

Highway and Auto Dope

Traffic and Tourist News

AUTOMOBILE NEWS

FORDS HAVE IMPROVEMENTS

Many Mechanical Refinements Featured in the Cars Now on Display at Perkins Motor Company.

Lighter reciprocating parts, a new and improved dash control of the carburetor, an oil pan of new design and a stronger and more accessible transmission are among the improvements standard on the new Ford cars, a carload of which were received this week by the Perkins Motor company.

Vibration has been reduced to a minimum on the new model Ford by lightening the connecting rods and pistons. Each connecting rod and piston assembly, complete, weighs approximately one pound and a half less than the former type.

This reduction in the weight of the reciprocating parts, combined with a heavier crankshaft adds greatly to the power, speed, economy of operation and long life of the new models.

With the oil pan crankcase extended to cover all main bearings and connecting rod bearings important adjustments and replacements on this part of the motor may be made without taking down the engine.

The transmission housing has been considerably strengthened and is provided with an enlarged cover which considerably shortens the job of replacing the transmission bands by making them accessible without removing the case.

The combination carburetor control which operates from the dash adds a great deal to the convenience and efficiency of operation. The control permits of adjustment of the carburetor without leaving the seat and will result in a material saving in gasoline.

Crossing through seas of mud that mired cars of more cylinders and greater horsepower in hazy deep gumbo, Mrs. E. K. Allen, of Los Angeles, California, and her 14 year-old son, Gordon, hold the distinction of being the first transcontinental motorists to drive an Overland Six from Toledo to the Pacific Coast.

Used Car Situation Is Still Difficult

(By J. S. L.) The used car problem continues the bugbear of the automobile industry. Various attempts at standardizing the trade in prices, guaranteeing the reconditioned cars and in other ways straightening out the tangle and creating a more favorable market for the used cars have been made but up far none could be called an unqualified success.

The saturation point has apparently been reached and dealers, locally and all over the country are daily refusing to accept trade which a year ago or even six months ago would have been taken gladly. The hand writing has been seen on the wall and one of the reasons for the large annual dealer mortality is now being curbed.

In the larger centers of population, of which Portland is typical, second-hand cars may now be bought off the lot on practically the purchaser's own terms. One of the largest establishments in Portland is now advertising "used cars, no down payment, no brokerage, and no interest."

Of course the payment down is taken care of in most instances by merely allowing the purchaser to pay the first month of the contract on the spot before driving the car away. Cars of all kinds and types may be purchased by this arrangement, obviously a desperate effort to get rid of a surplus of rolling stock.

Re-conditioning of used cars and guaranteeing the finished product, in some instances the same as a new car, has met with success of a kind but has not solved the problem.

One solution is gradually coming about from a rather unexpected quarter and that is by the constant manufacturing standardization, more apparent now than ever before. It is confidently predicted by those in the industry supposed to know that the number of manufacturers will be greatly reduced within the next few years.

The fly-by-night companies which formerly were organized with watered stock, manufactured a few hundred or a few thousand cars and went out of business leaving orphan machines in the hands of the owner and the dealers, are becoming rarer.

For some years certain cars have established standards of trade in values largely because of companies which combined tremendous financial and manufacturing resources

with conservative policies. It is along these lines that the solution of the used car problem will come.

Genius, like the flower, is often born to blus unseen upon the desert air. Or so it would seem of the mechanic at Umatilla, the little town some 49 miles west of Pendleton in the sagebrush region, who manufactured an eight in a line service car from parts of several odd Fords and other nondescript machines.

This unusual feat was accomplished by placing two Ford engine block end to end on a tractor crank case. The crank shaft was constructed of three regular Ford crankshafts. The original carburetors have been retained on this unusual hybrid and function one to each block.

And the machine actually runs! When the writer inspected it recently the owner obligingly started her up and the two Henrys, coupled together like Siamese twins, lit on all eight cylinders without a miss.

It is very generally rumored about the industry that Nash is working on a new light car to be brought out in competition with the Ford, Star, Chevrolets, Overland and other cars in the popular price class.

This latest product has been christened Ajax, according to the reports. No production plans or details of the design have been announced as yet.

The variances in the diameters of the balloon tires now being furnished on the different cars seems to indicate that the tire pressure cords are still more or less in the experimental stage and that the manufacturers have not definitely agreed which size is best.

It is no uncommon thing to see a line of cars with several different sizes of tires and rims on different models. This condition while inconvenient at the present time, particularly to the tire man, will no doubt be eliminated in a short time.

DODGE CARS IMPROVING

"The slogan 'Better and Better' which recently appeared on poster boards and newspapers everywhere, following closely the announcement of the purchase of Dodge Brothers by Dillon, Read & Co., has aroused renewed comment regarding one of the outstanding policies of Dodge Brothers, Inc., according to L. C. Smith, local Dodge Brothers Dealer.

"Constant improvement of a basic design has been the established policy of Dodge Brothers ever since their first car was offered to the public," he said, "and will continue to be under the new ownership.

"Registration figures for last year show clearly the wide recognition which has been accorded this sound policy. Totals for the United States show that Dodge Brothers made a gain of 25% against a loss of 15% sustained by the industry as a whole. This year week after week, all sales for corresponding periods of previous years have been exceeded by as large an amount.

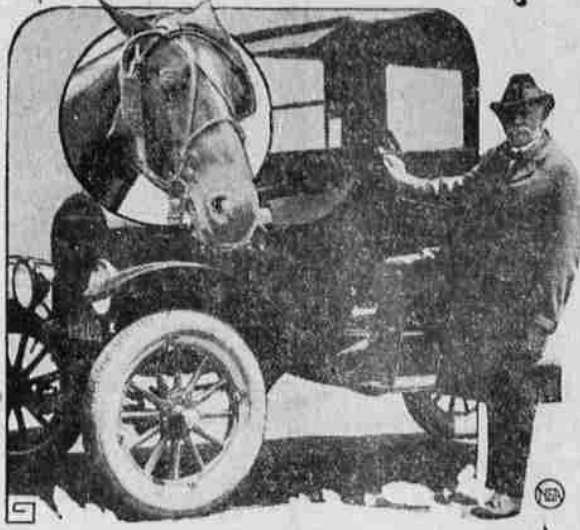
"Most automobile buyers today understand how much better it is for the engineering and experimental departments at the factory to concentrate their thoughts and efforts on the betterment of a well tried basic design rather than on the development of next year's model.

"It is also evident that the development of new designs, the experimental work on a new model and the making of the dies and special tools and machines necessary for the production of radically different chassis is very costly. This expense, which in modern volume production of motor cars may easily run into the millions of dollars is, of course, paid for in the final analysis by the car buyer. The great saving made by Dodge Brothers, Inc., as a result of this policy is faithfully returned to the buyer in the form of greater value in the car.

"Furthermore the car does not suffer the high depreciation which invariably follows the announcement of a new annual model and the owner's feeling that his car presents a 'last year's appearance.' During ten years there has been a constant betterment and refinement of Dodge Brothers chassis details. Improvements in ease of operation, riding comfort and appearance have been made without any radical change in the well tried, dependable chassis."

TRUCKS SHOW BIG GAIN. DETROIT, Mich. (Special)—The improved Chevrolet trucks which have registered a progressive gain since the new line was announced early this year, reached during April a production of 2,952, an increase of nearly 40 per cent. over the 2,121 trucks built during the corresponding month of 1924. May production of trucks is exceeding that of April.

Harding's Dad Forsakes "Dolly" WILL TEST ROAD GUARDS



After 30 years of pulling the buggy in which Dr. George T. Harding, 81, of Marion, O., father of the late president, made his calls, "Dolly" has been sent to pasture. In her place has come a flier. "I like a horse," says Doctor Harding. "But one has to keep up to the times."

OLDS EXPORTS MANY CARS

The number of Oldsmobiles exported during 1924 was four and one-half times as great as the exports for the previous year, according to reports from the Olds Motor Works, Lansing, Michigan. And records for the first four months of 1925 show a gain of 50 per cent over those of the same period in 1924.

"Foreign automobile buyers demand an easily and economically operated car," said T. J. Roulter, Works. "For that reason we consider this highly favorable attitude on the part of the foreign buyers toward the six cylinder Oldsmobile as highly complimentary to both the appearance and performance of the car.

"Approximately 1,900 Oldsmobiles were exported in 1923, while in 1924 the number of Oldsmobiles sent abroad was nearly 4,500. This number, incidentally, is three times

the amount of the total production of Oldsmobiles a quarter of a century ago. Exports this year are considerably in excess of those for the same period in 1924, and in the first two months, January and February the exports totaled nearly as many as during the entire year of 1923. During the first four months of this year 2000 Oldsmobiles were shipped overseas.

"This growing popularity of Oldsmobiles abroad, as well as in this country, is considered entirely fitting inasmuch as the Olds Motor Works was the pioneer in the introduction of American automobiles overseas. At the beginning of this century when the one-cylinder 'Merry Oldsmobile' was paving the way for the present motoring era, this car was being exported and sold to many of the royal families in Europe."

Export Representative Inspects Plant.

J. G. Ardon, a member of the Sales Staff of the General Motors Export Company, is listed among recent visitors at Olds Motor Works. Mr. Ardon spent a week about the plant acquainting himself with Oldsmobile design, construction and policies. He expects to be stationed at Honolulu, Hawaii.

WILL TEST ROAD GUARDS

Wire Netting to Replace Wooden Posts on Certain Sections of Multnomah County Highways.

Numerous accidents to motorists traveling down the Canyon Road from the Tualatin Valley into Portland, Oregon, have led Multnomah County officials to make an installation of 500 feet of wire netting on a steep curved incline on the highway just outside the city limits.

The highway guard is made of No. 6 wire, two-inch mesh, painted white, and replaces wooden guard rails to prevent cars from skidding off the pavement in wet weather and smashing through the guard into a ditch or over an embankment. The guard acts as a life net to keep vehicles on the highway. It will give before an impact without breaking and can be applied to take up slack after being struck.

The installation was made by the Coast Culvert and Flume Company of Portland. Eight-by-eight concrete posts were used, set on 16-foot centers, each post with four reinforcing rods extending 10 inches below the post and set in concrete, as are the posts. The wire net guard is continuous and is held in place on each concrete post by two 3-x 3 inch galvanized "U" bolts with washers and nuts.

County officials and highway engineers of nearby counties have inspected the installation and will watch with interest its effectiveness in preventing serious accidents to cars skidding out of control in rainy weather.

Wet Brake Lining. Find that your brakes do not hold well after traveling a long distance over dusty roads? Drive into the next garage where you buy gas and try wetting the brake lining.

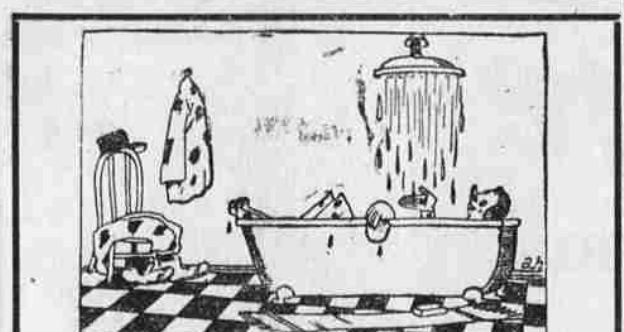
Real Menace. Any driver who stops his car on a curve or who attempts to pass another car there indulges in one of the most reprehensible practices of the unthinking road user. To those guilty of doing this when not driven to it by necessity no ordinary punishment can be considered as being too drastic.

Autos in Cuba. There are 35,000 automobiles in Cuba. Practically all are of American make.

When Better Automobiles Are Built, Buick Will Build Them



Answer: Buick's precision methods are possible because of Buick's great volume. It would be impossible to put such fine workmanship into Buick cars for their price if Buick built but a few thousand cars a year. Jennings & Shumate



Suppose YOU Had Worked for Months Without a Cleaning!

And suppose you had worked all that time amid dust, dirt and grease—you'd quit, wouldn't you?

So may the electrical units on your car—generator, distributor, etc. They can't work efficiently if they are not cleaned and cared for periodically.

We are experts at that work. We operate the Official Bosch Service Station and have factory tools and testing apparatus, which enable us to make repairs quickly, accurately and at minimum cost. We use none but genuine parts.

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