a seasoned and excellent driver or whether you are a novice. But the particular danger for you, the expert, is that you do not realize that the very skill of your driving is likely to get you in serious trouble.

Our traffic laws are geared, not to the finest, but to the most unskilled, drivers. ~~Unfortunatly~~ Fortunately for Grandma and Grandpa, as well as the high school members of the family, the freedom of everything in our country applies to drivers as well as churchgoers.

If Grampaw can see across the road with his bi-focals on, then, bless Patty, Grampaw can get a license to drive an automobile, regardless of the fact that Grandpa's ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ driving days were geared to the era of Studebakers!(wagons, that is.)

Little Sister, kissed or unkissed, achieves the dignity and maturity of age sixteen. Life begins, on the highways, at sweet sixteen. Unfortunately, it can end at any age.

A good driver, if he knows all the tricks, and if he

stays completely sober, and if he realizes that he has to bear the full share of responsibility of all the other drivers encountered, then --- and only then, are his chances of being a good risk realized to the fullest extent.

The best risk on the highways today is ^{none} ~~not~~ too good. If you are not assured of a one hundred per cent chance of getting there and getting back safely, then driving is not the fun that most people are thoughtlessly inclined to believe.

Statistically, your chances are not even pretty good.

Logically, driving is one of the most unsound calculated risks of the era. An era that is, heaven only knows, cram full of bad risks in the battle for survival.

Take up any newspaper, large or small, on any circulation day and count the number of automobile, truck and other vehicle casualties. Note the types, causes, state of physical being at the time of the accident. Add it up in your own way and come out with your own set of statistics. See how good are your chances, even if you stay sober, pay attention to what you are doing, and know every trick in the book.

Now, perhaps you are are as skillful at driving a four-wheeled vehicle as a human being can get. OK. Are you the kind that despises the mistakes of the other drivers that you encounter? Do you curse them under your breath. Do you even curse them out loud? You're not even a medium good risk, with all your skill. The guy you're so apoplectically mad at is old Joe average driver, himself. He's the guy (you fool) that the road laws are made for.

Are you a gentleman of the road? Maybe you don't know that truck drivers now dub themselves "gentlemen of the road." For too many years truck drivers made themselves abnoxious by shouting opinions and epithets ~~to~~ at other drivers. Now they are making an honest attempt to retrieve some share of responsibility in the demeanor and conduct of the flow of overcrowded highway traffic.

Truck and automobile traffic are not homogenous and never will be. Professional drivers, though they be the best, can never be compatible with amateur drivers. Fast vehicles, whether it be truck or automobile, cannot mix on the same travel lanes with slow traffic. Throw in a few "creeps" and you can add another dollar to your insurance policy.

Speed causes highway deaths. Speed kills. Speed maims.

Death and maimed bodies are also caused by falling off the roof, falling down the stairs and falling off of trains.

Any time you get up any amount of motion, you're subject to getting hurt. Even if you run too fast you can get seriously hurt.

Sure, then speed is one of the causes of your poor chances of survival on the highways. Unfortunately speed is motion and motion is the basis of the desireability of highway travel in the first place. High and dangerous speeds can be cut down, but this is only eliminating PART of the danger. The other part is inherent and cannot be eliminated. Since gravity, mass and motion cause accidents, ~~they~~ ACCIDENTS THEREFORE CANNOT BE ELIMINATED for highway traffic is comprised of GRAVITY, MASS AND MOTION.

Then, upon what can we base our chances of survival on the highways? Human skill? Human ~~courtesy~~ ^{human} Laws?

It all depends upon what your definition of the word human is.

Is the skillful human to be depended on while ~~he~~ his face is distorted and his neck muscles are bulging with anger at the unskillfulness of his fellow driver?

Can snarled traffic depend upon the usual good nature of the courteous driver who happens to be slightly "hung over" or who has just had a somewhat trying discussion of finances with his uncourteous half.

If humans are ~~independent~~ are not wholly dependable at all times, EVERY MINUTE OF THEIR DRIVING HOUR, then they are not a good risk. Since ^{human} ~~human~~ beings ~~are~~, or the traffic facsimile, are the genus under consideration, it would appear that they cannot supply themselves an even break as drivers, regardless of their skill or experience.

Laws are mechanical things.

A traffic law has no feeling, no flexibility.

A round traffic law must accomodate square drivers.

A square traffic law can expect to be gorged with round pegs.

Traffic violators come in all shapes and sizes, but the laws are unrelenting, inflexible and the same shape for the skillful and experienced as for the blissful novice.

A yardstick, the law, to measure and to cuff with.

The law, like Smith & Wessen, levels all men.

The law takes its toll on the highways in fines and insults. It penalizes everyone who falls within its clutches. Its

