

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

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It Would Be a Woman . . .

By Ruth Ellen Lovrien

And the Reasons Why

ARE women better automobile drivers than men? Or are men superior in this respect? Ask any man and he will emphatically assure you that men are by far better drivers. Ask any woman and she will likely tell you the opposite.

It will be a sad blow to women and a source of pride to men to learn that women are responsible for three times as many automobile accidents as men, and they are only half as skilled in the actual manipulation of a car!

Dr. A. R. Lauer, associate professor of psychology at Iowa State College, has been doing extensive experimentation, and has gathered together considerable data regarding the driving abilities of both men and women. He finds that women do not steer as well as do men, that they make fewer movements in the driver's seat, and that they do not make use of the pedals as often as do men. This hesitancy to use the pedal, Dr.

Lauer suggests, may be one of the reasons for the greater number of accidents in which women are involved. Women seem to be much more conscientious about obeying traffic signals than men, but are much less self-confident.

In general, though, differences in driving ability seem to be due to lack of training and consequent nervousness on the part of women. Girls are not usually allowed to drive cars as early or as often as boys, and the older women driver is usually more or less nervous. The same has been found true of the man who does not learn to drive until later in life. Women who are mechanically inclined

or who are fond of outdoor sports are likely to be good drivers, the tests show.

A Stanford University psychologist, Terman, has plotted curves of masculinity and femininity for both men and women. These curves show that women range from the very feminine to the masculine type, and that men show a similar range between femininity and

take greater risks than women in traffic, and that they may be said to be more careless. Dr. Evans had no way of taking into consideration the fact that during business hours the number of men drivers would probably be greater than the number of women drivers. The results of his experiments, however, do equate for the number of cars registered by women.

Several years ago a study was made by Morris Viteles and Helen M. Gardner, University of Pennsylvania, of men and women taxicab drivers in a large eastern city. Men and women subjects worked under the same traffic and weather conditions, with the same type of vehicle in the same mechanical condition as nearly as possible. The only variable was that of training, 14 percent of the women being inexperienced in commercial driving. It was found that women had three times the accidents per thousand miles that men had, although they were not so serious as

those of men drivers. The chief differences in the driving ability were found to be due not to sex, but to training and experience.

1. Find out your limitations and keep within them. Have a diagnosis made of your capacity to drive. Discover whether you are as nervous or more so than the average. Have your manipulative ability tested if possible. Be sure that your vision is normal. (You should be able to see movement at a 180 degree angle without moving the eye.)

2. Never drive when worried or in poor health. If you must drive at such

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Dr. Lauer's Testing Set Up

maelinity. Superimposed one upon the other, the curves show that the feminine woman is usually less adept at mechanical tasks and consequently is apt to be a poor driver. The masculine woman is quite likely to be superior to the effeminate man in driving skill. In other words, driving ability seems to depend somewhat upon masculinity.

Dr. J. E. Evans, head of the psychology department at Iowa State, has made a study of the street car accidents in the city of Des Moines, and his data show that men are responsible for by far the greater number of collisions with street cars. This would indicate that men

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mayonnaise or cream and sprinkled thickly with chopped peanuts.

Fruit cocktails may be made from mixtures of almost any fruits, canned or fresh. As a rule, combinations of a sweet and a sour fruit are most piquant in flavor.

Strawberry and pineapple cocktail: The juice of oranges and lemons (three oranges to one lemon) is combined and sweetened to taste, keeping the mixture rather tart. At serving time equal quantities of halved strawberries and diced pineapple are mixed and placed in glasses and covered with the fruit-juice.

It Would Be a Woman

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times, take double precautions.

3. Become familiar with traffic laws and regulations in your city.

4. Always be on the alert. If you are not sure of what the other driver intends to do, give him a wide berth. You may have the right of way, but it won't help you after you are dead.

5. Get plenty of experience in close traffic, and drive often.

6. At times when you are not driving, try to anticipate any trouble which might occur, and plan the best method of action.

Dr. Lauer's experiments have been made with a mechanical device which closely resembles an automobile, except that it has no wheel, and will not go. The drivers are subjected, nevertheless, to a much more complete test than would be possible when actually driving, and a complete record is made of all their reactions.

And Dr. Lauer adds a final rule for women. Do not expect too much courtesy on the part of men! Men drivers, we are sorry to say, forget their chivalry and their parlor ethics on the road.

A Place for Books

HAVE you ever noticed that in all truly interesting homes—homes that impress you, there is always a place for books?

This does not mean a separate library, however. There are many ways to include books in the furnishings of a home both to give an added touch of color as well as to convey an element of culture. In this day and age of installment buying, anyone can have the conventional suite of furniture, rug, drapes, and radio. But books give a personal touch to the interior.

A fireplace arrangement with built-in bookshelves is an attractive feature, especially if the books are arranged according to art principles considering color, size and balance as well as the subject matter of the volume. Built-in shelves on either side of a window with a built-in window seat and a deluge of comfortable pillows makes up the end of one very lovely informal living room, although built-in book shelves can be made to fit any odd nook or cranny in a room without necessarily occupying so much space.

A round Duncan Phyfe table that has a place all around it below the edge for books is a novel way of utilizing space by combining bookcase and table into one article of furniture. One or all of the shelves in the top of a secretary may be devoted to books which really is a very appropriate place them. Hanging book shelves, suspended over a Spinnet desk or a table, are sometimes just the accessory needed.

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