

FOUND! DRIVER HAS GOOD WORD FOR 'THUMBERS'

Dr. Rice Finds Hitch-Hiker Rides Enjoyable—Not Dangerous.

At last a motorist has been found who has a good word to say for a hitch-hiker.

The motorist is Dr. Thurman B. Rice of the state health department and Indiana university school of medicine.

In the July issue of the health department bulletin, Dr. Rice relates the rich experience he has had by hauling thumbers.

He closes with the advice to be less afraid about picking up strangers and enjoy this casual contact with fellow beings more.

Tell Me I'm Crazy'

"All the wise guys, and the big shots at the motor club, and the cops and timid sisters tell me I am a fool for picking up strangers on the road and giving them a lift occasionally," Dr. Rice comments.

"They remind me of the time when a 'college student' murdered his benefactor, and very recently they cite the case of a man who was killed as his car left the road while he was struggling with a hitch-hiker who was attempting to hold him up."

"When one remembers, however, that thousands of rides are given every day, that doesn't seem to be a very high percentage."

Kept Him Awake

"Having some one to talk to has kept me from getting sleepy at the wheel hundreds of times, and sleeping at the wheel is not a very healthful occupation, if you are asking me. I wonder how many timid souls have gone to sleep and run into the ditch because they were afraid to have a little company?"

In these times of stress there are a great many people on the roads asking for rides. Some of these fellow mortals are eating their hearts out looking for work, trying to get back home to the family hoping at the end of the rainbow, just ahead, to find a way of bettering their condition."

Dr. Rice then relates many of his experiences with hitch-hikers and concludes:

Sums Up Philosophy

"If I could be sure that adversity never would come to me and mind if I could learn to disregard the feelings of others as far as goes speedily by, if I could solve the social and economic problems that put honest as well as dishonest people on foot along the weary miles; if I could be assured that I never would need to wield the pleading thumb; if I could be divinely certain that I have a better right to ride than do the less fortunate ones, it would be different, but until then, I shall continue to take a little chance on my precious safety."

"There's nothing so dangerous, you know, as being absolutely safe."

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