

OWNER'S INTEREST IN ENGINE GROWING

Public Shows Knowledge of Mechanical Details At Present Time

Millions of owners and prospective owners of automobiles have visited the more than three score automobile shows held throughout the country since January 7 of this year. Attendance

records have generally shown an increase and reports from all manufacturers indicate a better informed interest in the mechanism of cars than ever before. Particularly is this true of new engines or of the engines occupying a unique or dramatic place in the public eye. One of the high spots of interest in all shows has been the Airman air-cooled engine of the Franklin Automobile company. Attendants at the various Franklin exhibits through the country report that the increasing dependence of aviation on air-cooling for reliability has swung a big interest toward that type motor this year. People are inclined to believe that there is some material difference between the air-

cooled aviation engine and the Franklin engine. They are surprised to learn that the automobile engine, which is 20 years or more older in development produces at moderate touring speeds a wind pressure equal to a speed of 130 miles the hour and directs this against all sides of the cylinders, instead of against a limited section of each cylinder as in the airplane.

Other subjects which were frequently discussed, were the comparative efficiency of hydraulic and mechanical four wheel brakes, the advantages gained through the valve-in-head construction and the relative power losses suffered through retarding the spark setting in order to prevent high compression engines from detonating. Light weight full elliptic springs, turning radius and other factors of easy riding and easy driving came in for a good deal of attention.

Automobile manufacturers see in this increased interest in the mechanical parts of the car, the possibility of directing the attention of the public to better and more serviceable cars. It will not be long before the public demands the same quality throughout the entire car as they have previously

demanded in upholstery and body details, keen observers predict.

Car Registration Fees Assessed In Many Ways

There are eleven bases on which the 48 states assess registration fees on private passenger automobiles, according to the American Automobile association.

The A. A. A. outlines the following summary of the bases used: "Seventeen states base the rates on horsepower; 14 states on weight; seven states on horsepower plus weight; one state on a flat rate per car; one state on the cost of a motor vehicle; one state on a cubic inch displacement; one state on value plus weight; three states on a flat rate plus weight; one state on value; one state on selling price plus weight and horsepower; and one state on the manufacturer's list price."

A moratorium is a period during which a debtor may legally defer payment of an obligation, according to an answered question in Liberty Magazine.

BILL WOULD MAKE HUGE HIGHWAY FUND

War Materials Sold To France Amounts To Over \$400,000,000

WASHINGTON, March 17—A bill (S-3559) authorizing the creation of a special highway fund from the proceeds of the sale of \$407,341,145 worth of surplus highway equipment and war materials sold to France following the war has been introduced in the Senate by Senator James E. Watson of Indiana. The measure, providing this huge sum of money for highway construction, stipulates the funds are to be apportioned among the 48 states in the same proportion as the Federal-aid program. It is a companion bill to H. R. 10142, introduced in the House on January 30 by Representative Edward E. Browne, and which has already been endorsed by the Governors and State Highway Departments of twenty states.

The measure, which is being fostered by the American Motorists association, is unique in that it will add nothing to the tax payers burden, as the funds are to be secured solely through the payment of French bonds which will mature August 1, 1929, and which were given in payment of more than \$2,000,000,000 worth of equipment and supplies.

"Its passage will mean the speeding up five times of the present highway construction program in the United States," President J. Barton Weeks, told the House Committee on Roads during the hearings on the Browne bill. "The measure will have the undivided support of the 23,430,000 automobile owners in the country and should speedily be enacted into law as it is economically sound," the American Motorists' association's President declared.

Under the Federal-aid proportionment the largest sum will go to Texas which will receive \$21,937,000 for highway construction, ranging down to Delaware which will receive only two millions under the bill.

In the introduction of the measure, Senator Watson made it clear that this sum is in addition to the regular Federal-aid appropriation

of \$75,000,000 each year for 1929 and 1930, declaring that both sums are needed to speed up the highway construction program in the United States to keep abreast of the increasing motor traffic. The Watson bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads and hearings on the measure are expected to be held within the next three weeks.

KREIS APPOINTED ON MARMON STAFF

Chosen From Ranks of America's Race Drivers for Engineer

Announcement of the second addition to the Marmon experimental engineering staff from the ranks of America's foremost automobile racing drivers has been made by Col. Howard Marmon, vice-president in charge of engineering of the Marmon Motor Car company.

Pete Kreis, one of the new school of drivers, who nevertheless has made an enviable record in his four years on the speedways of the United States and Europe, has joined the engineering department of the Marmon company. In doing so, he becomes associated with Earl Cooper, the

famous veteran pilot, who has been on the Marmon experimental staff for several months. Not only has Kreis established himself as a leading driver through his efforts on speedways in the United States, but he has scored noteworthy achievements in Milan, Italy, where the best cars of America and Europe meet yearly in speed competition. In 1925, Kreis was leading the Italian Grand Prix when his car hit a turn. He was forced to retire from the race, but he had already broken the record for the track by driving the distance—a fraction over six miles—in three minutes, 29 1/2 seconds. In 1927 he was third in the Grand Prix of Europe, also held at Milan.

Kreis has driven in many of the important races in the United States since his first race in 1924 at Culver City when he finished fifth in a 250-mile event. He

placed in the annual Indianapolis 500-mile race in 1925 and when illness forced him to abandon plans for the 1926 classic, Frank Lockhart drove his car to victory.

Fourteen Years Lowest Age Limit for Driver

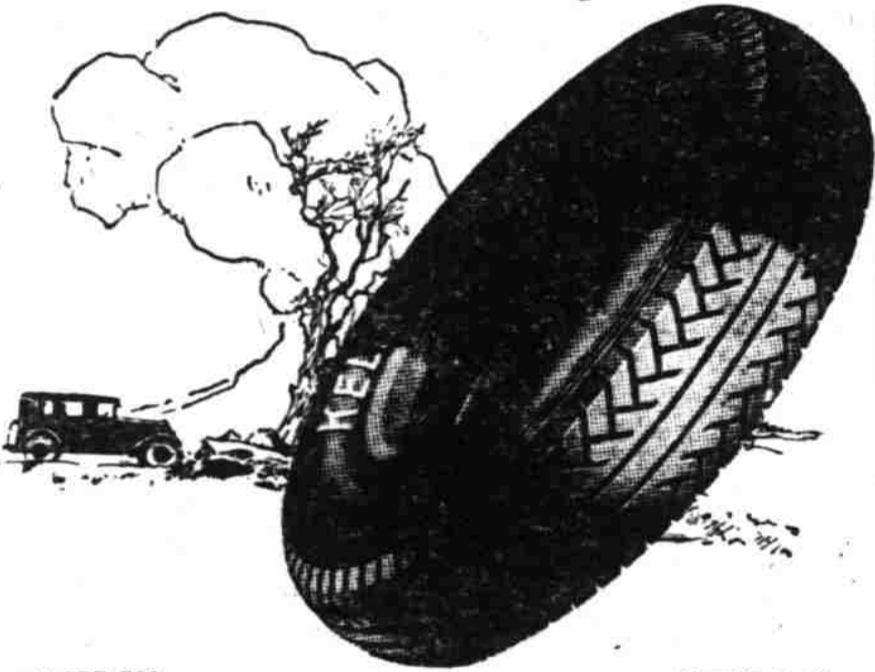
Fourteen years of age is the lowest age limit for a license to drive an automobile in the 18 states and the District of Columbia requiring such licenses, according to the American Automobile Association. These are issued in California, Michigan and West Virginia.

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin; sometimes with other elements, as zinc and phosphorus, included, according to an answered question in Liberty Magazine.

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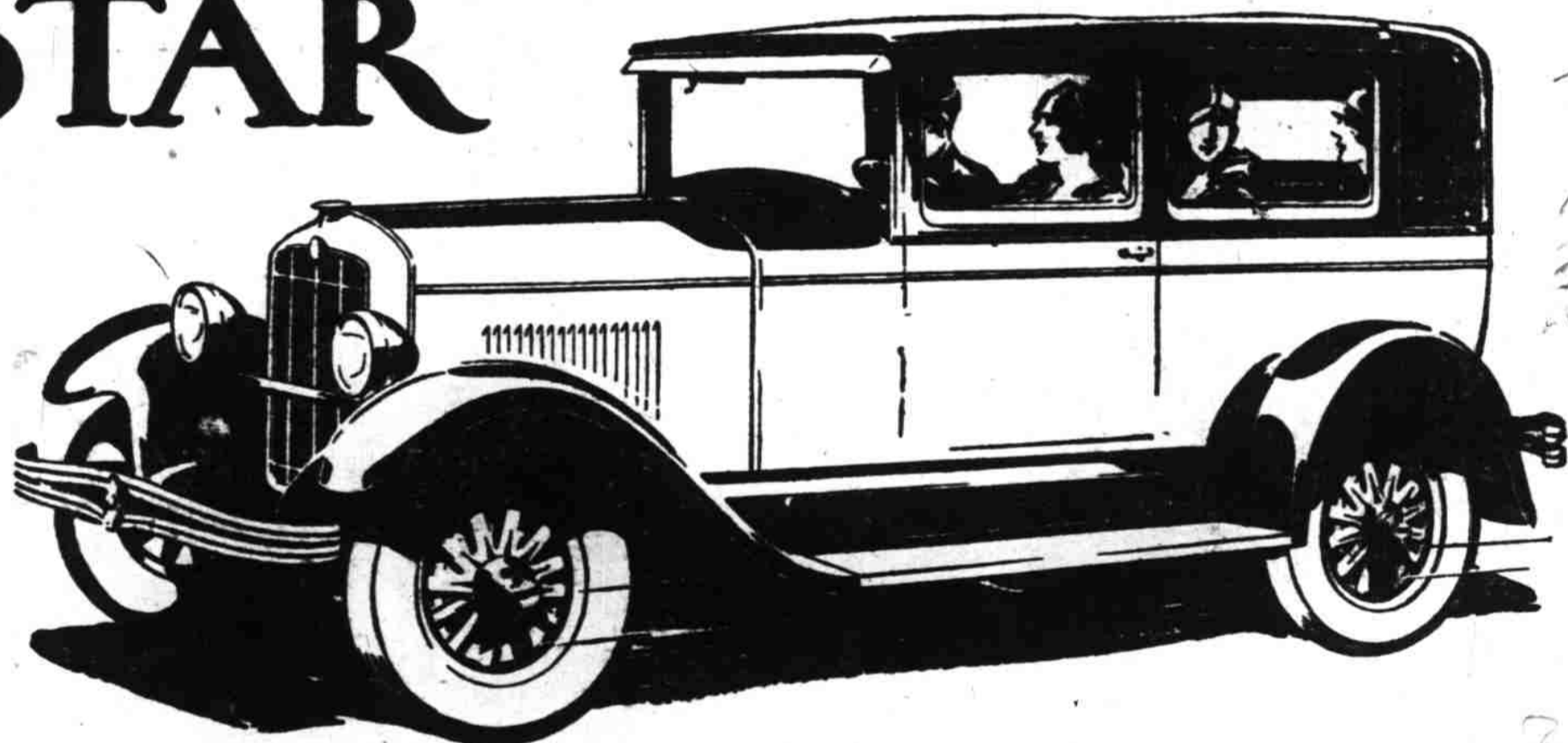
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	Reduced to \$2.39
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