

WOMEN AT THE WHEEL

No woman driver has lost her driver's license in Greece since the "point system" came into effect.

For every violation committed by a driver a number of points are registered against him on the driver's record. If the driver receives 17 points, his license is automatically suspended.

The "point system" was introduced last year by the Ministry of Transport to reduce the number of traffic violations, accidents and deaths.

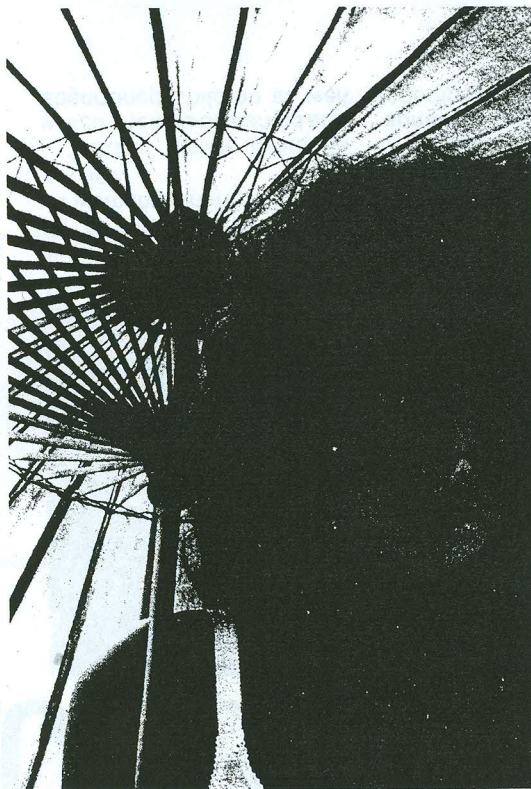
Specifically, of the 130,000 violations registered on the "point system" from September 1, 1983 to September 1, 1984, only 3.4% were committed by women and 96.6% by men.

As a result, during this one year period 56 men have lost their driver's licenses and there are many more who only need a few more points to lose theirs.

The Greek woman has proved to be a careful driver. The Greek Council for Equality between the Sexes is collaborating with the Labor Force Employment Agency in a program for the employment of 100 women bus drivers.

Forty-eight women have already been trained and in October another 52 will be selected to go through training.

In the Athens area there are many women taxi drivers



Yesterday a mere sex symbol...

and a few women employed as truck drivers.

Since 1982 Greece has had its first woman pilot.

Sofiana Karamali, employed by Olympic Airways.

When asked what made her decide to become a pilot.



...Today a pilot.

Ms Karamali replied:

A. "When I was a little girl we lived near the airport and I used to sit by my window watching the airplanes and

day-dreaming that I would become a pilot one day. I wanted to be a responsible person, equal to men, and to enter a profession that I was

sure I could succeed in."

Q. "How do you feel about your work? Are you satisfied or do you now regret your decision?"

A. "I'm very satisfied with my work. I feel highly responsible when I sit in my cabin knowing that I hold hundreds of lives in my hands."

Q. "How do your colleagues feel about having a woman in their profession? Have you had any problems with them?"

A. "I regret to say that only a few of my colleagues have accepted me. Most of them feel threatened by my presence in their field. The Greek Council for Equality between the Sexes has helped me break through a great number of obstacles, as has the new government policy on equality."

Women are not only entering professions once considered off-limits to the female sex but they are also excelling in them.

In every prefecture in Greece a committee for Equality between the Sexes has been set up to deal with issues concerning women. These committees are presently pushing for the farm woman's right to receive loans for purchases of agricultural equipment.