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Articles of Interest From

American Police Beat

Too Old To Drive?

“Give me the keys, Mom. I love you.”

No one wants to be the person that takes away an elderly driver's keys.

But every time an elderly driver barrels into a crowd and kills people, or causes a pile up behind them because of erratic driving, we have to ask ourselves a tough question. When is someone too old to drive?

Nationwide, drivers 75 and older have the second highest rate for fatal crashes per mile. In Amarillo, Texas in the last five years, there have been 141 traffic fatalities, and in 18 of those accidents, a driver 75 or older was at fault.

Amarillo senior citizen **Nita Albright** has been driving on the road for 60 years and can't imagine life without a license. But she's one of the rare old timers who knows when to call it a day behind the wheel.

“Here's my keys. I'm not gonna drive. I'm not going to do that,” she explained to local reporters. Local law enforcement says there are signs if it's time for a senior to hand over the keys.

Amarillo **Corporal Jerry Neufeld** sums it up succinctly. “If your first response is ‘I'm afraid to get in the car,’ there may be a problem.”

Neufeld advises concerned family members to take their relative for a drive, watch how they act on the road and look for signs it might be time to take the keys away.

Even senior citizens themselves say there are ways to determine if your older loved one is a hazard on the highway. “The doctor should be able to diagnose them with the capability of driving. If he says they shouldn't drive, then he should report it to the person's children or proper authorities,” Nita Albright advises. ●

One day an elderly lady was driving along the highway, steering with her feet and knitting. She was swerving all over the road when a police car came beside her car and said, “Pull over!” The lady said, “No, they're socks!”

Norm's One-Liners from Cheers

“What's shaking, Norm?”
“All four cheeks and a couple of chins.”

“Hey Norm, how's the world been treating you?”
“Like a baby treats a diaper.”

“Hey Mr. Peterson, there's a cold one waiting for you.”
“I know, if she calls, I'm not here.”

“Whatcha up to Norm?”
“My ideal weight if I were eleven feet tall.”

“How's it going Mr. Peterson?”
“Poor”
“I'm sorry to hear that.”
“No, I mean pour.”

“How's it going Mr. Peterson?”
“It's a dog eat dog world, Woody and I'm wearing Milk Bone underwear.”

“What'll you have Normie?”
“Well, I'm in a gambling mood Sammy. I'll take a glass of whatever comes out of that tap.”
“Looks like beer, Norm.”
“Call me Mister Lucky.”

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