



## In This Picture—Do You See Yourself As A Road Hazard?

Most traffic accidents can be prevented by the development of five driving habits. So believes Harold Smith, a professional driving instructor who has taught safe-driving habits to more than 20,000 motorists. He is the originator of the "Smith System of No-Accident Driving" and special advisor to Ford-USA on safe driving.

Smith has found that about three in ten motorists seldom make any of the five errors and that they may go five to ten years without a "near miss," with only a slight likelihood of ever being involved in even a minor accident.

Any driver can build the same habits that protect accident-free drivers, this authority believes. Once the habits are formed, they help you to drive correctly in even the most unusual situation.

### Aim High In Steering

1. Most drivers hug the left edge of their lane because they steer by watching low along the left edge of the lane. This fear of hazards on the right is the

reason for lane-straddling and a chief cause of head-on collisions.

To steer safely in traffic, you should ignore the fact that you sit left of center in the car. Simply look well ahead at the center of your lane. Aim high, keep your main attention well ahead, and always steer for the center of your intended driving path.

Never move the wheels unless your eyes are looking where you want to go. This rule applies to turning a corner.

Keep your main attention well ahead along your turning path. If visibility is poor and you cannot look well ahead, slow down.

### Watch The Big Picture

2. Keep a general watch over a wide, deep traffic scene rather than on any one detail. View the car ahead as only part of a big picture.

You will see the wide, deep scene, noting key parts of the picture such as the car coming in from the left, the flashing or

brake lights on the car ahead, or a parked car with a driver at the wheel.

When you have the habit of seeing the big picture, you can speed up, slow down or change lanes to keep from getting trapped.

### Keep Eyes Moving

3. Build a habit of forcing your eyes to move about once every two seconds, and much oftener when traffic multiplies. Even if there seems to be nothing important to watch at the moment, keep scanning the whole scene near and far ahead, to the sides and through your rear-view mirror.

Scanning the roadway continuously gives you a wide-screen motion picture of the scene ahead, plus a continuous check on the constantly-changing picture to the rear.

When you see a hazard, don't stare at it. Dispose of it by adjusting speed, changing lanes, signalling—or by practicing all three of these measures if necessary.

### Make Sure Others See You

4. To drive safely, you must get the habit of making sure the other person sees your car and shows by his actions that he intends to stay put. In case of doubt at night, sound your horn or flash your headlights.

Give your warning as early as possible so you can stop if the need arises.

### Leave Yourself An Out

5. Get the habit of timing your pace so you always have an out if trouble should develop. Watch your stopping margin, especially at night. And try to avoid being "boxed in" on both sides in traffic, thus not being able to veer away from sudden danger.

It is a good practice to leave the space of one car ahead for each ten miles of your speed, to avoid the danger of "bumper chasing" or "tail-gating."

**TO BUILD** an accident-free record on the road, practice your driving around these six rules:

1—Check your car. Many accidents could be avoided by good car maintenance. Be sure the lights, brakes, horn and windshield wiper are working well. Service station mechanics are glad to check these parts, as well as tires, gasoline, oil and water, and to make any needed repairs or adjustments.

2—Check yourself. Always stay in the right frame of mind while driving. Don't drive when you're over-tired or over-excited. Let someone else drive if you're not sure you are capable.

3—Know driving conditions. Keep aware of the hazards of

## Girls Undefeated In Softball Play

Firestone teen-agers came out undefeated in the girls inter-industry softball league the past summer. Members of the team were:

Diane Smith, Ann Gaddis, Teresa Teel, Barbara Kilpatrick, Pat Crawley, Marion Turner, Vickie Bolick, Brenda Rawlins, Juanita Rawlins, Starlene Crawford, Shirley Costner, Emily Edison, Carol Stines, and Andrea Barnes.

## Answers To Quiz

—On page 4

1. John Adams; 2. John Smith;
3. John the Baptist; 4. John Philip Sousa; 5. John Alden; 6. John C. Calhoun; 7. John Calvin; 8. John Wycliffe; 9. John J. Pershing; 10. John Paul Jones.

## ARRIVALS...

Cynthia Lucille arrived September 4 in Sumter, S. C., the daughter of Lt. and Mrs. Joseph R. Stephenson. The mother is the former Ruth Davis, daughter of Grady Davis, Carding; and Mrs. Davis, Spooling.

wet, icy, or fogbound roads. Exercise more care during the rush hours, in the tricky light around dawn and dusk, and on week ends when traffic is heaviest.

4—Watch road signs. Markers are placed on highways to help you. Make use of them. They'll warn you of approaching hills, curves, crossroads and other hazards.

5—Pay attention. Don't ever forget that you are driving. Someone else can point out the interesting scenery along the way, dial the radio, or adjust the ventilation. Wait until you're stopped before you light a cigarette or fix the make-up on your face.

6—Obey the laws. Violate them and your action may prove fatal. Speed limits are safety limits to help you get to your destination unhurt. Never try to beat a red light. Slow down for an amber light—don't try to squeeze through. Always signal for a turn.

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This article has been reprinted by permission of Ford Graphic. Harold Smith, advisor to The Ford Motor Company, sets down what he considers the basic elements of safe, accident-free driving. Illustration courtesy of Firestone Canadian.

## Do You . . .

1. Back from a driveway without checking oncoming traffic?
2. Allow yourself to be distracted in heavy traffic?
3. Permit yourself to become angered and impatient?
- 4, 5 and 6. Make a left turn without using an imaginary center point in the middle of the intersection on which to guide a safe turn?
7. Make a right turn from a left lane in front of another car?
8. Become annoyed by others in the car with you?
9. Practice "raceway" starts from a stop-light?
10. Drive with one hand on the steering wheel and the other arm immobile?
11. Signal with your lights for a right turn and use an arm signal indicating a left turn?
12. Cut in and out of heavy traffic?
13. Use the middle lane while not maintaining legal speed limit?
14. Have straight-ahead vision instead of observing traffic around you?
15. Drive your vehicle into a crowded intersection to make matters worse?
16. Brake your car at the last moment at an intersection?
17. Park in prohibited areas and set-up an accident?
18. Follow vehicles too closely?

If You Do, You're An Unsafe Driver!

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