

Auto

05-23-2016 by Harry Zirkelbach
Stars and Sun date 34430

The human race has somehow survived unimaginable perils. Citing them would only bore. And the reader would only imagine others.

I am certain you have in mind many recent perils to our continued existence. I have chosen the automobile to consider.

Daimler, Ford, Mitsubishi and the others had the primary goal, to sell cars. It was left to others mostly unrecognized, to make the world safe for their transport, not knowing or caring about those auto guiding lights, genius or idiot.

Who remembers the inventor of the Stop Light, the first individual who put paint of the roadway to divide right from left, or person who first erected a Stop sign? This army of unknowns tinkered with light, paint, signs, road finishes, poles, that make it reasonable today for a visiting Mongolian to drive the Colorado streets and highways without harm to self or we natives. Yes the highway Engineers sought reasonable input to continually make motoring safer, rapid, and harm-free to those in the auto, on byways. It has been a remarkable journey.

National records on auto deaths, miles driven, population were begun in 1921. Three comparisons, for each 100,000 miles.

1921, 3,253 auto deaths, that ratio 24.09 died.

1973, 54,052 auto deaths that ratio 4.12 died. (15 %)

2014, 32,675 auto deaths that ratio 1.0 (4%)

So by reasonable measures auto travel has become safer yearly.

Three significant variables involved in traffic safety
the driver, the auto, the road.

States control the issuance of Drivers' licenses.
There is no national standard.

Individual manufacturers are responsible for their auto safety,
generally with heavy oversight from the Federal government,
and in in some instances, individual state. (California has
overlaid many rules for auto safety.)

Road maintenance and safety is largely the responsibility of the
States. The Federal government continues to exercise
considerable influence on individual states, for they distribute
the enormous funds for both Interstate and Federal Highway
system within each State.

Beyond analysis in traffic safety, is the relationship between the
individual driver and his mandatory Insurance protection. This
war is waged incessantly in ad campaigns on TV and the media.

Individual lawyer suggest that any accident victim may be
cheated by the Insurance Company when compensated for loss.

Where is the insurer to believe the money for those
judgements originate?

Those automobile pioneers could not foresee the complex
world they created, beyond the need for a few gallons of gas.