

526 CARS STOLEN HERE IN ONE YEAR

Of 474 Recovered, Many Are Badly Damaged, While 52 Have Not Been Found.

THIEVES HOLD MERRY SWAY

'Special Committee of Dealers' As- sociation Decides to Have Own Attorney Prosecute All Cases Involving Theft of Autos.

BY LAIR H. GREGORY.
Stealing of automobiles has become a far more serious matter in Portland than motorists realize. What is more, the situation is becoming worse instead of better.

The Portland police records show that a total of 525 automobiles were stolen in Portland for the year ending December 31. At a conservative estimate of \$750 as the value of each car, the thieves got automobiles worth \$393,750 in a single year, which is an average of \$3,325 per month.

True enough, many of these cars were recovered later. But if thieves were to get away, even temporarily, with any other property at the rate of \$32,875 per month, \$394,500 per year, in a city the size of Portland, such an uproar would arise that a few dead thieves would most certainly clutter up the landscape unless the situation were met promptly. Yet motor car owners whose cars are recovered by the police generally hesitate to prosecute if an arrest has been made, the courts are lenient and the thief goes merrily back to his work.

Police Do Their Bit, But—
Of the 525 stolen automobiles in 1917, the Portland police recovered 474. Despite this very creditable showing, the net total of automobile thieves residing in the state penitentiary as a result thereof is little greater, if any, than before.

In most cases the stolen autos are joy-riders by the thieves until the gasoline runs out, or the car is wrecked, whereupon they desert it. Somebody reports the car to the police, who restore it to the owner. But in quite a number of cases the police have made arrests and have obtained strong evidence to back up the case.

But almost always, the same old story—owner thanks police glowingly for recovering his car, but prefers not to prosecute; or, if he does, youth of prisoner or some other extenuating circumstance moves court to pity and the rejoicing thief goes out to steal another car.

Naturally, the police have a fine, enthusiastic reason to go to a lot of trouble hunting down the next automobile thief.

Fifty-two cars of the \$25, worth \$13,000 at the lowest figure, have not been recovered. These are probably a total loss to their owners.

But even that is not the whole story. Of the 474 cars recovered, a number were in a bad state of wreck. Several had been smashed in collisions. Some had been run into telegraph poles and badly damaged. It was a mighty lucky owner who didn't have some kind of repair bill to pay when his car was recovered.

The situation has become so serious that the Dealers' Motor Car Association of Oregon has appointed a vigilance committee of three members to take steps to reduce automobile stealing and to bring swift justice to the thieves.

The committee is composed of Lawrence E. Therkelsen, of the Bruns Auto Company, chairman; Isaac Brun of the Bruns Motor Car Company, and A. H. Knaus, of the Twin States Automobile Company. Following a conference with Chief of Police Johnson and Commissioner of Public Safety Coffin, who promised their fullest co-operation, the committee held a meeting Friday, at which it decided that one of the first things to be done is to see that every thief captured is vigorously prosecuted.

Prosecution to Be Vigorous.
To this end it has announced that hereafter the Dealers' Motor Car Association will have its own lawyer prosecute all persons arrested by the police on the charge of automobile stealing. The committee has no desire to convict innocent persons, but it feels that the most vigorous action is necessary.

Frank E. Watkins, president of the Oregon State Motor Association, has announced that that organization will co-operate to the fullest extent in the campaign to curb and punish the automobile thieves.

In the last two or three weeks automobile thieves have become singularly bold. One automobile firm alone has reported that nine cars belonging to its customers were stolen a week ago. All these cars were eventually recovered, but one had been run into a curb by the thieves, upset and totally wrecked.

Another automobile firm reported that 16 of its owners' cars were stolen in two weeks. Hardly an agency in the city has not had a similar experience.



MRS. ADOLPH OLSON, OF 882 WOODWORTH AVENUE, AND HER NEW OAKLAND SENSIBLE SIX FOUR-PASSenger COUPE.

ROAD START MADE Clatsop Begins Programme for Better Highways.

18 MILES ARE NOW PAVED Of 262 Miles of Road in County 128 Miles Are of Plain Dirt, While 134 Have Plank, Gravel or Hard Surface.

ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 19.—(Special.)—Clatsop County is steadily progressing in highway improvement. Before many more years there will not be a section of the county that is not traversed by a rocky or hard-surfaced road that can be traveled at all seasons of the year.

At present Clatsop has 262 miles of graded roads. Of these, 128 miles are plain dirt, 72 miles are macadamized, 23 miles are plank, 18 are hard surfaced and 19 miles are covered with gravel.

To accomplish this much in highway improvement has required big expenditures. In the past four years approximately \$1,110,000 has been spent by taxpayers of Clatsop County in improving public roads and construction of bridges. Most of this money has been devoted toward the building of four main arteries leading from Astoria and tapping the several sections of the county.

These main thoroughfares lead from Astoria to Westport, at the eastern end of the county, along Clatsop plains to Seaside and thence, to the Tillamook County line; up the Lewis and Clark river to the extensive dairy districts of that section, along Young's River via Olney and the rich and fertile Nehalem Valley to the southeastern part of the county.

Of the \$1,110,000 spent on roads about \$250,000 was spent in the summer of 1917, \$150,000 being raised by special taxation in the several road districts, while \$115,000 was appropriated from the general fund for road work and \$35,000 for the construction of bridges. The principal individual improvements undertaken or completed in the past Summer were the hardsurfacing of a mile of road at Warrenton and a long stretch on the Lewis and Clark highway.

In addition to this the State Highway Commission has undertaken the hardsurfacing of the Columbia River Highway from Astoria to Svensen and the rocking of that highway the rest of the way to Westport, contracts that entail the expenditure of approximately \$150,000.

Notwithstanding the amounts spent in the past four years for highway improvements, the work is to be continued energetically the coming season. Already the three road districts lying outside the incorporated cities and towns have levied special taxes to raise \$77,800, the city of Astoria is to raise \$18,000, Warrenton has voted to raise \$20,500 to hardsurface its highway, Hammond will raise \$2150 to improve the road leading to Fort Stevens, while Seaside has voted \$2300 to be used in bettering its public highways. This makes a total of \$127,750 as the contribution of the several road districts, and the county is expected to appropriate fully as much more

from the general fund to carry on the improvement projects.

To assist in the highway campaign the county, in addition to its road building machinery, has seven rock crushing plants. The largest of these is at Tongue Point and runs practically the entire year, preparing material for use in the sections of the county which can be reached by barges loaded with the crushed rock. The others are portable plants and are shifted from one location to another.

Clatsop County is heavily timbered and at best the building of highways is difficult, while it is traversed by several large streams that require the building of numerous bridges.

MAXWELL MAKES GREAT RUN
Loaded Truck Runs 187 Miles Through Snow in 15 Hours.

At practically every military cantonment in the United States will be found sturdy Maxwell trucks doing their bit to provide food and other supplies for the soldier boys and as a transport for the men of highways and points away from the camps.

One of the most notable achievements of the Maxwell truck occurred in Toledo, Ohio recently. A friend of C. L. Boss, Portland Maxwell dealer, that it moved him to wire the following message:

"Camp Sherman, Ohio—Maxwell truck, Camp Sherman special, arrived here last night, breaking road through hard snow drifts for full distance from Toledo, 187 miles. Running time, 15 hours; carried 2300 pounds supplies for Toledo men. Most wonderful test of motor efficiency the writer has ever seen."
W. E. GRIFFITH.

The forcible note which it strikes is

WARNER-LENZ IS O.K.D.

OFFICIAL APPROVAL GIVEN IN FOUR COAST CITIES.

Its Diffused Light Meets All Demands
Portland, Seattle, San Francisco
and Oakland All Indorse It.

That the Warner-Lenz claim of "legal everywhere" is true, is proved conclusively by the recent findings in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Oakland.

The Warner-Lenz complies with the "no-glare" headlight laws everywhere in the United States and Canada. This is an important point for tourists. Some other types are legal at one point, but when touring a motorist finds trouble outside his own territory.

The Warner-Lenz is based upon the principle of light diffusion. It consists of 176 lenses in one, scientifically staggered. The diffused light absolutely eliminates glare. There is no direct beam at any angle or height. Due to this fact, the provision of the headlight laws, holding the light down below a 42-inch line, does not apply to Warner-Lenz, therefore it lights the road and the roadides as well. Also the upgrades, the downgrades and the turns.

Other devices and lenses meet the law under certain conditions, but Warner-Lenz are legal no matter what conditions apply. With other devices if the lens turns in the lamp rims, as all lenses will, or if the bulb is slightly out of focus, the light either glares, or is reduced to such an extent that it does not illuminate the road. Also slight roughness in the road will cause a hold-down light to dance and raise above the 42-inch limit.

The soft, diffused light of Warner-Lenz is ideal for use at any time and under any conditions. It requires no after attention or care. Once installed it may be forgotten and depended upon to operate perfectly.

The most significant fact about Warner-Lenz is that more cars are now equipped with this lens than with any other kind. In addition to this fact, 25 motor car manufacturers have adopted it as standard equipment on all new cars. Warner-Lenz is unique in this respect, as no other lens has received so widespread an indorsement. Not more than two or three cars have adopted all other types combined (and there are more than 100 on the market) as compared with 25 manufacturers using Warner-Lenz alone.

Have a hot spark, keep plugs clean and spark points properly adjusted.

LEXINGTON CAR IS WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO MRS. H. F. HAYDEN.

There is one woman in this town who will never say that her husband did not remember their wedding anniversary when the day came around. Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Hayden, of 644 Flinders street, celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary last week. As a gift to his wife, Mr. Hayden gave her a fine new five-passenger Lexington touring car, purchased from the Bruns Motor Car Company.

ADVERTISING AIDS CAR SALES

Stutz Dealer Gets Many Inquiries and Two Sales From Publicity.

C. D. McPhail, manager of the Autorest Garage, Oregon distributor for the Stutz car, is a strong believer in the benefits of newspaper automobile advertising. As the direct result of his announcement advertisement on the arrival of the Stutz in Portland he has already sold two cars, has signed contracts with a couple of dealers, and had had many inquiries. He could have closed other sales if he had been able to obtain the cars.

Only two Stutz cars arrived in the first shipment. One Mr. McPhail used as a demonstrator and the other, a four-passenger model, he sold immediately to W. Bulet, of Irvington. He has also sold one of the best models to C. W. Beyer, of Pendleton, to be delivered as soon as an expected shipment arrives in the next few days. Mr. McPhail has received inquiries from all parts of the state about the Stutz, and has a lot of good prospects for other sales.

Overland

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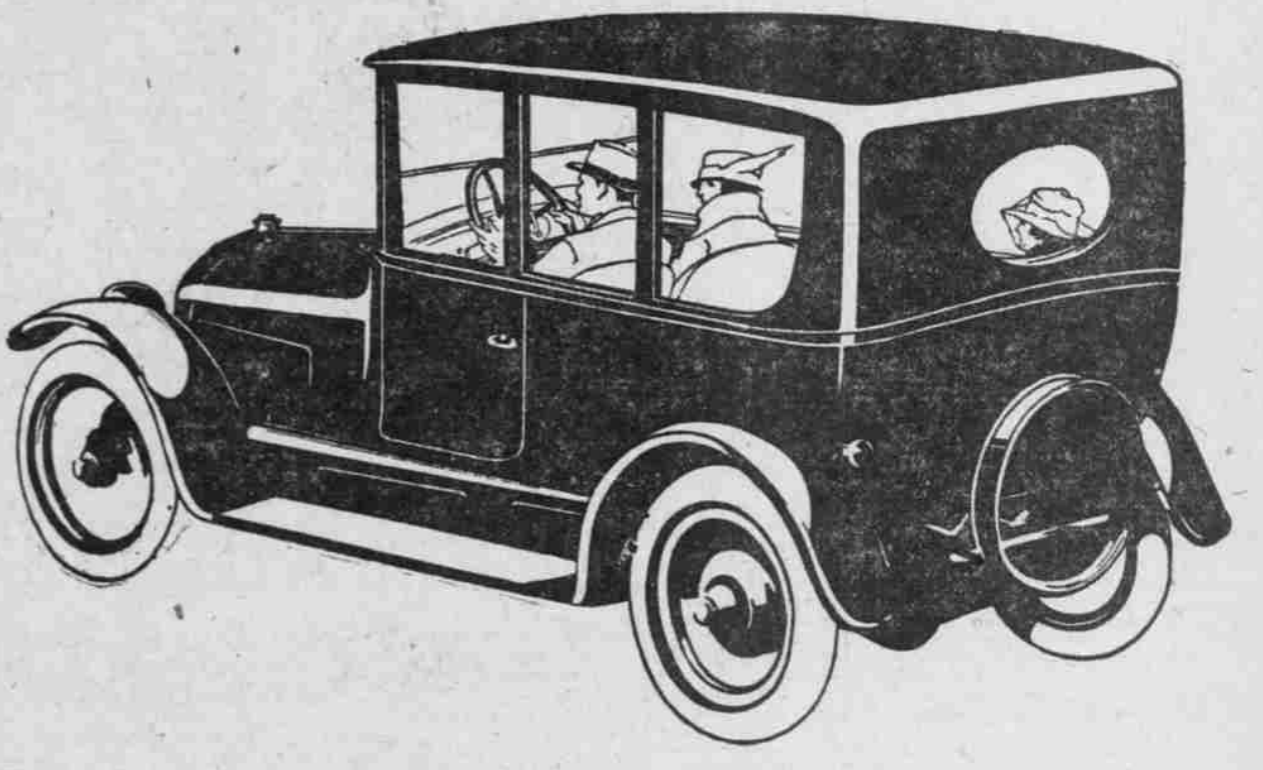
The Thrift Car

The times demand full-speed-ahead this winter.

This Small Sedan accelerates activity and protects health.

That it is beautiful and fashionable is secondary to its all-weather utility value.

The more you know cars, the more you appreciate it.



Appearance, Performance,
Comfort, Service and Price

Light Four Model 90 Small Sedan
C. & L. Toledo—Tax Free Price subject to change without notice

The Overland Pacific, Inc.
Broadway 3535 Broadway and Davis St.

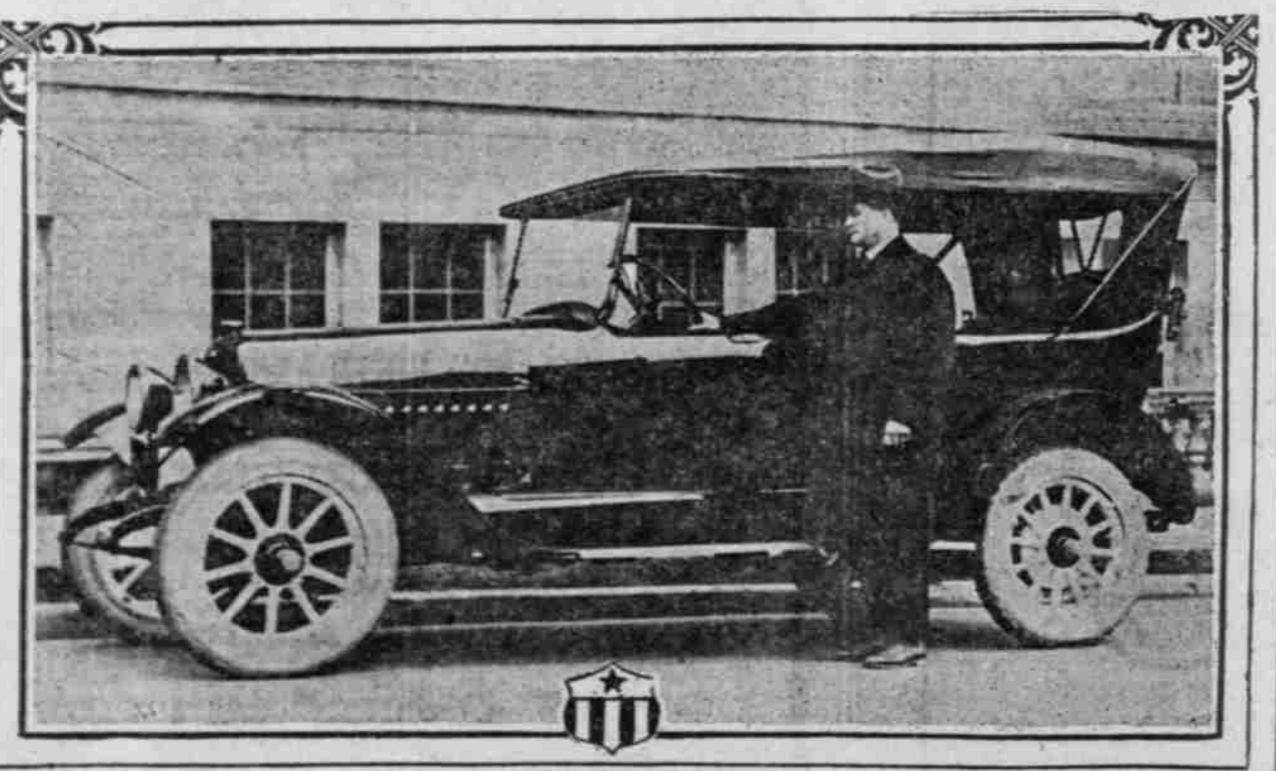
Buick

Reputation Unquestioned

Convertible Sedan
Price at Portland \$2325

Buick Model E-Six-50

HOWARD AUTO CO.
FOURTEENTH AND DAVIS BROADWAY 1130, A 6241



FIRST NEW 7-PASSENGER VELIE ARRIVES.

VIEW OF CLASSY CAR WITH D. C. WARREN, OF WARREN MOTOR CAR COMPANY, AT THE HELM.

The first of the 1918 Velie seven-passenger models to arrive in Portland has just been received by the D. C. Warren Motor Car Company, Velie distributors. The car is a classy looking and performer and has several refinements over previous models. The wheel base is 124 inches, and the car weighs slightly over 3000 pounds. It has mahogany dashboards, double cowls, exceptionally soft and easy riding cushions with special tufting jobs, extra seats folding into the backs of the front seats and pantastote top with silvered molding. It is equipped with 22 by 4 1/4 oversize tires, this new size giving it a low-hung appearance, though its clearance is the same as with the former 22 by 4-inch tires. There is a Yale lock on the ignition system, a meter for the electric system, and the curtains open with the doors.

RUBBER BOOTS AND SHOES REPAIRED

Only shop in Portland doing this kind of work. Our new equipment enables us to do work of this character in a most satisfactory manner. Prices reasonable.

John A. Walter Co.
6th, Pine and Ankeny.
Broadway 2490, A 2490.