Greatest Driving Hazard? Skidding Has Right of Way

Reduced Visibility Ranks as Next to Highest Cause Of Accidents.

CHICAGO.—When winter comes, automobile crashes are not far behind, and it's not always fair weather when good fellows get together—unless they're prepared for safe winter driving.

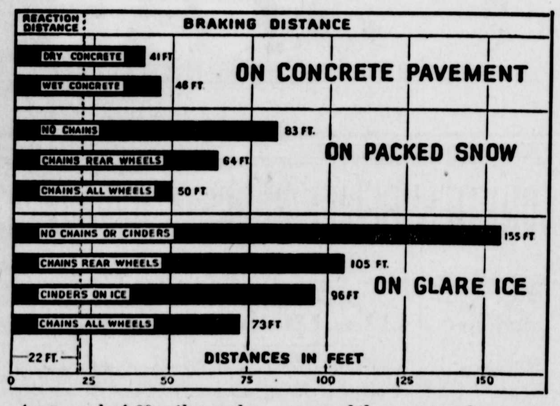
The National Safety council, whose committee on winter driving hazards has conducted comprehensive research and tests of all problems created by "Old Man Winter," has revealed practical prevention methods resulting from the study which will do much to cut down the 40 per cent increase of deaths and accidents during winter months in northern states.

The greatest winter hazard is skidding and inadequate traction, the committee's research proved. Stopping distances without tire chains or cinders are from five to eight times longer on sleet or ice than on dry pavement, and three to five times longer on packed snow than on dry pavement.

Reduced visibility was clearly shown as the second most important hazard. Snow storms, in addition to obscuring the highway, often hide vehicles stalled because of inadequate traction. There are also more hours of darkness in winter.

Safety Rules.

While decreased traction and visibility are the principal hazards, the following "logical eleven" set of rules cover all problems of winter motoring and a study of them now may save your life or prevent severe injuries and property damage later.



At a speed of 20 miles an hour, automobile stopping distance is 22 feet more than actual braking distance because it takes the average motorist three-quarters of a second to react and apply brakes. At 20 m. p. h. a car travels 22 feet in three-quarters of a second. Guide shows how weather conditions affect stopping distances.

1. Check electrical and exhaust systems, windshield wipers and keep brakes equalized. Keep tire chains, defrosters, and other vital equipment in good condition for use when needed. Distribute the car's load evenly.

2. Maintain adequate vision through windshield and windows. Circulate fresh air by opening cowl ventilator, rather than side windows, which tend to suck exhaust gases through the floor boards.

3. On slippery surfaces, keep speed down and the car in gear. Avoid situations requiring quick stops and sudden changes of direction.

4. Speeds on ice should not be excessive even with abrasives on the ice or with tire chains. Chains or cinders provide a needed safety factor, making 20 miles an hour on ice reasonably safe. Without them the same speed is extremely hazardous and speeds lower than 15 miles an hour are imperative.

5. The common practices of lowering tire pressure or of increasing the load give only slightly more traction and not nearly sufficient for all-around safety. These practices also damage tires. Non-skid tread tires are definitely helpful on wet pavement and to a very limited extent on snow, but they give no more anti-skid protection on ice than smooth tires.

6. Tire chains are the best self-help for the passenger car motorist. They are recommended for driving on ice and, in most instances, on snow—especially on hard packed snow. Chains on the rear wheels alone will reduce stopping distances on ice 25 to 35 per cent, and on all four wheels 40 to 50 per cent over even new tires. On packed snow tire chains cut stopping 28 per cent when on rear wheels, and 51 per cent if used on all four wheels. However, these reductions do not warrant high speeds. Chains are particularly recommended on icy hills and for heavy vehicles. Trucks with trailer units should use chains on wheels of trailer as well as tractor.

Chains Particularly Recommended on Icy Hills and For Heavy Vehicles.

Watch for Ice.

7. On wet and even dry pavement, always anticipate ice on bridges, in shaded spots, around curves and over hills, and when thawing temperatures are dropping.

8. Start by releasing the clutch slowly, with engine idling and the car in low gear, and accelerate cautiously to avoid spinning the rear wheels. Without chains on an icy road, it is unsafe to overtake vehicles in urban areas and hazardous in rural areas unless the road ahead is clear for at least a half mile.

9. Pump the brakes in stopping, even when using chains, to keep the wheels rolling. Slow down in gear to about 10 miles an hour, then release the clutch for the final stop.

10. Keep a steady foot on the accelerator to avoid spinning the rear wheels. If a skid starts, turn the front wheels in the direction the car is skidding.

11. When it is slippery try out the brakes occasionally to get the feel of the road.

How New Year Speeds Around the World

When 1940 reaches New York City in a blare of noise at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, it will already be early Monday evening just east of Australia in the Chatham islands. Meanwhile, the clock will register 6:30 p. m. Sunday. The new year is born on the lonely Chatham islands, 414 miles east of New Zealand and races westward at 1,000 miles an hour. About 200 shepherds and fishermen in Chatham group celebrate the New Year by ringing the church bell on Hanson island. The international date line, near these isles, was set by the British admiralty and runs near the 180th meridian of longitude.

Droll Little Jimmy Skunk Tells Mrs. Peter Rabbit of Adventure

By THORNTON BURGESS

WHEN old Granny Fox found Prickly Porky with his thousand little spears all pointing at her standing between her and Peter Rabbit she was the angriest old fox ever seen. She didn't dare touch Prickly Porky, for she knew well enough what it would mean to get one of those sharp, barbed little spears in her skin. To think that she actually had caught Peter Rabbit and then lost him was too provoking! It was more than her temper, never of the best, could stand. In her anger she dug up the leaves and earth with her hind feet, and all the time her tongue fairly flew as she called Prickly Porky, Jimmy Skunk and Unc' Billy Possum everything bad she could think of. Her yellow eyes snapped so that it seemed almost as if sparks of fire flew from them. It made Peter shiver just to look at her.

"I've begged him and begged him to keep away from the Green Forest," said she.

Unc' Billy Possum, who by slipping up behind her and biting one of her heels had made her let go of Peter, grinned down at her from a safe place in a tree. Jimmy Skunk stood grinning at her in a most provoking manner, and she couldn't do a thing about it because she had no desire to have Jimmy use his little bag of perfume. So she just talked herself out, and then, with many parting threats of what she would do, she started for home. Unc' Billy noticed that she limped a little with the foot he had nipped so hard. He couldn't help feeling just a little bit sorry for her.

When she had gone the others turned to Peter Rabbit to see how badly he had been hurt. They looked him all over and found that he wasn't much the worse for his rough experience. He was rather stiff and lame, and the back of his neck was very sore where Granny Fox had seized him, but he would be quite himself in a day or two.

"I must get home now," said he in a rather faint voice. "Mrs. Peter will be sure that something has happened to me and will be worried to death."

"No, you don't!" declared Jimmy Skunk. "You are going to stay right here where we can take care of you. It wouldn't be safe for you to go to the Old Brier Patch now, because if you should meet Old Man Coyote or Reddy Fox or Whitetail the Marsh-hawk you would not be able to run fast enough to get away. I will go down and tell Mrs. Peter, and you will make yourself comfortable in the old house behind that stump where I was hiding."

Peter tried to insist on going home, but the others wouldn't hear of it, and Jimmy Skunk settled the matter by starting for the dear Old Brier Patch. He found little Mrs. Peter anxiously looking toward the Green Forest for some sign of Peter.

"Oh!" she cried. "You have come to bring me bad news. Do tell me quickly what has happened to Peter!"

"Nothing much has happened to Peter," replied Jimmy promptly. Then in the drollest way he told all about the fright of Granny Fox when she first saw the terrible creature rolling down the hill and all that happened after, but he took great care to make light of Peter's escape, and explained that he was just going to rest up there on Prickly Porky's hill for that day and would be home the next night. But little Mrs. Peter wasn't wholly satisfied.

"I've begged him and begged him to keep away from the Green Forest," said she, "but now if he is hurt so that he can't come home he needs me, and I'm going straight up there myself!"

Nothing that Jimmy could say had the least effect, and so at last he agreed to take her to Peter. And so, hopping behind Jimmy Skunk, timid little Mrs. Peter Rabbit actually went into the Green Forest, of which she was so much afraid, which shows how brave love can be sometimes.

© T. W. Burgess.—WNU Service.

Burglar Turns Tables, Locks Unlocked Safe

DANBURY, CONN.—A burglar turned the tables on Ernest E. Breston, grocer.

Breston never locked his safe because he lost the combination and feared he would be unable to open it again.

The burglar, however, spun the dial when he finished rifling it and Breston was compelled to call in a safe expert to learn whether the $310 he had deposited in two compartments had been taken.

Public Is Puzzled Over Names Given Thoroughbred Dogs

Because pure-bred dogs come from so many corners of the earth, there are many misconceptions held by the general public concerning the 108 breeds recognized by the American Kennel club.

The names of the breeds seem to be particularly puzzling to most people, and few can understand why some are capitalized and others are not. This confusion is increased because foreign words often seem like proper nouns.

A visit to the library at the headquarters of the A. K. C. sheds light on the derivation of the names of the breeds, and reveals that mistaken meanings are taken even from English names. For instance, the bloodhound is not so-called because he can scent the blood of criminals. In the past he was called the "blooded hound," meaning simply that he was an aristocrat among dogs.

The French word "papillon" was given to a toy breed because its fringed ears resembled the wings of a butterfly. Also from France comes the basset hound, and its name means merely that it is low to the ground.

The schipperke originated in Belgium, and it earned its Flemish name, which means "little captain," because it was found so generally as a guard on the canal boats.

What to Do

BY PHYLLIS BELMONT

I HAVE always been under the impression that a bride entered the church on her father's right arm. However, at all the weddings I have recently attended, the bride was on her father's left arm. Will you please tell me which is correct, as we are planning a wedding and have had quite a discussion on this subject. Thank you.
MRS. F. J. C.

Answer—The bride does enter the church on her father's right arm, so she can take the bridegroom's left arm when she meets him at the altar. This places the father at the bride's left so that, after he gives the bride away, he can conveniently take his place beside the bride's mother, who is seated in the front pew on the left-hand side of the church.

Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.

Serving Same Purpose for Germany?

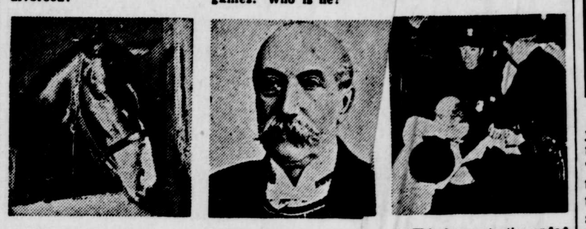
France and Britain claim that George Elser, left, arrested by Germany for setting the Munich bomb which almost killed Adolf Hitler, is merely a "stooge" and that the bombing was planned to provide an excuse for purging Nazi ranks of undesirables. It was recalled that similar allegations were made about the Dutch communist, Marius van der Luebbe, right, whose arrest in 1933 for starting the Reichstag fire was a prelude to suspension of German civil liberties.

What Do You Know About 1939?

1 Who is this handsome youngster and who divorced her—to marry what swimmer, who was recently divorced?

2 These feet belong to a baseball player who had to quit in 1939 after playing about 2,300 consecutive games. Who is he?

Whose nose is this? When and why did it make news most of last summer, and where did all this take place?



4 This horse won a big race last May and his name isn't Man O' War, Lawrin, El Chico, or War Admiral. Who is he? What race?

5 This Italian gentleman's name was Filippo Pailli. What happened on his 63rd birthday, March 2, 1939?

6 This demonstration ended when someone said, "You cannot strike against the government." Who said it? To whom?

7 Something quite astonishing happened to the piece of land shown in black. What's it's name and who owns it now?

8 This young gentleman went traveling broad last summer. What is his name and where did he go? What's wrong with him?

9 This man left on a long, cold trip, and he won't be home until late in 1940. Who is he? Why did he go where?

HERE'S THE ANSWERS—DON'T PEEK!

1. Fanny Brice, divorced by Billy Rose to marry Eleanor Holm.
2. Lou Gehrig.
3. Submarine Squalus, sunk off Portsmouth, N. H. Picture taken during unsuccessful attempt to raise her.
4. Johnstown. Won Kentucky derby.
5. Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli became Pope Pius XII.
6. President Roosevelt said it. WPA workers were striking against new wage provisions.
7. Albania, seized by Italy. Formerly ruled by King Zog.
8. Fred Snite Jr., infantile paralysis victim, went to shrine at Lourdes, France.
9. Admiral Richard E. Byrd. He went to Antarctic to stake out land claims for the U. S.

Warning for Bachelors: Maids Propose in 1940!

Run for cover, you bachelors. It's leap year!

Twenty-nine days hath February in 1940, which gives the maidens free rein to blurt out those marriage proposals they've been saving since 1936.

Leap year is so-called because it "leaps forward" a day as compared with an ordinary year. It so happens that the leap years coincide with years divisible by four without remainder.

'Self-Serve' Party Enjoyed by Guests On New Year's Eve

ENTERTAINING guests on New Year's eve? It's being done more than ever before this year as America turns to stay-at-home entertainment.

If so, you'll want an informal affair with a buffet style supper late in the evening, patterned after the Swedish "smorgasbord." The table is generally placed in the center of the room and covered with any kind of linen suitable for the occasion. Plates are placed in a pile at one side of the food to be served—you'll find guests enjoy serving themselves!

Your menu can be very plain or very fancy, as you prefer. Here are a few samples from which you can choose:

Menu No. I
Chicken Mousse on Lettuce, Rolled Sandwiches
Sliced Meats, Assorted Cheese, Crackers
Olives Radish Roses
Hot and Cold Beverages

Menu No. II.
Spaghetti and Chicken Livers
Assorted Sandwiches Cold Meats
Pickles, Olives, Stuffed Celery
Frozen Dessert Small Cakes
Beverages

Menu No. III
Lettuce Sandwiches
Toasted Cheese and Bacon Sandwiches
Ham or Chicken a la King in Patty Cases
Mixed Sweet Pickles
Orange Layer Cake Beverages

Menu No. IV.
Assorted Canapes and Relishes
Crabmeat or Shrimp Salad
Welsh Rarebit
Hot Biscuit Wafers
Chocolate Cup Cakes, with Whipped Cream Filling
Beverages

Plan 'Clock' Party Over New Year's; Do It This Way:

Plan a "clock party" to entertain your guests New Year's eve. For this you'll need all the alarm and "striking" clocks you can find. Set them at different hours and put them in all sorts of unusual places so that chimes and gongs will sound from everywhere in the most unexpected way — under davenport cushions, in the dining room buffet and behind the radio.

Use black-and-white decorations, with clock faces drawn on white cardboard peering from everywhere, black-and-white paper drapes, a black-and-white checkered paper cloth for your table, and black-and-white glass or china.

You can have a clever question-and-answer clock game, too. Have your questions typed on slips of paper with space for answers. Pass them around, set a time limit for answering, and make your prizes something to do with time—a calendar, diary, kitchen clock or egg-timer. Here are some typical questions:

1. What book of the Bible is on a clock? Answer—Numbers.
2. What part of a clock means most to an Oriental? Answer—Face.
3. What has a bed in common with a clock? Answer—Springs.
4. What part of a clock would most interest a lawyer? Answer—Case.
5. What do you have that a clock has? Answer—Hands.

LOUISIANA TOWN FINALLY OUTSMARTS OL' MAN RIVER

VIDALIA, LA.—Ol' Man River has been browbeating this town for more than 100 years, but they've fooled him now.

The big yellow currents that crush against Vidalia's levees will pound in vain, for soon Vidalia won't be there. They're moving Vidalia back a quarter mile, and the currents can undercut the dikes and the dikes can slither into the river—Vidalia's 1,500 people won't care.

It's been going on a hundred years. Their predecessors and bands of slaves carted the earth to build the dikes against the currents. The dikes grew higher with the years. Sometimes it looked like Ol' Man River's fight; sometimes it looked like Vidalia's.

The river took temporary possession during the devastating flood of 1927. Vidalia moved back and strengthened the levees, now towering above many homes. In the spring of 1937 the levees mounted again. Again the river changed.

United States army engineers strengthened the bends above the town, dredged channels, and performed a little surgery but the river would not be quieted.

Engineers cut through Giles' bend north of the town. It made the river only more dangerous.

The current was deflected onto the protection levee around Vidalia's front, and great slices of land weakened and fell into the water.

Works Progress administration engineers moved into the front line of attack. They began the tedious process of mapping out a new town site a quarter mile from the bank. A new courthouse and a jail rose on the new location. Today the new town is growing; the old is moving back to safety.

New Hampshire's Bethlehem Similar to That of Judea

Bethlehem, the peaceful little "Christmas town" nestled in the New Hampshire hills, bears a striking resemblance to the Holy Village for which it was named. Its location is similar to that of Bethlehem in Judea, and, strangely enough, it is a village of inns and Jewish people, just like the real Bethlehem in the beautiful story of the Christ Child. This similarity exists, however, only in summer when 32 magnificent hotels, taverns and inns, nine of which observe the Jewish dietary laws, are hosts to those who come, year after year, to enjoy the beauty of green fields and purple mountains. At Christmastide the population is less than a thousand souls and most of them are natives whose hardy ancestors built their log cabins along Bethlehem streets where the palatial hotels now stand.

Coddled Dog in Pound Enjoys His Morning Tea

BELMONT, MASS.—Though confined to the city dog pound for having bitten two persons, Pat, a wire-haired fox terrier owned by Mrs. James Dever, is not deprived of his special daily diet.

Custodian Charles Bacon daily prepares Pat a breakfast consisting of orange or tomato juice, a portion of imported cheese, weak tea, toasted crackers and cereal with half milk and half cream. Pat's afternoon meal consists of a small bone and in the evening he is fed one quarter pound of "choice" hamburg and several dog biscuits. Twice a week he gets two ice cream cones.

The food is supplied by Mrs. Dever.

Draftsman Drafted

SAINT JOHN, N. B.—Ad in a local newspaper: "Wanted Draftsman to replace man called for military service. Do not apply if likely to be called for duty."

New Year's Resolutions Began Centuries Ago

When you make (and break) this season's crop of New Year's resolutions you'll be following a custom as old as the New Year's celebration itself.

Since the Julian calendar was adopted 46 years before the birth of Christ this practice has been universal, embodied in the custom of "turning over a new leaf."

The practice is believed to have started from a commendable custom. Monarchs of old met with their subjects in shrines and temples to petition their respective gods for strength and to pledge obedience.

Gradually, time carved changes in the custom until pledges were made between individuals, and finally it has come down to the present in the form of pledges to oneself. The English of old linked superstition with resolution and cleaned the chimneys to insure good luck.

U. S. Naval Observatory Checks Year's Arrival

From the precise instruments of the naval observatory in Washington, and through the great Arlington radio towers, America and much of the world learns the exact instant when the old year has passed and 1940 takes the stage. Father time serves the new year first to Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe and most of South America before he gets around to the first of our citizens in Maine.