

PSYCHOLOGY

Traffic Violators Normal

► **HABITUAL TRAFFIC VIOLATORS** are as intelligent as most people and as well balanced.

Studies of 300 habitual traffic violators by two University of California at Los Angeles scientists directly contradict theories that habitual offenders are morons or neurotics.

The research shows the habitual traffic violator is white, male, has average intelligence, is a semi-skilled or skilled worker, is between the ages of 21 and 25, and drives between 26 and 50 miles a day.

The violator also comes out about average in personality evaluation. Interviewers tried to learn each offender's attitude toward the law, his attitude toward police enforcement, his concept of himself with regard to driving, his concept of a good or bad driver, his belief as to how he could improve, his reasons for pleading guilty or not guilty, his idea of the worst possible driving offense, his intelligence and his personality characteristics.

One part of the study consisted of a more intensive analysis of 100 cases.

Most of these violators, the report shows, had opinions that were "substantially in accord with the law."

Only 12% gave negative opinions or expressed dissatisfaction with legal standards, and 28% either had no opinion or failed to answer.

However, the offenders' attitudes toward police were quite different. Nearly one-third resented police. The scientists say "it appears that the violators are more opinionated about the police than about the traffic laws, and that the criticism of the

traffic laws is more favorable than the criticism of police."

Only nine percent thought of themselves as poor drivers; 86% thought they were "at least fair" drivers and the rest did not express an opinion.

Of 61 persons who were asked what they thought were the worst kinds of driving offenses, more than a third said drunk driving, 16% named speeding, and five percent listed hit-and-run driving.

Of the 300 persons studied, more than half were described as "normal," 17% as "conforming" and 22% as "aggressive." Less than two percent were labeled "hostile."

The personalities of 100 offenders were studied more intensively. Based on their statements during the interview, 44% of this group were considered "normal." Thirteen percent were called "aggressive" or "extremely extroverted," 28% "appeared to be introverted perhaps with some personal problems," and 13% were classified as "individuals who probably needed some clinical attention and treatment." Two percent were considered not classifiable.

The researchers, Drs. Harry W. Case, Ismar Reiter, Ernst A. Feblowicz and Roger G. Stewart, concluded that prevention or correction through training, rather than punishment, may be one of the solutions to the problem.

The scientists from the University's Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering made their report to the Highway Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

NUTRITION

Freeze Fall Lunches Now

► **A WAY** to beat the morning rush hour at home when school lunches must be packed along with breakfast preparation is to make up the luncheon foods, such as sandwiches, cookies and fruit now, and store them in the freezer until time to pack the lunches each morning next fall.

The trick might also serve for late summer picnics and lunches carried to work.

The idea comes from Dr. Faith Fenton of the New York State (Cornell) Experiment Station. She says the lunch can be fresh-tasting if prepared the night before or even weeks in advance and kept in the freezer.

Food taken from the freezer for the lunch box in the morning will be thawed by noon. Dr. Fenton points out that it actually may taste better than food prepared and packed fresh that morning and kept in a warm locker for several hours.

Sandwich fillings suitable for freezing are meat, poultry, and cheese spreads of all kinds, egg yolk mixtures, and peanut butter and other nut pastes. Fillings that do not

freeze well are those with raw vegetables, hard-cooked egg whites and fruit jellies.

Raw vegetables—celery, carrots, cabbage and others—can be put in the lunch box in the morning. Lettuce or tomatoes, wrapped in wax paper and carried in the lunch box, can be added to the sandwiches at lunch time. The frozen foods in the box act as a refrigerant to keep the vegetables crisp, and cooling the lunch box itself helps to keep foods cool and fresh-tasting.

Wrap such luncheon foods as sandwiches, cookies and fruit separately in individual servings and store in the freezer until time to pack the lunch. To avoid mixing different flavors, package each item individually.

Making sandwiches from frozen slices of bread has also been suggested by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to save time and keep the fresh quality of bread. Bread is easier to spread frozen than when soft or crumbly. When the slices thaw, they have the characteristics of fresh bread.

Science News Letter, August 25, 1956

HARRY ROSS SPECIALS

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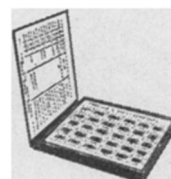
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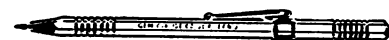
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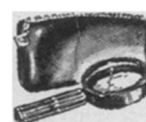
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