

There Are Lots of Advantages when You Plan to Vacation in Backyard

So you're vacationing at home this year.

Well, you're not alone in your choice — lots of folks nowadays vacation right in their own back yards.

Look at the advantages — no traffic to contend with, no tired children in the back seat, no worry about accommodations.

But you will have to be just

about as cautious at home as if you were vacationing hundreds of miles away, the National Safety Council says. "Your vacation at home," it says, "must be safe to be happy. It can be if you follow a few rules." For example:

1. Water's water, whether it's a distant beach or a back yard pool. Small children never should use a home pool except when supervised by an adult. (It's a good idea, by the way, for everyone to take along a partner when he goes swimming.)

2. Don't let the man of the family overdo things. Mr. Fix-It probably will try to do all the repair jobs in two weeks that have accumulated the rest of the year. Keep your man alive. Urge him to take things easy and work moderately during his vacation.

3. Just because you're not driving to your vacation spot doesn't mean you're free of traffic danger. Most fatal crashes occur within 25 miles of the victim's home. And make sure a child isn't behind your car when you back up.

The ins are never able to understand why the outs aren't willing to let well enough alone.

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—By—

Bill Crowell

Dept. of Motor Vehicles
State of North Carolina

SAFE SPEED . . . Determining a safe driving speed for a particular time and place is a problem motorists have faced since the first auto turned a wheel. And from the looks of North Carolina's fat traffic death toll through the years, a lot of drivers go to their final reward without ever having solved the problem.

State law, of course, calls for a speed reasonable and prudent, with the vehicle in question to be under control at all times. Designated speed limit signs are posted at frequent intervals to help the driver decide how fast to drive.

Experiments show the average throttle-bender is a poor judge of such life-or-death factors as rate of closure and stopping distance at given speeds.

Assistant Motor Vehicles Commissioner Joe Garrett cites this example: At night, an object or any dangerous situation will seldom be seen clearly until the car is within about 200 feet. At 50 miles an hour, a reasonably quick driver with good brakes will require 186 feet to stop. It follows then that after-dark driving at speeds in excess of 50 is dangerous.

"The greater the speed, the greater chance for an accident," Garrett warned, "and the odds that an accident will be fatal multiply with every mile of increased speed."

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SUDDEN THAWT . . . How pleasant motoring would be if every driver would try to do only half of what he expects others to do.

* * * * *

HOT TIME . . . One of our state troopers was called out recently to investigate a burning car. On the scene, sure enough, a '57 Chevy was blazing, its owner standing by with a long face. But that isn't the half of it. After the trooper had got the story, these frustrating facts came out: The driver, a traveling salesman, was climbing a



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steep grade on the outskirts of Raleigh when smoke suddenly started boiling out from under the hood. The driver braked to a stop on the incline, piled out and attempted to extinguish the flames. No luck. Then he quickly grabbed his luggage, a portable typewriter and a golf bag from the burning interior and carefully placed them some 200 feet down the highway, safely out of danger. With his gear thus secured, he returned to the car and tried again to put out the fire. Shortly before the patrolman arrived, he said, the brakes burned and the car rolled backward down the hill, clobbered his belongings and swerved off into a roadside ditch where the whole collection, car included, was consumed by flames. Oh, well, you know the saying—some days you just can't win.

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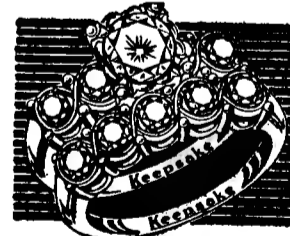
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