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Safe Bike Driving Rules

1. Obey all applicable traffic regulations, signs signals and markings.
2. Observe all local ordinances pertaining to bicycle operation.
3. Keep right, drive with traffic, not against it. Drive single file.
4. Watch out for drain grates, soft shoulders and other road surface hazards.
5. Watch out for car doors opening, or for cars pulling out into traffic.
6. Don't carry passengers or packages that interfere with your vision or control.
7. Never hitch a ride on a truck or other vehicle.
8. Be extremely careful at all intersections, particularly when making a left turn.
9. Use hand signals to indicate turning or stopping.
10. Protect yourself at night with the required reflectors and lights.
11. Drive a safe bike. Have it inspected to insure good mechanical condition.
12. Drive your bike defensively; watch out for the other guy.

The above rules are provided by the Bicycle Institute of America in conjunction with the National Safety Council and the Cub Scouts of America.

Fiber Shortages and Prices

Jeans to jersey, petticoats to woollens. When you go to the store this year in search of clothing and yard goods—you may find fewer items to choose from, or wind up paying higher prices for what you do find. The reasons, explains Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, Extension clothing specialist at The Pennsylvania State University, are: fashion's whim, new marketing outlets and Mother Nature.

Drastic changes in demand and supply have upset the textile industry. The overall use of fibers by United States mills has increased 55 percent since 1960. And the production of man-made fibers has rocketed 245 percent.

But with the soaring demand for man-made fibers, the supply of raw materials is being depleted. There is now fear of a shortage in elements used to produce nylon, polyester, and acrylics. Manufacturer of some fibers has even been curtailed, according to Mrs. Wilson.

The fashion trend toward man-made fibers was accompanied by a decrease in demand for wool. So sheep producers cut back their herds. Now, with a returning interest in "natural fibers" it will take time to catch up.

When knit fabrics surged ahead in popularity, more looms were made for knits and fewer for woven fabrics. So now with the return to woven materials, there is a shortage of looms and production is delayed.

Another reason for the forecasted increase in textile prices, says the Extension clothing specialist, is the growth in competition for export sales. With devaluation of the dollar, big orders have come in from Japan and England. And, reopening of trade with mainland China, offers a large, new market for U. S. fibers.

And Nature hasn't cooperated either. Spring flooding of the Mississippi River cut cotton planting nearly 30 percent in the rich delta area.

Consumers' Corner

Today's Housewife — Valuable Commodity

Today, even the word "housewife" is in dispute.

The term has recently come in for lively discussion among its practitioners, their husbands, and other interested parties. While suggested alternate terms have ranged from "household engineer" to "domestic economists," many a housewife will say it's not the terminology so much as its interpretation that's at stake.

An ongoing study under a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture gives a measure of what it would cost to replace the work at home with hired services. Here are some of the findings:

In an average family with two children, one a 5-year-old, the other an infant, the mother puts in 70 hours a week. The dollar value of her labor amounts to \$148 on a weekly basis.

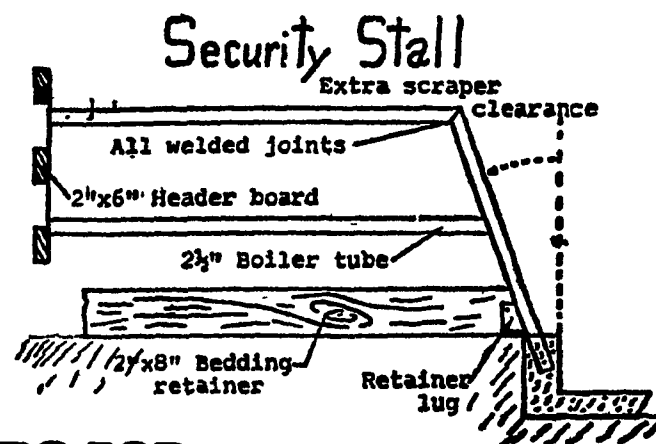
A woman with three older children between the ages of 6 and 11 would be performing services worth \$108 a week.

If there are four children between the ages of 6 and 11, the value of the wife's labor would amount to \$117 a week.

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"A survey has disclosed that the average American favors only one kind of handout, the government's hand out of his pocket."—Albert F. Coombs, The Valley (Calif.) Times.