Urge Drivers Take Care, Avoid Rear End Mishaps

This could be the safest and least expensive Labor Day weekend of recent record if the nation's motorists would responsibly and effectively avoid the common rear end collision, a safety expert said today.

"Rear end smashups are the easiest crashes to prevent. But there's a basic misunderstanding about how and why they happen. Rear ending is the direct result of drivers following so closely they can't stop or dodge in time--even if they pay the closest attention and have the fastest reflexes.

More than one-third of all traffic mishaps today and one-half of the resulting injuries are the outcome of rear end collisions," said Donal C. Bolton.

"If the driver will remember to use common sense and adapt to the different conditions of weather and traffic, the number of rear end crashes would decrease significantly. The driver must keep his mind on his driving task. Driving is a full-time job, and the driver who is thinking about personal problems is a menace to others.

"Every driver must drive defensively. He must be aware of the driving conditions ahead, anticipate the need for a slow-down or a stop, keep an eye out for cars pulling out from side streets, use his turn signals correctly, use his rear view mirror, and change lanes in advance of turns."

* * *

ACCORDING TO BOLTON, "Stopping depends on many factors: car speed, driver alertness and reaction time, road surface and slope weather, tires, brakes, and even car weight. It requires fast, accurate decisions.

"Drivers cannot tailgate. By maintaining enough distance between your car and the one ahead to provide a safe stopping distance in an emergency, a motorist can be prepared for the unexpected.

"The driver should never let a tailgater force him to tailgate the driver ahead. The defensive driver must pull over when he can and give the tailgater room to pass.

"Drive defensively by expecting the worst from other drivers at all times, especially in free-wheeling expressway traffic," Bolton advises.

"On metropolitan expressways, where accidents at faster speeds produce the deadliest damage, tailgating ranks number one in causing deaths and injuries. In order to prevent the slaughter on the expressways every driver must have his mental alertness in high gear," he said.

"Driving slow or stopping on the expressway is an open invitation to chain-reaction rear ending. In braking and exiting on the expressway the motorist must be alert and avoid a last minute decision to jump lanes in order to turn off the roadway.

"To have a safe and inexpensive motoring Labor Day weekend the driver can avoid the rear end collision by being alert and defensive."

IT WAS TIGER DAY at the Livonia Mall. The Tigers were present five strong, but the kids were there 3,000 strong. The players signed life-sized caricatures done by Tasco. In the foreground are Bill Freehan and Jim Northrup; in the background Earl Wilson and Joe Sparma. Denny McLain also was present.

Center Holds Play Tryouts

The Center Theatre will hold tryouts for its November production of "J.B." by Archibald McLeish at 8 p.m. Sept. 5 and 9 and at 2 p.m. Sept. 8 in the Jewish Community Center, Curtis and Meyers, Detroit.

Harry Goldstein will direct the play. Persons interested in acting, set construction, or props and costumes may call Di. 1-4200.

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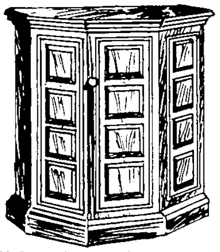

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