Truck driver offers safe driving tips

WASHINGTON - Planning ahead and constantly staying alert have gotten America's top trucker through 3.5 million often hazardous miles without an accident.

And, says Frank M. Waldron, the 1979 Driver of the Year of the American Trucking Associations, Inc., "there are plenty of common-sense ways of avoiding accidents used by truckers that automobile drivers can practice, too."

Waldron has driven accident-free for 43 years, and feels his safety suggestions are especially pertinent during National Transportation Week, May 13-19.

Since he's hauled everything from dynamite (during the 1950's) to huge steam generators as a heavy specialized load hauler, Waldron in very conscious of the need for planning to avoid accidents.

"You've always got to be one step ahead of the other guy who might hit you," he

Each year, Waldron drives almost 100,000 miles carrying heavy loads for C& habits to unsafe or wet

H Tansport Co., Inc. of conditions, it's wise to Dallas. Keeping those loads safely on the road is a job that demands the utmost in concentration.

Before Waldron leaves his home terminal in Phoenix for a run, he makes sure his rig is in safe operating condition.

He begins by walking around the vehicle while it is running with its lights on to make sure safety devices are working.

Waldron acknowledges that this practice is not always convenient for a motorist each time he drives, but adds:

"This inspection should be done at regular intervals so you aren't driving a car with lights out or a loose windshield wiper blade that could come undone at any time."

After this "pre-trip" in-spection," the motorist should take careful note of highway conditions - and realize that not all other drivers are doing the same thing.

"No matter how much a driver adjusts his driving remember there are a lot of people on the road who will drive the same speed at all times, regardless of weather. It's best to always keep alert for their unsafe habits so they won't involve you in an accident," Waldron cautions.

After adjusting to road conditions, drivers should watch merging traffic coming into their lanes from all side streets, and this is especially true on interstate

highways.
"You can't really depend on people obeying yield signs, although most safetyconscious drivers do. Always be prepared to take evasive action," the 43-year professional driving veteran advises.

And always, Waldror cautions: "Remember there are people behind you tha don't have any idea what you plan to do without some warning. Always use turn signals before switching lanes, and make sure to leave plenty of room for the guy in the next lane. He may not be paying close enough attention to brake if you switch too soon."

The veteran trucker is a firm believer in the 55-mph speed limit for both saving lives and fuel.

"The 55 limit saves wear and tear on both me and my rig. And, that speed gives a driver a lot more time to react to possible trouble than a 65 or 70 miles per hour limit," he notes.

In obeying the speed limit, it's wise for drivers not to allow themselves to be hemmed into large clusters of vehicles.

As the Driver of the Year

explains, "If a motorist will get the most space possible between his vehicle and others, he stands much less chance of being caught in the large pile-ups involving many cars that seem to be happening more often."

"Slow down, enjoy the scenery, and let the pack run ahead of you," Waldron

Staying alert is essential for the professional and private auto driver, Waldron emphasizes.

'If you are tired, pull oft the road for a while for some rest, or maybe a cup of coffee and a nap. It's amazing what 15 minutes of rest will do even after hours of driving," he advises.

Above all, Waldron adds, "If a driver realizes he is really tired, it's silly to try to make a two-day trip in one day. Pick a place to spend the night, and then start out fresh in the morning."

What irks him the most? Drivers who insist on passing in no passing zones, improper use of turn signals, drivers who won't let a truck pass them when the truck is acting legally and safely, and tailgating.

"Life on the road is a lot easier for all of us when the simple rules of common courtesy are used," he concludes.

York Co. FFA judging contests held

County FFA Association recently held its dairy and livestock judging contests. Contestants from Dover, Eastern, Kennard-Dale, Northern and Red Lion Area Schools met at Red Lion Area High School for the contests and went to various farms to judge the different

species of livestock. Kevin Holtzinger and Donald Lanius hosted the dairy judging teams while James Parlett, Mrs. Paul Ebaugh, and Donald Walter provided the swine, sheep

RED LION - The York and beef classes for the livestock contest.

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Greg Fantom of Kennard Dale High School won the dairy judging contest followed by Jimmy Shoff, Kathy Arnold, Barb Kilgore and Jim Innerst, all of Red Lion.

Capturing the livestock contest was Greg Innerst of Red Lion with fellow Red Lion Area FFA members Leroy Bowles, Rrenda Walter, Beth Holtzinger, and Tom Muller rounding out the top five.

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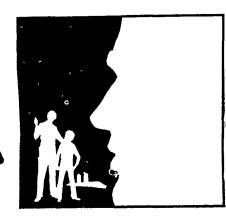
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