

Highway
and
Auto
Dope

AUTOMOBILE NEWS

Tourist
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Traffic
News

SOVIET ROADS NOT THE BEST

Foreign dispatches carried brief mention last October of an international endurance contest staged by the Soviet government to determine what passenger cars and trucks would stand up under the primitive road conditions existing in Russia, but it was not until the Americans who took part in the contest returned the details were learned of what probably was the most exacting trial that ever was devised for motor transport equipment. The Soviet government's plan was not how easy, but how hard the tests could be made, so that if a car or truck had a weak place it would be revealed.

The Graham Brothers entry in the truck contest, returned recently and gives a vivid account of the event. Trucks were required to cover a course of 1,500 miles, and according to Mr. Shelby there are no roads in America to compare with the route the Soviet government laid out.

"If there are any such roads in this country," Mr. Shelby said, "nobody here would try to run trucks over them."

"We put our truck up against anything Europe has to offer mechanically, and when you consider the price there is no comparison. We can equal the best in economical operations, and we are away ahead of them on design. Our body construction is more practical. They follow along military lines. Although we were not eligible for the prize because we had one truck entered, a special silver cup was awarded the Graham Brothers truck for ability to pass over bad roads as a result of our performance."

TRACTOR SALES MANAGER COMING TO LA GRANDE

The Bunting Tractor company has been advised that I. E. Jones, western sales manager for the Caterpillar Tractor company, will visit La Grande in the near future. A conference including all the members of the local firm will be held while Mr. Jones is here. This meeting will bring the entire personnel of the Bunting Tractor company organization together in La Grande for the first time.

Money doesn't mean everything, but you can't say it doesn't mean anything.

Highway Commission Will Push Oiling As Soon As Possible

Detours to Be Used Whenever Possible—Flagmen Will Be Stationed in All Districts; Motorists Advised Against Applying Brakes on Freshly Oiled Surfaces.

Oiling of the state highways this spring, including the La Grande-Wallawa Lake and the Old Oregon Trail highways, will be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible with the view of handling the work that motorists will be subjected to the least inconvenience, says an authoritative statement received from the commission following announcement of the oiling program last Tuesday.

Wherever possible through traffic will be detoured around the sections being oiled; however, there are places where this procedure will be impossible since there are no detours available. This will probably apply over the greater part of the Wallawa lake highway and some of the stretches between here and Pendleton. In all cases flagmen will be posted at either end of the section with instructions to stop everyone, advising them that there is fresh oil ahead, and to drive carefully.

Signs will also be posted at conspicuous places at either end and along the sections being oiled, calling the motorists' attention to the necessity of using caution. Slow speed signs will be erected at various places in conformity with the condition of the road. It is imperative that the speed be held to 12 miles an hour, or under, on these sections covered by wet oil. By so doing the motorist should be safe, and oil should not be thrown on the car, except on the underside of the fenders and running gear.

Use of Brakes Dangerous.
The state highway commission calls the motorists' attention to the danger of applying brakes on wet oil surfaces as there is practically no traction. Motorists should be on the watch for oiling equipment, heavy trucks, etc., which are necessary to perform these maintenance operations.

As rapidly as possible the oil will be covered with rock or screenings or sand to prevent skidding and to prevent the picking up of the oil on cars; however, there will always be certain sections which are not so protected.

Answers Inquiries.
Last year's oiling operations developed a number of inquiries relative to the reasons for not applying the oil on the road half at a time. The state highway commission announces that this experiment has been tried, and is not successful for the following reasons.

In the first place it is imperative that the cars pass each other at intervals which necessarily forces one car onto the wet oil, and the car turning off the dry macadam does not realize the slipperiness of the surface in many instances, and accidents have materialized directly attributable to this source. In the second place, the concentration of traffic on the unoled section tends to disintegrate the surface, so that it is almost impossible to shape up the unoled portion conformable with the half that has been oiled.

The state highway commission appreciates that there is some inconvenience to the motoring public resulting from oiling macadam roads, especially in the original treatment, but the benefits derived in the elimination of the dust nuisance and the decrease in operation cost by reason of greater mileage on tires, smoothness of surface, etcetera, are, they believe, more than compensating factors; furthermore, their experience has indicated that over a period of years, there will be an actual saving in maintenance cost by reason of the salvage of broken stone which otherwise would grind up and blow away.

The treatment of the oiled mac-

adam for the second season involves the use of much less oil and requires much less time than the original treatment. The inconvenience to the traveling public is, therefore, materially decreased. The re-oiling is followed immediately by sand or stone screenings.

The state highway commission requests the aid and assistance of all motorists in the furtherance of this necessary maintenance operation.

Women's Smiles Keep Them Out of Courts

The fact that few women appear in the Baltimore traffic court is a proof of their wiles rather than an indication that they are better drivers than men, according to Magistrate Edward M. Staylor.

"Anyone who drives an automobile knows that women as a class are not better operators than men," Magistrate Staylor said. "You always can tell when a woman is ahead, and most men act accordingly and give them a wide berth."

"I am inclined to believe that police officers are lenient toward them in most cases, preferring to let them go rather than grave the sharpness of their tongues or the disconcerting pleas for mercy. Everyone knows that a majority of the women drivers cut corners, disregard traffic signals and park in taboo places more often, even in proportion to their number, than men, but they get away with it."

"As a rule, women are not flagrant offenders where more serious offenses are involved. They are seldom reckless, nor do they speed a great deal, but they are 'death' on minor offenses. In such cases they seem to have the policemen a bit afraid of them."

"Sometimes one of our 'hard-boiled Hermans'—the hard-bitten family men of the force—will drag an indignant female prisoner into court in spite of her cooing and sharp talk. Then we catch it!"

Chrysler Finds West Enjoying Good Times

DETROIT, Apr. 2.—"The West, including the Pacific Coast, is enjoying good times and business men and bankers are confident that all of 1926 will be productive of good business," says Walter P. Chrysler, president of the Chrysler corporation, who, accompanied by J. E. Fields, vice president in charge of sales, has just returned from a five weeks visit to the Pacific coast after meeting motor car distributors and dealers and leading men in various cities throughout the country.

"Business has built soundly in California and that great state is enjoying prosperity," said Mr. Chrysler. "The state this year has had a normal rainfall which it did not have during the past three, or four years and its crops are assured. It faces the future with genuine confidence."

"The Pacific Northwest states—Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana—are prosperous. Agriculturally these states are doing well which means that nearly all business is good. Cities are growing and the spirit of the people is most optimistic."

It is important to keep the contact points in the distributor clean and set at a clearance of fifteen or twenty thousandths of an inch, or to the distributor wrench gauge. The fine carborundum paper, small sandpaper disks used by dentists are excellent for this purpose.

PAYS VISIT TO MOUNT LASSEN

America's only active volcano has been showing off again in spite of the "No Smoking" warnings posted everywhere by the forestry department.

Every so often Mt. Lassen pours forth great volumes of smoke, just to show that it is spry, and still in the running in spite of its millions of years. Many motor tourists visit Lassen Volcanic National Park in Northern California each year for it presents very interesting and diversified picture.

During the peak's recent eruption, the Chevrolet Motor company

dispatched a scout car, to gather road information and to report the extent of volcanic activities.

Lassen is available to motorists all over the west. It is just off the great Pacific Highway—that international route which taps the three countries bordering the west coast of North America.

Reached by way of Chico and Lake Almanor, Lassen Park offers a variety of scenery ranging from snow capped peaks to crystalline lakes and weirdly sculptured lava formations.

Hot springs of every kind, strange grottoes, spouting geysers, boiling mud pots, steaming streams together with heavily wooded mountain country and awe-inspiring canyons make up an alluring tour district.

Aside from the interest in the volcano itself, the district has an appeal for the sportsman and angler.

Blue Lights Keep The King's Auto Moving

The appearance of a large automobile with a powerful blue light on the front of the canopy over the driver's seat has puzzled American tourists in London.

It is one of two cars used by King George and Queen Mary, and the blue light has solved a problem that puzzled the police authorities for some time.

When the king and queen were returning from a function at night their car was often held up in the traffic. So the blue light was fixed to two of the automobiles.

Whenever one appears, no matter what time of the night, it is given the right of way.

A catastrophe is something that happens to you. When it happens to the other fellow it is an accident.

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