

### Are Women Poor Drivers? If So, Men Are To Blame

When Wife Wears The "Trousers", Hubby Becomes Rotten Driver, Too

Found: A man who says jokes about women drivers aren't funny! He's a man in a position to know, too, for he is C. W. Churchill, general sales manager of the Buick Motor Company. In Mr. Churchill's opinion, the numerous variations of the yarn based on a woman's probable intentions, when she puts out her hand while driving, are only so many reflections on the male sex itself—reflections which men themselves should and eventually will resent.

"If men would only stop to analyze the thing," said Mr. Churchill, "they would see that every such joke is a boomerang. If woman's indecisiveness when driving is so pronounced as to inspire joking, men themselves are mostly to blame.

"Men have destroyed women's confidence, and loss of confidence, more than any other factor, accounts for hesitant or eccentric manipulation of motor cars. Every time a man attempts to discredit the driving of women as a class, he is taking an even harder wallop of the men folk, whose impatience is largely responsible for whatever faults women drivers exhibit.

"Almost everyone can think of some few women whom he exempts from the category of unskilled drivers. Among my own acquaintances, at least, the thing works out according to a fairly definite rule. The best women drivers I know—drivers as sure of themselves and as expert in emergencies as any man—are those who have no men folks about. And the next best are wives who have cars of their own.

"Such a woman never has to wheedle, or cajole to get the family car for the afternoon. No dread of a scolding hangs over her, to affect her driving skill. She may even exercise man's prerogative of getting into an occasional friendly crash, if she feels like it, without making explanations to her lord or being upbraided for her presumed carelessness. Driving becomes automatic with her, just as it does with men.

"Almost every community has at least one family in which the situation is reversed. The wife wears the trousers, and the husband is the meek and submissive partner. Such a husband, if permitted to drive at all, is likely to exhibit the very faults of which men complain in women. But his friends don't blame him. They say: 'The poor fellow is afraid to call his soul his own. If he scratched the car his wife would kill him.' The man really interested in improving his wife's driving should

try patience, Mr. Churchill believes. "Most men are somewhat mechanical-minded," he said. "Before they have been driving long they know exactly what is taking place in their car when gears are shifted or brakes applied. The knowledge makes them better drivers. And it comes so naturally to them that they are inclined to them to teach persons to whom it does not. Women do not as a rule understand mechanical things so readily as men. It is no reflection upon them that they do not. They have had more important responsibilities than driving automobiles. Handling a car in traffic could scarcely be called a woman's nature to the average woman, any more than the fine points of housework could be so to the average man.

"Women are only now arriving on terms of equality with men, learning to do the things which men have been doing for years. They can pick up the knack of driving readily enough. The trouble is that few wives, even in families otherwise entirely congenial, are permitted to drive without constant and critical surveillance. Men fill them with doubt and then blame them for reacting in the only way they could possibly react to such treatment."

Mr. Churchill told of a newly married friend whose bride very timidly braked the news that she had scratched their car. The husband asked her, "Well, what of it?" "Why, aren't you going to scold me?" she demanded incredulously. "I thought husbands always did that."

Women drivers as a class have several points of superiority over men in Mr. Churchill's opinion. "They are far less liable to the sort of accidents which result from cocksure driving, imposing on other motorists, or ignoring signals," he said. "And they will become still better drivers as soon as men give them a chance.

"At the bottom of the whole thing is fear. A long time before the first automobile, Job in one of his afflictions wailed, 'The thing which I greatly feared has come upon me.' Wives should be encouraged to use the family car, not filled with all sorts of forebodings about what may happen to them if they try to drive. Replace hesitancy with confidence and you transform a poor driver into a good one.

"The wisest man I know, in these matters, chose a unique way of teaching his wife to drive. He showed her the controls, sketched

the rules of the road, and made her take the car out alone several times. When she had gained confidence, he went out with her. "She was inclined, with him beside her, to waver now and then. But he paid no attention, offered no suggestions, even when she bumped the car ahead at a stop sign. 'That's nothing,' he told her.

"When an impatient driver behind them sounded his horn and confused her in the shifting of gears, the husband consoled deliberately. 'Never hurry for one of those fellows,' he advised. 'Just take your time.' "That man's wife became a splendid driver, because her husband was wise enough to cultivate in her own ability.

"It may be a long time yet before a woman's hand, thrust out of the automobile window, means anything very definite. Judging by man's reluctance to see the problem in its true light, it will be a long time. But the solution, when it comes, will come through a complete change of attitude on the part of men. Ridiculing a weakness for which we men ourselves blame will only make the situation worse."

#### TORRANCE NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Dalton left Sunday to spend a vacation at Klamath Falls, Ore., where they will visit relatives.

Sunday Mrs. Mary Kershaw arrived from Fort Dodge, Iowa, to spend the Summer with her sister, Mrs. Luther A. Hyde.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Miller joined in a celebration of Father's Day and a birthday Sunday, honoring Mrs. Miller's father. The affair took place at Patterson Park, in Glendale.

There will be a Children's Day program at 9 o'clock at the Lutheran Sunday School morning. There will be music and speaking.

Miss Marjorie Lunning of Long Beach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Lunning of Torrance, was a guest of Miss Virginia Jackson Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Dolley were guests at the Beverly Hills home of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Ferrall Sunday.

### Legion Charters Special Train For Stockton

Excursion Rate To Convention Good On Regular Trains

At a meeting of the Transportation Committee, Los Angeles City Council, American Legion, held yesterday, the Southern Pacific was chosen as the official route to the above convention.

Arrangements have been made for a special American Legion train, which will leave Los Angeles at 6:05 p. m. Sunday, August 12, arriving at Stockton at 6 a. m. Monday, August 13.

The train will be equipped with baggage cars, club cars, tourist and standard sleeping cars, as well as an observation car. The baggage cars will be used for equipment of the Drum Corps.

The special train will return from Stockton about midnight on Monday, operating to Los Angeles on a twelve-hour schedule. The Southern Pacific will make

a special excursion fare to Stockton for the American Legion convention, and there will probably be about 800 Southern California Legionnaires travel on the special excursion train. Tickets will also be good to return on any of the regular trains from Stockton within seven days.

Mrs. W. E. Bowen and her mother, Mrs. Mary Peer, and Mrs. B. J. Scott drove to San Diego Friday and returned Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Levy and family spent Sunday at the beach at Santa Monica.

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