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## Dec. 24 Most Dangerous Day of Year to Drive, Statistics Show

By ROY O. GILBERT  
Los Angeles County Health Officer

Far-fetched as traffic accident prevention may sound, it is not an impossibility in the opinion of experts who have studied the problem. But what the individual's opinion may be in this age of frantic traffic is something else again.

Of all the taxes levied on toll roads, vehicles, motor fuel, and licenses in 1952, a sum amounting to more than 6.7 billion dollars, only 12 million was spent to educate drivers in public high schools. This unwise economy meant that only half the number of students enrolled got the benefit of driver education, in spite of the fact that high school students who have had the benefit of behind-the-wheel driver training have 50 per cent fewer accidents involving fatalities than others who haven't had such training. Yet 250 million of the 6.7 billion dollars collected in 1952 was diverted to other than highway or traffic purposes.

Why Break Safety Rules?  
Since it is stated that 90 per cent of traffic accidents involve

infractions of traffic regulations, new and faster cars or better freeways will obviously not solve the problem. The question has now arisen as to what makes people break safety rules. Why the excessive speed that caused 28 per cent of the fatal accidents in 1953, or the drinking done by drivers and pedestrians that was responsible for 22 per cent of such accidents? Or why drivers who caused 28 per cent of the accidents involving deaths failed to make allowances for adverse weather conditions or poor visibility?

It is suggested that such behavior is the result, of many factors including thoughtlessness, selfishness, meanness, or the over-optimism that makes both the driver and the pedestrian feel that "it couldn't happen to him"—an attitude such as service men are supposed to have before going into battle. Few, it is said, feel that they will be listed among the dead at the cessation of hostilities.

Drive: Break Rules  
For some time, New York University has been conducting radar research into the cause, of traffic conditions. Their findings

## Vandals Loot Gasoline, Damage Road Equipment

Vandals are blamed for raising havoc with construction equipment on a housing tract near Hawthorne Ave. and 182nd St., according to police. Construction foreman Bob Gardner reported that oil was drained from a tractor, 60 gallons of gas were stolen, sand was put into the gasoline tanks of other equipment, and a 30-foot section of hose was hacked to pieces.

## Golf Shoes Taken

A pair of golf shoes and a pair of socks were taken from his garage, Allan McLaren, of 743 Calle de Arboles, reported to police. He valued the items at \$12.35.

disclose that a substantial proportion of drivers disregard speed warnings, school zones, and signs which urge caution on curves. Drivers also speed more after midnight and are becoming more impatient of congestion, traffic lights, or any cause of delay and react by taking chances, blowing horns, or indulging in excessive bursts of speed as though to make up for time lost. It was also discovered that speeding was not limited to any definable group of drivers.

Many states have taken constructive measures to reduce traffic accidents. Research projects on the prevention of traffic accidents, however, have placed emphasis on mechanical and highway safeguards and have neglected the human psychological factors that are so extremely important.



NEW GENERATING STATION . . . Architect's rendition of Southern California Edison Co.'s Alamitos steam-electric generating station is shown here. New source of electric power for Central and Southern California, the plant will be built east of Long Beach and south of Seventh St. between the San Gabriel River and the Los Corritos Drainage Channel. First \$24,000,000 unit of the new station, with a capacity of 150,000 kilowatts, is scheduled for completion late in 1956. Plans call for installation of four such units.

Human nature being what it may have come to the attention of authorities in Washington for is, it may take a little more time than anticipated to achieve the impossible and prevent accidents altogether. Any diminution in the rate, however, means just that much less suffering and sorrow. The National Safety Council announces that more accidents occur on Dec. 24 than on any other day of the year. This fact

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CHOICE QUALITY RIB STEAKS	43¢ <sup>lb</sup>
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PORTERHOUSE STEAKS	63¢ <sup>lb</sup>

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10¢

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SOLID—NEW CROP  
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(WASHINGTON)

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