

### When A Driver Sees Red—Watch Out

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—An Indiana University optometry professor, in a drive for traffic safety, says he deplores the popularity of red for sports cars, cycles and clothing.

"Red is poorly seen," said Dr. Merrill Allen, an expert on motorists' vision problems. "Red is hard to distinguish through tinted windshields and by certain color defective

drivers even with clear windshields, and by drivers wearing green sunglasses," he said. "All pedestrians, cycles and small car drivers should show as much white as possible."

While charges and counter-charges regarding the mechanical safety features of automobiles have made headlines in recent months, even more lethal highway vehicles have emerged in recent years. These are motorcycles and scooters.

According to the National Safety Council, there were 13 deaths per 10,000 registered motorcycles in 1962 in contrast to 5.1 deaths per 10,000

registered passenger cars, trucks, buses and taxis.

The Department of Commerce reports there were 984-800 motorcycles registered in 1964 as compared to 786,300 in 1963. Since sales exceed 300,000 per year, the number of such vehicles on the highways of America is probably now approaching 1,500,000.

A study recently reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association

shows that motorcycle accidents frequently result in particularly severe head and extremity injuries. As could be expected, the study also showed teen-agers are the most frequently involved.

In the 38 cases analyzed, there were three deaths and one case of total blindness, paraplegia and facial disfigurement. The latter was a girl who was given a small motorcycle as a present on her 17th birthday and was injured

the following day. The study also revealed that in most cases the parents were opposed to their children having such vehicles but reluctantly agreed after considerable pressure.

The most frequent causes of injuries are hitting an automobile or loss of control of a vehicle and overturning.

The finding in a study conducted in Maine confirmed an earlier study of 200 victims in

Minneapolis in 1964. In this group there were two deaths resulting from skull fracture with brain damage and a high percentage of single and multiple fractures of the tibia, femur and pelvis.

These researchers emphasized that although the use of helmets may reduce fatalities from skull fracture there is no protection available for extremities of drivers and passengers.

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