

## Shorter Days Bring More Driving Woes

With winter upon us, Gerald E. Montgomery, Executive Director of the Greater Detroit Safety Council, cautions motorists that more fatal traffic accidents occur during the hours of darkness than during the daylight hours.

"Darkness calls for a special type of driving," Montgomery points out. "The most important requirements are increased alertness, better control of the car and reduction of speed."

Montgomery recommends that motorists follow these recommendations of the National Safety Council:

Pull into traffic more cautiously than in daytime. Not only do you see less at night, but other drivers have more difficulty seeing you.

Pass with extra care. Be sure you have enough passing room. Remember you can't see as far ahead at night.

Never trust your judgment in estimating the speed of an approaching vehicle by its headlights.

Stay well behind the car ahead of you, and be particularly alert in watching for his signals. If you follow too closely, your headlights will reflect in his rear view mirror and seriously reduce his vision.

## Lag Noted In Traffic Convictions

Even though more than 50 percent of the traffic violations committed in Michigan are settled within one month from arrest to conviction, many linger on for months. . . . 20 percent remaining unsettled from eight weeks to a year or longer.

A study of 47,000 cases by the Michigan Department of State revealed that nearly 30 percent of these cases were dispatched by the courts within one week of arrest, Secretary of State James M. Hare said.

"This is good, but on the other hand," said Hare, "48 percent are prolonged for more than 10 weeks, with nearly five percent delayed a year or longer."

Hare said the analysis pointed up the "dire need of adopting a ticket system like the one in Illinois."

"Under the Illinois system, when a driver commits a moving violation, the police officer picks up his driver's license and issues him a temporary driving permit. This permit is good only until the violator's scheduled court date. If he fails to show up in court, he then is guilty of driving without a license. If he settles, his driver's license is returned by the court, barring any other problems on his record."

"Last year, our Department filed more than a quarter-million reports on failure-to-answer summonses, spotlighting one of the major problems in the efficient administration of the Michigan point system," Hare said.

Watch out for oncoming drivers who may be out of their lane or on the wrong side of the street.

Watch out for vehicles that might be parked or stopped on the roadway with poor lights or none at all.

If your car becomes disabled, get it off the road and place flares or lights to alert other drivers.

Don't over-drive your headlights. At 60 miles an hour it will take you, under average conditions, about 370 feet to stop. Yet you can see only about 200 feet ahead.

Put on directional signals well in advance of turning to allow for decreased visibility.

Never drive with parking lights instead of headlights. Parking lights can cause an oncoming driver to think you are farther away than you are.

Make adjustments for bad weather, which further reduces your already severely limited vision.

Keep your windshield and windows clean, inside and out. A moderately dirty windshield may not bother you much in the daytime, but at night the glare of oncoming headlights diffused against the film may blind you or make you fail to see unlighted objects.

If an approaching driver fails to dim his lights, don't keep your bright lights on, too. Slow down, dim your lights, and keep your eyes on the shoulder of the road or the lane edge to guide you.

## "We Learned A Lot"



REPORTING TO THEIR sponsoring organization, the Franklin and Bentley representatives to Wolverine Boys State of 1966 Mark McQueston, Bentley High School Representative; and Charles W. Allen, President of the Rotary Club. This is one of the youth activities sponsored by the Club; Cecil Alford, member of the Board Livonia Rotary Club of Livonia.

## Juvenile Judge To Address PTA

James H. Lincoln, Judge of Probate, Juvenile Division, will address the Stottlemeyer PTA, Tuesday at 8 p.m.

His talk will be on "Your Child in Juvenile Court."

The agenda will also include the election of members of the Nominating Committee, who will be responsible for duly nominating officers for the next school year.



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