

## Winter Driving Helps Given

CHICAGO. — Winter driving can be a hazardous task not only in the snow belt but in milder parts of the United States where snow on the ground is less common. In these latter areas, drivers often are less experienced in knowing how to cope with snow and ice and other hazards that accompany bad weather driving.

The committee on Winter Driving Hazards of the National Safety Council has spent years searching out the facts about safe winter driving. The following are some of the questions most commonly asked about winter driving practices.

—Are batteries less efficient in cold weather?

—Yes, batteries can lose much

of their power when very cold. To prevent this, keep the water level up; clean and tighten cable connections; and test the charge occasionally with a hydrometer.

—Keeping tires underinflated will increase traction, true or false?

—False. Decreasing tire pressure does not increase traction. The only increase is in tire wear due to soft sidewalls and cupped treads.

—Studded tires are given more credit than they are due. They don't increase stopping distance by more than 10 per cent, true or false?

—False. New studded tires on all four tires can cut braking distance on glare ice by as much as 31 per cent.

—It's preferable to back into a driveway or parking stall when leaving your car overnight. Why?

—It will be easier to reach the engine compartment with jumpers or cables from another vehicle if

your car won't start in the morning.

The National Safety Council's Committee on Winter Driving Hazards will conduct cold-weather driving tests from January 24 through February 4, 1972 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. For these sessions, tire specialists, university instructors, product development engineers and safety experts gather to perform these tests and to monitor the results.

Items to be tested this winter at Stevens Point include: 1) passenger car anti-skid devices; 2) a new type of tire stud intended to reduce pavement wear (at the present time, studded tires are banned in five states and most other states limit their use to certain winter months); 3) four-wheel drive and front-wheel drive vehicles for stopping distance and traction on ice surfaces as compared to conventional rear-wheel drive vehicles; and 4) braking

distance on ice and snow for

## 65 And Over Age Group Fast Growing

People 65 and over collecting social security retirement benefits are part of "the fastest growing age group in the population," according to social security officials here.

"Census figures show that since 1950 the number of people 65 and over has increased about 63 per cent—from 12 million to 20 million," a social security spokesman said. "The younger population has increased 32 per cent."

"About 16.8 million now get monthly retirement checks from social security," he said. "That

includes about 13.6 million retired workers plus dependents in their families."

Not all of these retired workers are over 65 however. Eligible workers can begin collecting social security retirement benefits as early as age 62, although payments are reduced. Full benefits are payable if the worker begins collecting them at 65. Social security retirement benefits now average \$131 a month.

"The very fastest growing age group is the very oldest—75 and over," the spokesman said. "They have almost doubled in number during the past 20 years—from 3.9 million to 7.6 million, according to the census."

Some 5,250 people who are 100 or over get regular monthly checks from social security, an increase of 61 per cent compared to 1969, according to the spokesman.

Almost everyone 65 or over has health insurance protection

under Medicare, he noted. Through social security younger workers and their families build disability and survivors protection as well as retirement protection, he said.

He added that many people in the 65 and over population are still working. It's not unusual for social security retirement beneficiaries to work at least part of the year, he said.

"If a retirement beneficiary earns \$1,680 or less a year, he'll still get his regular social security check every month," the spokesman said. "And no matter how much his earnings add up to for the year, he can be paid a social security check for every month he earns \$149 or less or performs no substantial services in self-employment."

People 72 or older can collect social security benefits each month regardless of how much

they earn. In addition, almost everyone 65 or over has health insurance protection under Medicare whether they are retired or still working, the spokesman said.

## Safety Tips Are Given

CHICAGO. — The Christmas-New Year holiday period is one that inspires many people to climb up and down ladders.

The inventory of places a homeowner aspires to reach during this time when decorating the house becomes a matter of pride includes Christmas tree tops, roofs, chimneys, the upper branches of yard trees and, on occasion, the top of a very large snow man.

Ladders are the best and safest way to reach these heights when installing decorations, but if not used properly they can be dangerous as trying to climb up a pyramid of six swivel chairs.

Falls, reports the National Safety Council, are the leading cause of home accident deaths each year. In 1970, for example, a total of 9,600 persons were fatally injured as a result of falls in the home.

A prime culprit in many of these accidents was an improperly used ladder.

The Safety Council suggests the following precautions when using ladders:

—An individual using an extension ladder to reach an extreme height such as the roof of a house should employ good body form. This consists of keeping the body erect and the arms straight but not tense. When a man holds himself rigid and hugs the ladder, he is in danger of falling because he does not have control of his body.

—To keep the ladder steady, the climber should climb near the center of the rungs, simultaneously using the same hand and foot when climbing.

—The climber should not look down or watch his feet, but should look slightly upward toward the next rung.

—His hands should be moved on the rungs at a level between his waist and his head, and the rungs should be grasped with the palms down and the thumbs around the rungs. This will help avoid body sway and provide a means of checking for possible defective rungs.

—The ball of the foot rather than the arch should be placed on the rungs when climbing.

—Prior to climbing, the ladder should be placed with the base set out 1/4 the ladder length, and it should be set evenly and firmly.

—When using a stepladder, it should be fully opened with the spreaders straight.

—It should be set on even footing.

—The climber should never on the top step.

The National Council on the Aging has found jobs for more than 1,400 senior citizens since February, 1968 under Manpower Administration contracts. The council has a 1-year \$1.6 million contract to do more of the same.

## The Veterans Corner

Editor's Note: Below are authoritative answers by the Veterans Administration to some of the many current questions from former servicemen and their families. Further information on veterans benefits may be obtained at any VA office or your local service organization representative.

Q.—Is a veteran's widow who draws VA pension entitled to an extra \$55 monthly if she becomes a patient in a nursing home?

A.—Yes.

Q.—I was recently released from a VA hospital after 35 days for injuries suffered in an auto accident. Am I eligible for the special payment veterans receive when they stay more than 21 days in a VA hospital?

A.—Not unless the accident was in line of active duty and the injury was recognized as service connected.

Q.—I am a veteran who did not complete high school. Will VA pay me an educational allowance?

A.—Yes. Not only are you eligible for this assistance, but any veteran who must complete high school to qualify for higher education can do so without this assistance being charged against his basic entitlement.

Q.—Two years ago, I was studying under the GI Bill, but dropped out at the end of the semester. I now plan to enroll in the same school and program. How can I start my education benefits again?

A.—Notify the school to submit a re-enrollment certification to VA. This will start your benefits again, provided the school and program are currently approved, and you have not exhausted your entitlement.

Q.—Are widows of World War II veterans who died of active duty or from service-connected disabilities still eligible for GI home loans?

A.—Yes. A recent law revived unused, expired entitlement for unmarried widows of WW II veterans as well as for veterans themselves.

Enrollment in the Work Incentive Program (WIN), rose from 90,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year 1971 to 109,000 at year's end. This growth in on-board strength was steady throughout the year, each month's figure rising above that of the preceding month.

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