

It "Looks and Runs Like new"

Used Car Lots Big Business

New Models Get Publicity but the Jalopies Get the Volume

It's the fall of the year and that means a lull in the automobile market. The dealers are ready to blazon forth with their shiny new models, all smoothly streamlined and boasting new refinements in motive power, comfort or riding ease.

There's a lot said about the new cars every fall and as much printed, but this isn't about the new cars because in the matter of numbers it's the used cars, from the "looks and runs like new" models of last year to the jalopies still struggling valiantly on after a decade of service, that are important.

There may be 1500 new cars sold in Salem this year and in the minds of the automobile dealers that's not a conservative estimate. There will probably be between 3000 and 3500 used cars sold. There were 1551 new passenger cars registered in 1937 in Salem, a fairly good year.

Ever since the first model automobile was superseded by a model with a steering wheel instead of a tiller the trade has been growing accustomed to the used car problem. The dealers and the manufacturers formerly fondly thought that maybe something could be done about it, but now, although the manufacturers give a great deal of thought to reducing the number of slightly out of date vehicles on the market, they have accepted the fact that they must sell at least two used cars for every new one. Most of the dealers figure they sell four used cars to each new one.

Early Depreciation Heavy Six car owners in every ten have never bought a new car and probably never intend to. The fact that a motor car's heaviest depreciation comes in its first two years makes many a smart automobile buyer consider that he stands to gain by buying a good used car.

After the "smart" boys who buy a "second hand" car which is really no more than second hand come the others down through whose hands the vehicle goes until finally, some used car dealer turns it over to the auto junker for a tenner rather than try to sell it again.

One Salem automobile dealer estimates that the average life of an automobile from showroom to junk heap is ten years. Some, of course, last much longer.

Ten years is the age of the most transferred car in the records of the automotive division of the secretary of state. It is a Model A Ford phaeton which first started its travels when a new thing of beauty, it left the display room on September 11, 1923. It was sold the first time a year later. Since then it has been transferred to new owners 11 times and repossessed five times. Its latest transfer was on April 13 of this year and, as far as the automotive division knows, it may still have a few more owners ahead of it.

Transfers Frequent There were 44,093 new cars registered in the state during

Caught in Czech Refugee Band



Anthony Kozar and wife

Two of a group of 162 Americans in Czechoslovakia who attempted to depart from the country but turned back at the Czech frontier because they were afraid of being held in German refugee camps are pictured above. The two are Anthony Kozar of Ambridge, Pa., and his wife. Kozar married the girl, a Czechoslovak, in Prague during his visit to the Sokol athletic congress. Later reports stated the Americans boarded a train for Budapest by way of Bratislava.

1937, according to the records of the automotive division, the same year there were 119,407 transfers. The transfers come in at the rate of about 700 a day. Those figures indicate that for every new car two and a fraction old cars changed hands.

Every dealer in new automobiles has to be a dealer, one way or another, in old ones, too. In fact, sometimes he may sadly figure that he is a dealer in old cars with new ones as a sideline.

Nearly everybody who buys a new car has an old one to trade in for whatever allowance he can talk the salesman into giving him. The dealer, to get his profit, has to sell the used car and he'll probably have to take another car in on that one. Unless he finds someone who wants to buy a car with out a trade the process may run its way to the ultimate end with the dealer having a jalopy on his hands which he can either sell to a high school boy for \$25 or send to the junk heap.

Junking Not Solution Junking the jalopies was once promoted by the motor manufacturers as a possible solution to the used car problem. Bounties were paid for cars junked but the plan didn't make much of an inroad on the jalopies. They grew faster than they were junked. For the last four years new cars sold have exceeded old cars scrapped.

At times the used car problem grows positively disheartening to the dealer, but somehow things have so far worked out all right in the end. One Salem dealer not so long ago had close to \$50,000 worth of used cars on hand and frankly didn't know how he would ever realize the capital he had tied up in them. He was saved by the summer jump in used cars

(March to June is the peak season for used car sales) and now has but \$10,000 worth of cars from "looks like new" to jalopies.

Used Car Lots Besides the dealers who sell used cars as an unwanted but necessary sideline to the sale of the new models there are the out-and-out used car dealers, the inhabitants of the corner lots. A number of them are well-established merchants who pride themselves on reliability. Some few others may be fly-by-nights but they all contribute to the enormous turnover of used automobiles.

The used car problem in this state is not as bad as it was before the 1937 legislature passed a law prohibiting the importing of used cars for sale. Before the law went into effect old cars from the east, from California, from anywhere were brought in and dumped on the market by an unscrupulous "quickie" dealer to the demoralization of the local trade. It was common practice to import whole fleets of outworn taxicabs, repainted and remodeled as passenger cars and sell them to the unsuspecting citizens of Oregon as former passenger cars, which "belonged to a school teacher who kept it like a baby."

That bugaboo is now gone and the dealers now have to face only the natural result of their salesmanship—that every time they sell a new car they add another used one to the stock.

They are pretty well adjusted to the phenomenon of the used car by now, the dealers are, but they look back with a nostalgic eye at the days when, instead of selling four used cars to each new one, they sold four new cars to each used one.

Lawyers Close Session Here

Dues of Active Members Doubled in Closing Action of Meet

Allan G. Carson of Salem handed the gavel of the Oregon state bar presidency over to R. R. Bullivant of Portland yesterday afternoon and the fourth annual meeting of the state's lawyers came to a close. Other officers elected were:

H. H. DeArmond, Bend, vice-president, succeeding Oscar Hayer, Dallas; F. M. Sercombe, Portland, secretary, reelected, and Arthur H. Lewis, Portland, treasurer, reelected.

New members placed on the board of governors were George M. Roberts, Medford; Lamar Toose, Portland, and Robert D. Lytle, Vale. Holdover members are Allan G. Carson, Oscar Hayer, H. H. DeArmond, R. R. Bullivant, Allan A. Smith, Baker, and Arthur M. Geary, Portland.

Carrying out the recommendation of Retiring President Carson, the lawyers voted in favor of raising state bar dues from \$3 to \$6 a year for active members. Additional funds are needed to employ an investigator to handle complaints against bar members, Carson declared. He said he had no intention of advocating the "hiring of snopes or agents provocateurs" but believed the services of a trained and impartial investigator should be maintained by the state bar "in the interest of efficiency, justice to the accused and the public, and ultimate economy."

Carson also decried the condition whereby out of 99 law students had been permitted to make great expenditure of time and money "only to learn after all . . . that they are not fit, or at least fitted, to enter our profession."

He urged that a system of district courts be substituted for the office of justice of the peace, that appellate procedure be simplified and "administered a liberal dose of economy" and that trial courts be permitted to comment upon evidence.

Aspects of criminal law, discussed by Max Radin, professor in the University of California law school, led to the assertion that "intellectual honesty should be a fundamental requisite in all our social thinking."

The state and federal courts and the convention host, the Marion County Bar association, were represented in responses at the annual state bar banquet at the Marion hotel last night.

Tumbles Into Sea Off Rocks of Bay

NEWPORT, Oct. 1—(AP)—Chan Eastham, 25, Portland, fell from the rocks at Depoe Bay today and drowned in the sea. His body was not recovered.

His wife and three other were with him when the accident occurred. Two men fishing with him were unable to give assistance, his body dropping from sight.

Farmer Union For US Goods

Father Alcuin Declares He Was Misquoted on Czech Statement

MT. ANGEL, Oct. 1—The Marion county Farmers' union, in its quarterly convention here today, unanimously endorsed a resolution disapproving of importations of goods and services conflicting with the goods and labor of the country and pledging the membership to purchase United States products when possible and also urging other groups to act likewise.

Each of the 17 locals of the county, excepting Sublimity, was represented at the well attended gathering, with Polk and Yamhill counties also represented.

Highlight of the program hour was the address by Father Alcuin of Mt. Angel, who declared that he had been misquoted in a press report attributing to him the statement that Czechoslovakia was not worth fighting for.

Justice is a basic virtue which neither nations nor individuals can ignore in dealing with one another, Father Alcuin stated, adding that because of the violation of justice in the Versailles treaty the problems of today are disturbing the world.

Other speakers were L. H. McBean and Eber Ray of Polk county; Clyde Smith, president of the Yamhill county FU; and G. W. Potts, Jefferson, state president. Musical features were solos by Miss Clara Keber, Mt. Angel, with Miss Rozella Blem accompanist. Rev. S. Hamrick, Bethel, was captain of the convention opening.

The next quarterly convention, when annual election of officers will be the feature, will be held at Liberty the first Saturday in January.

Peter Zimmerman, Yamhill county, will be Oregon's delegate to the national convention of the Farmers' union in Madison, Wis., this month.

Women of the Mt. Angel local served dinner for the convention group.

Theatre Operator Gets 8-Year Term

KLAMATH FALLS, Oct. 1—(AP)—Harry W. Poole, operator of five Klamath Falls theatres, was sentenced today to eight years in prison on conviction of a criminal attack against a 15-year-old girl.

Coinciding with the passing of sentence by Circuit Judge Edward B. Ashurst, US Senator A. Evan Reames, of Medford, entered the case for the 58-year-old film exhibitor.

Counsel for Poole asked for additional time in which to seek a new trial, pointing out that Reames by associating himself with the defense needed time to familiarize himself with the case, but after District Attorney H. C. Bickner opposed the request the court denied it.

While a packed courtroom listened, Judge Ashurst drew a contrast between Poole's case and that of Sam Combs, who was sentenced two weeks ago to 20 years in prison on a similar rape charge. The judge recalled that Combs previously had been convicted of a crime while Poole had lived a "long life as a law-abiding citizen."

Corvallis Given Grant Of More Than Requested

CORVALLIS, Oct. 1—(AP)—Corvallis got more PWA money than it asked for.

The maximum grant offered for the five projects of the senior high school here will be \$14,670, about \$1000 more than was requested, school officials said.

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Oddities ... in the News

(By the Associated Press) BALSAM LAKE, Wis., Oct. 1—(AP)—Herman Hawkins, who has been shoveling 100 bushels of grain from one part of his bin to another and then back again for the past two days, quit shoveling today and called the sheriff. The reason, Hawkins explained, was because he could not find \$500 in bills he had hidden in the bin. He suspects thieves.

BRAZIL, Ind., Oct. 1—John W. Young, 22, of Greencastle, listed as dead on the roll of the 43rd regiment, Indiana Civil War volunteers, walked into the annual "reunion" of the regiment here—the only member of the regiment to attend.

He explained the report of his death likely originated from the death of his son of the same name.

St. Louis, Oct.—Charles Turek paid his tuition at Washington University with four bags of silver dollars.

He carried them to the treasurer's office in his shirt front, and explained they represented his wages for a summer's work in a hotel near Gallup, N. M. He said he had been paid in silver dollars.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 1—"Mighty Ite to have a baby out," one federal alcohol tax unit officer said to another last night.

They looked beneath the blanket in a baby carriage two men were pushing and found—a jug of whisky.

The men were arrested for possessing illicit liquor.

Alleged Hit-Run Driver Arrested

R. B. Miller, 80, 1918 South Church street, was knocked from his bicycle by a hit-and-run driver at the corner of State and Church streets yesterday, suffering a sprained wrist and split ear in the fall.

Bystanders obtained the license number of the car alleged to have hit Miller, and city police later arrested C. O. Perrine. Perrine was charged with hit-and-run driving, and is at liberty on \$50 bail.

Albany Vetoes Bonds

ALBANY, Oct. 1—(AP)—By a vote of 196 to 161, taxpayers in the Albany school district refused today to approve a \$33,000 bond issue to match a \$27,000 PWA grant for financing school improvements.

Japan May Start South China Move

Loaded Transports About Shanghai Indication of New Drive

SHANGHAI, Oct. 1—(AP)—Reports of troop-laden Japanese transports off Shanghai and Tsingtao tonight revived speculation Japan would launch a South China campaign centering on Canton.

Incoming steamers from Tsingtao, Shantung province port, estimated 20 transports were off Tsingtao and 35 more off Shanghai.

It was estimated there were 35,000 soldiers on the transports. (New emergency regulations were announced in Hongkong while Canton officials said the Pearl river may soon be closed by a boom.)

Japanese forces fighting in the Yangtze valley in the drive toward Hankow reported they had captured Hsinghsan, 90 miles downstream from the Chinese military capital.

The Chinese reported two important victories south of the Yangtze river.

In the Tolan sector, where the Japanese are attempting to move on Nanchang, Chinese dispatches said the Japanese were thrown back after a 48-hour battle, losing upwards of 1,000 men.

The second Chinese victory was reported west of Juichang, about 95 miles southwest of Hankow, where military advisers said 1,200 Japanese were killed and many prisoners taken in a crushing setback to the invaders near the border of Hupeh province.

Pickets Surround Furniture Plant

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 1—(AP)—A strike threat in Portland's big furniture manufacturing industry appeared today when pickets surrounded the big Doernbecher manufacturing plant.

The management insisted it would be open Monday. The plant does not operate on Saturdays. It employs about 1000.

Presumably the pickets appeared in answer to the statement of H. D. Chastain, company general manager, that all employees would be given work if they desired to come back on a 10-cent-an-hour reduced wage. The furniture union previously had warned employers it would call a strike if wages were reduced on expiration of October 1 contracts.

Late Sports

TACOMA, Oct. 1—(AP)—Scoring once in the opening quarter and twice in the third period the Pacific university Badgers defeated the College of Puget Sound, 21 to 0, in a Northwest conference football game here tonight.

The passing combination of Gilman to Racette counted for two of the invaders' touchdowns while Gilman skirted end from the one-yard stripe for the third. Gilman added all three extra points via placement.

Puget Sound failed to threaten while Pacific advanced to the Logger seven-yard stripe as the game ended.

Machine Counters Get Traffic Data

The mechanical traffic counters being used in various places in Oregon and 42 other states, are doing a highly efficient job, according to a report by the bureau of public roads of the US department of agriculture. One such counter is located just south of Woodburn on the east side Pacific highway, and another is on the same highway in southern Oregon.

About 350 such counters have been installed in 43 states. The device operates with two beams of infra red light, parallel and 30 inches apart, projected across the highway from a light box to the "eye" of the counting device. The counter operates only when both beams are interrupted, as by a passing car. A pedestrian, interrupting only one beam at a time, is not counted. While some misses and double counts occur, highway engineers report the mechanical counts almost as accurate as counts by observers.

Lower Rail Taxes Hit by Truckers

PORTLAND, Oct. 1—(AP)—Protest of the state tax commission's recent reduction in railroad taxes reached the commission today from the Allied Truck Owners, Inc., over the signature of Ralph J. Staehli, secretary.

The letter asserted rail taxes in Oregon had been "ridiculously low—for many years—as compared to . . . neighboring states."

It accused the commission of playing "Santa Claus to the railroads in an even greater degree than the state of Oregon had already done."

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