

# 'If You Can't Drive Ticket Free For One Year..'

Looking more meek than meekness, 54 future teen-age drivers gathered recently at Livonia's Stevenson High School to fidget through the written portion of the Michigan State driver's license exam.

## HOT AIR?

by DON KEETH

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As serious as the students' attitudes about the test, however, was the attitude of Sam Vosovic, driver analyst for the Michigan Department of State who administered it.

"WE STARTED this program three years ago—taking the exam to the students rather than have the students come to the station to take it," Vosovic explained. "Psychologically, it's easier for the kids to be in familiar surroundings. Physically, it makes less of a strain on the driver-licensing station because it isn't flooded with teen-agers all hours of the afternoon."

"This exam is so easy I don't expect a single one of you to flunk it," Vosovic admonished his young charges. "If you pass it, you'll come down to the station and take oral, vision, hearing, and road sign tests. Then you'll be eligible for a T.I.P. (Temporary Instruction Permit). That gives you 90 days to practice driving, accompanied by an adult at all times."

"After 90 days, you can take the road test and then, if you can drive well enough, you'll be issued your first driver's license."

"Here's another thing to keep in mind. After you've passed our road test and gotten your license, you'll be on probation for one full year. If you get a single moving violation, your license will be suspended. And don't worry about a 30-day suspension; most get 60 or 90 days."

"If you can't drive for one year ticket-free, you shouldn't be out on our highways."

VOSOVIC, though sounding more stern than understanding, had private words of praise of Livonia's teen-agers drivers.

"On the whole, they're good," he said. "They get good training in our driver-education programs. Remember, when accident statistics for teen-agers are quoted, they don't take into account how many more miles



the teen-ager driver covers than a person my age."

"If these kids do fail their road tests, if they do have accidents, I blame it mostly on their parents."

Vosovic alternately asks and demands that parents "spend more time on the road with their youngsters."

"That 90-day T.I.P. means a parent should spend anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour in the car with his teen-ager every single night before that young person is ready to be out on the highway alone."

"WEEK-END INSTRUCTION isn't enough—taking your son out for an hour on Saturdays."

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**TEENS TAKE DRIVER'S TEST**—Nail-biting and pencil-chewing revealed nervousness of Stevenson High School teen-agers taking the written portion of the Michigan State driver's license test. Sixty-four students took the test—a first step toward gaining a license. Experts say only eight of 500 teens who take the exam monthly in the city get failing scores.

Take him to a vacant parking lot. Have him practice backing up between cardboard boxes. Let him drive to the grocery store—even if it's only five minutes from home.

"Remember," Vosovic said, "if you don't trust your own child on the road, don't expect us to trust him."

Stevenson High's young class of future drivers was just one of eight such groups who take the written portion of the driver's exam each month in the city of Livonia.

Only about eight fall out of 500 each month.

Vosovic, proud of the record, still asks: "Why those eight?"

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