

THE STAFF

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Eunice Arnold Walker joined the staff of INDEPENDENT WOMAN in July as the director of advertising. A native Missourian, Mrs. Walker received her BA degree from the University of Arkansas where she majored in English and journalism.

Cutting her journalistic teeth on her home-town newspaper, The *Monett Times*, where she served as reporter, feature writer, copy girl, proof reader, etc., she moved on to the *Kansas City Star* and The Associated Press. For three years she wrote features and covered special news events for this newspaper and

news service, leaving to join her husband in Havana, Cuba, where he was serving as a foreign service officer at the American Embassy.

Mrs. Walker served as publicity chairman of the clubs to which she belonged in the Latin American city, and assisted the editor of the English-language newspaper, The *Havana Post*, in obtaining news of the Anglo-American colony. She also translated from French into English a book on the flora of Cuba. Upon returning to the United States, Mrs. Walker joined the advertising firm of Reuben H. Donnelley in Washington, doing freelance writing on the side. She is a member of the Professional Writers' Club of Washington.



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WOMEN DRIVER JOKES JUST ABOUT ALL WIPED OUT

By The Honorable **RAYMOND GARY**
Governor of Oklahoma

Statistics compiled by the State Department of Public Safety are apt to drive jokes about women drivers out of existence.

There's mounting evidence that women drivers, in Oklahoma and throughout the nation, are less apt to cause accidents than men. At least they're not involved in nearly so many fatal accidents, and that's not entirely due to the fact women do less driving than men.

A total of 692 drivers were involved in the 595 fatal accidents occurring in Oklahoma last year. Only 83 of that number were women.

In other words more than eight times as many men were involved as drivers when fatal mishaps occurred. The same trend is noticeable in accidents not quite so serious, though the women's record isn't quite so good where non-fatal accidents are concerned.

Throughout the nation last year, women were at the wheel in about 15 per cent of the non-fatal accidents. Where fatalities occurred, only about nine per cent of the drivers were women.

Various theories are being advanced as to why this is so. One is that women's natural protective instinct keeps them from taking chances which some less sensible and more daring males will take.

Safety experts say only that the evidence so far compiled is interesting but not conclusive. They maintain that both sexes cause their share of highway accidents, even though women drivers

seem to be involved less often in the more serious ones.

It's also interesting to note that the caution which comes with advancing age seems to be better insurance against fatal accidents than the snappier reflexes of youth. In Oklahoma, most accidents causing death involve young people as drivers.

Far more than half the drivers of death cars in Oklahoma last year were less than 34 years of age. The under 20 group, and those from 20 to 24 years of age seem most likely to become involved in serious highway accidents.

Nearly one-third of the drivers involved in fatal Oklahoma accidents last year were 24 years old or younger. Three of them were less than 14 years of age.

Apparently there's a good lesson to be learned from the pokey old driver many people criticize. He may have gotten to be old and pokey by being careful.

Only 48 of the 692 drivers of cars involved in fatal accidents in Oklahoma last year were over 65 years old. This is a good record when you consider that even the slightest shock or other injury can be fatal to an elderly person.

I don't know what this adds up to, unless maybe the rest of us could take some lessons from the lady drivers and the old folks. It seems that those who are most cocksure about being good drivers are often most susceptible to accidents.

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