

All Motorists Aren't Created Equal

ALL MEN may have been created equal but not all motorists. Traffic laws just don't seem to apply the same way to everybody.

Drivers of compact cars seem to have a special dispensation to dart in and out of traffic lanes.

Drivers of big trucks on highways have schedules to meet and therefore appear to be exempt from speed limits.

Motorists who live in the neighborhood often give the impression that they are authorized to enter thoroughfares after merely pausing or nodding at STOP signs.

Folks who drive expensive, high-powered vehicles do not look as though they are illiterate but many of them can't seem to read SCHOOL ZONE speed limit signs.

Indecisive drivers aren't required to turn on their turn signals until they actually are turning a corner, and they don't have to turn off their signals after turning.

Motorists who are traveling full speed may hurtle through an intersection just as the light turns red,

unless it is occupied by a signal jumper who leaps before it turns green.

People who are late going to work are entitled to right-of-way so they may finish combing their hair, drink their coffee, or concentrate on excuses for being late.

Owners of fancy sports cars have a right to park at angles or astraddle lines to take up two parking places in order to protect their shiny fenders from scratches or dents.

Patrons of saloons and beer joints may get into their cars and head down the street just as though they had stopped for ice cream sodas. If they are among the few in thousands of drinking drivers arrested they may feel confident not much will happen to them, especially if they are politicians or entertainment stars. Prominent citizens may drink and drive with impunity, too.

Of course, men who exercise apparent immunity from traffic regulations become involved in crashes occasionally or get citations when policemen mistake them for ordi-

nary motorists.

We used to hear rumors that certain individuals could get their traffic tickets "fixed" without paying fines. That no longer seems to be the case. Cities now rely upon traffic fines as an important source of revenue and officials have become honest.

Congress has been telling automobile manufacturers to build more passenger protection into motor cars and has set a nationally ignored speed limit of 55 mph, requiring catalytic converters and buzzing seat belts to make driving safer. Oklahoma requires motorists to pay \$5 annually for someone to look at their tires, flash the lights, and honk their horns.

We cowardly motorists duck and dodge trying to stay out of the way of more privileged drivers. We know it takes less time to wait for another driver than it does to fill out accident reports on a fender-bender, obtain two estimates on cost of repairs, and make a couple of trips to a garage to get the car repaired.

Oct. 4-1984
O.K.P. O.K.

Mr. Furdie Dearing,

Dear Sir,

I must take this time to tell
you how we have enjoyed your
column on, "All motorists aren't
created equal." Wonderful.

We do appreciate your ability
to tell it like it is.

Could be, it might help to
get the police out of coffee shops,
and on the job.

Please keep it up Sir, for a
group of grateful readers.

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