

Highway and Auto Dope

Traffic and Tourist News

AUTOMOBILE NEWS

License Tag 13 Brings Grief to Olympia Man

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Declaring that superstitious apathy towards the number "13" on the part of many prospective automobile purchasers is ruining his business, a Seattle dealer who has the number, has appealed frantically to Director Charles R. Maybury of the state license department, for a more universally approved, if less distinctive numeral, to display on his demonstrators.

Although he disavows harboring any "superstition complex" himself,

he declares that his prospects take an entirely different view of the matter. They are not at all interested in going on hill climbing demonstrations with a bad luck sign displayed fore and aft, he complains.

The last dealer who displayed the hallmark of ill omen ended in bankruptcy, its present owner declares, and intimated that he earnestly desires to escape a similar fate. The relief sought will probably be granted, officials said.

Perhaps people would be reconciled to them, if the signs read "Ye Old Detourrre."

OVERHEATED ENGINES SHOULD BE EXAMINED

If the engine in the car heats up excessively, check the ignition system for a late spark or look for poor water circulation. If the ignition is set late, the engine will heat and will lose power. It will also be impossible to get a spark knock with the spark control advanced on a hard pull. Overheating may also be caused by an air leak or by too lean a carburetor mixture.

It is claimed that Jay walkers are getting less and less every year. The automobile is attending to that all right.

K. C. ST. LOUIS MARK BESTED

All existing speed records for motor car travel between Kansas City and St. Louis were broken recently when a stock Willys-Knight Great Six roadster crossed the state of Missouri in 4 hours and 19 minutes, according to word received here by Gettings and Hanks.

The driver of the car which bettered the former record by 29 minutes, was H. C. Davis, a racing driver of Kansas City, who was forced to use all his skill in negotiating sixty miles of gravel road on the route at better than 40 miles an hour. M. A. Waterman, real estate man of Kansas City, donated the Willys-Knight roadster for the trip which was run in conjunction with a local newspaper. No stops were made on the trip although the car was slowed up in several towns to loss newspapers to news agencies.

In addition to the driver, John Hankinson, Kansas City representative of the National Motor Contest association, and a mechanic made the trip, the start of which was timed by Kansas City police officials. The test was sponsored by the Bernard-Buchli Motors company, Willys-Overland dealers in Kansas City, and the car used was a stock roadster.

Not content with establishing a new mark for the Kansas City-St. Louis route, Davis brought the car back to the former city on the return journey in 4 hours and 42 minutes, bettering the former record of 4 hours and 48 minutes by a comfortable margin.

Automotive Engineers Work to Improve Cars

(Continued from page 7)

car construction; to specify tolerances in also and fit that will assure painstaking and exact workmanship; to provide a wide range of adaptation of parts made by manufacturers to vehicles built by many manufacturers, thereby reducing the variety of parts that differ only in unimportant details; and to afford the greatest possible interchangeability of accessories.

The work of standardization is carried on with the utmost care and with cooperation with each industry affected by or interested in any subject under consideration. Thus, if there is a project to standardize specifications for headlighting, the society cooperates through joint meetings on lighting with a committee from the Illuminating Engineering society and with state motor vehicle departments. Its own lighting division and subdivisions include thirty-two engineers who are connected with lamp, bulb, socket, reflector and lens makers, car, bus, truck and motorcycle builders, and with the public works department of one of the leading eastern states.

When any standardization project affects another industry, the society works with representatives of that industry under the procedure of the American Engineering Standards Committee, which assists in coordinating the action of the various industries. Approximately 100 standardization projects are in progress within the society and the sectional committees. At the beginning of December twenty standard recommendations had been made since June and now await the action of the committee at the annual meeting in Detroit this month. These relate to motor truck frames, spark plugs, bearings, electrical equipment, motor-coach batteries, pistons and piston rings, tail lamps, upholstery leather, headlamp glasses and propeller shafts.

National meetings are also held for discussion of the operation of fleets of motor trucks and motor coaches and the servicing of motor vehicles. In short, what doctors are doing for the prevention of and cure of human diseases the automotive engineers are doing for the motor vehicle through the society, which is virtually an automobile life extension institute.

The useful life of the automobile has been increased within the last few years from an average of five years to an average of at least six years, and there are many indications that the period of usefulness is shortly to be increased.

CLOSED AND OPEN CARS TRADE PLACES

The open cars are assuming a place in the de luxe class which closed cars once held. In other years the closed car was the type picked by those with rich purses. There is a sentiment among automobile men that the open models soon may cost more than closed cars, as manufacturers extend themselves to reflect in open cars the prevailing sport characteristics.

To repair a leaking carburetor or vacuum tank dip the float into a pan of hot water. Bubbles will appear at the point where the float leaks. Mark this spot and then punch two holes, one in the top and the other in the bottom of the float. This will make it possible to empty the float of gasoline, and solder up the holes and the tank.

In California there are 2.7 cars to each inhabitant.

H. C. CATON AHEAD OF WORKERS FOR TRIP TO DETROIT

A national contest is being conducted by the Ford Motor company in Ford automobile and tractor sales, in which the winners of the respective groups will get a free trip to Detroit and a gold watch. The United States is divided into two sections, north and south divisions, and the towns are divided into nine classes in each division according to the population.

La Grande falls in the class of 5000 to 10,000 population. H. C. Caton, of the Perkins Motor company is leading this division in the contest, which ends April 1.

CONNECTING OF ROADS URGED

WALLOWA, Oreg. (Special)—A petition is being circulated among farmers in the valley section east of here asking for a connection of the Wallowa-Powwaska Market road, and the Lostine Evans-Leap Market roads. This connection as asked for would connect with the Powwaska Market road, at the "Cow Belt" about a mile and a half east of town and follow along the edge of the valley east intersecting the Lostine-Leap market road at the Williams Bros. ranch at the mouth of Parship Creek. Thus giving a number of farmers along this side of the valley, the advantages of a gravelled road either to Lostine or here.

American has twenty million automobiles.

WILL PRESENT TRAFFIC CODE

The national conference on street and highway safety has been called to meet in Washington, D. C. on March 23, 24 and 25, by Secretary Hoover. In addition to state delegations the conference will include federal, state and city officials, representatives of railroads, street railways, insurance companies, automobile manufacturers, labor, trade organizations, organized motorists, safety councils, welfare organizations, engineers and educators.

The committee on statistics will present a picture of the situation as it is today, bringing its 1924 report up to date as of January 1, 1926. It will state among other things that, while the rate of increase in street and highway accidents has been declining during the past two or three years, there has been a steady increase in total fatalities resulting from traffic accidents and that only six cities in the United States show any improvement in the accident rate for two consecutive years.

The committee on uniformity of laws and regulations has prepared a model motor vehicle code consisting of a model registration and certificate of title act, a model licensing of drivers act, and a model act covering rules and regulations for the use of the highways. This code, which has been prepared in co-operation with the commissioners on uniform state laws, is intended for submission to the legislatures of the various states with the hope that by adopting the principles which are incorporated in the acts some measure of uniformity of laws, rules and regulations may

be accomplished throughout the country.

The committee on enforcement has dealt with the problem of rigid enforcement of all existing and future motor vehicle laws. Incorporated in its report will be a schedule of minimum and maximum penalties suggested for all types of traffic violations.

The committee on causes of accidents will report as to available data on the causes of accidents

and deductions therefrom, and a program of organization for ascertaining the causes of accidents.

The most remarkable automobile road in the world, extends along the Pacific Coast from Tijuana, Mexico, to Vancouver, B. C.

Automobile bandits in Illinois eventually came to a high reading. "You are now entering Joliet."

THINK!

BEFORE YOU DRIVE ANOTHER DAY.

Have you changed the oil in your crankcase?

Better let us refill your crankcase with Veltex Eastern Oil --- then you will be ready for spring driving.

Do It Today!



GAS AND OIL

La Grande Filling Station
Kuhn & Zweifel

A Trial Has Convinced Others

--you too will be convinced of the superior merits of



Oils and Gasoline

Distributed by a Home Company. Your Dealer Has It --- or Can Get It.

FLETCHER OIL COMPANY
First Independent in Oregon.

Order your Better BUICK Now

ALL through the ordinary slack winter months, Buick factories have been straining at peak capacity to meet the demand for Better Buicks.

Public preference has created a tremendous market for this better motor car. Buick's volume of sales has increased all over America. Greater value and the greater satisfaction which every Buick owner knows have sold, in six months, more than 120,000 Better Buicks.

Come in and see the Better Buick. Examine its outstanding quality and luxury. See for yourself the modern and exclusive features of design and performance which distinguish it—75 horsepower, "Sealed Chassis," "Triple Sealed" Valve-in-Head engine, Controllable Beam Headlights and many others.

Order early to be sure of delivery at the time you want your Better Buick.

BUICK MOTOR CO., FLINT, MICHIGAN
Division of General Motors Corporation

[Better Buick Six Cylinder Valve-in-Head motor cars range in price from \$1125 to \$1995, f.o.b. Buick factories. Among the Buick open and closed models there is one that will meet your desires exactly.]

THE BETTER BUICK

Jennings & Shumate

The power favorite of the West



STANDARD SEDAN
\$895
fab. Toledo

Lowest charges on time payments in the industry

The New Willys Finance Plan means less money down, smaller monthly payments and a total cost lower by many dollars.

Absolutely supreme in power, quality and outstanding beauty. Nothing like its value and all-around satisfying quality and performance have yet been seen at such a price.

It will out-run, out-pull, out-accelerate any car near its price or size class. That is why the Overland Six is the great power favorite of the West.

The low swung, gravity balanced motor delivers worlds of power in a straight line to the rear axle--the body is low, keeping all the weight close to the ground. Great road stability lets you drive all kinds of roads using full power all the time.

To know this power wonder of the light six class, you must drive it. And through the new Willys Finance Plan we can offer you the lowest finance charges in the entire country.

OVERLAND SIX

Gettings & Hanks
Jefferson Avenue