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MIDDLEBELT at **PLYMOUTH ROAD** New Handbook on Motoring Safety Says . . .

Cars Now Better Than Drivers



Since the first selfpropelled vehicle moved over a road, there have been thousands improvements made in the car. In that time, there have been no basic improvements in the operator: man.

Based on this premise, the Aerospace Education Foundation, with an assist from the United States Air Force, has published The Safe Driving Handbook. which, it is hoped, is a step in the right direction to help improve the driver

The foundation makes reference to the difference between the flyer and the automobile driver. They conclude that driving on a city street is more complicated than flying. Their reasoning is that conditions on the ground are more challenging than in the air.

The Safe Driving Handbook covers the whole spectrum of driving situations, including considerable emphasis on driver personality and attitude. important factors in the overall safety of the operator It also states that boredom, a main reason for inattention, is involved in nearly every form of unsafe driving.

The handbook reduces safe driving techniques to basic fundamentals: where and how to sit in the driver's seat so you become less fatigued and therefore more alert; techniques in braking, speeding, passing and stopping; information on recovering from a skid; importance of conscientious automobile maintenance; estimating follow-And the standard of the standa

ing distance for safe braking; right of way at intersections, and hundreds of other wellexplained and illustrated

The book also describes in detail how a driver can judge his own driving ability. This factor is important when you consider that even the worst drivers feel they are among the best, according to the authors. This observation was made when scientists interviewed drivers who were in bad collisions and it was learned that 80 percent of these drivers were convinged that the other driver was to blame.

When asked if they thought a refresher course in operating the automobile would help them avoid accidents in the future. only one in 20 thought it could teach them anything. Only two percent of these drivers thought that courtesy was important in any way when driving

For emergency situations the handbook even has tips on "How To Choose What To Hit" to help avoid possible serious injury. Choose a utility pole, for instance, instead of a large tree or a boulder and the impact is cushioned.

The information in the booklet has been successful in reducing the number of automobile accidents among Air Force personnel and reducing fatalities by 25% It is scheduled in the course of study for airmen. It could also be studied usefully by all drivers-whether they are just starting or have been driving for 30 or 40 years