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The majority, it seems to me, are hitching not from necessity but for the purpose of saving a few cents. I have no sympathy with that type. I can see no good reason why I should inconvenience myself, or my passengers; or endanger other users of the highway by stopping my car merely to save money for someone whom I never have seen before, and hope never to see again.

Many of these, I found in the days when I did stop for hitchers, were painful creatures who bored me with tales of their lives, their affairs with women and their drinking bouts. . . .

Occasionally you come across a chap who has a real motive for thumbing. He wants to get some place to find work, and he hasn't too much money. That type usually is neat about his appearance, although not too well dressed. However, he won't overpower the other occupants of the car by odors which come from uncleanliness; and when he talks he talks sensibly, of his family life, of his hopes and ambitions; and often seeks advice which may be helpful to him. If all thumbers were in that category, I would be inclined to brake more often.

But what gets me is the attitude of the hitchers. You will see two or three together, each leaning into the road, or standing right in your path, practically daring you to go by them. It makes not a particle of difference whether your car is full or not. As you pass, they glare as if you were doing them a great injustice by not stopping.

The average hitch-hiker apparently knows nothing of the highway regulations. He will attempt to stop you at any place, and at any time. There may be a dozen cars in a row, moving at a reasonable speed; yet he will hold up his thumb for the entire line. For any car but the last to come to a halt would be inviting a crash from the car behind.

. . . a wise car driver avoids stops at danger points; and curves and hill crests are danger points. . . .

The views expressed in any material published in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.