

GYROSCOPIC BAR IS THE SECRET

'The Thing' Designed by a California Doctor, Believed Answer to Skidding on Wet Roads

By OSCAR FRALEY
United Press Staff Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. —(U.P.)—
The automotive world is in a dither over a gyroscopic gimmick known as "the thing" which may save innumerable lives on the highway.

"The thing" is a metal tube about four feet long and three inches in diameter which is hooked to the chassis just back of the rear wheels. It absolutely prevents skidding or rear-end weaving on wet or icy roads.

INVENTED BY a California doctor, the bar first came to light at Indianapolis last spring. Duke Nalon had set new lap and trial records in one of the famed Novi specials when along came Walt Faulkner to break both those marks and raise the lap speed to 137 miles an hour and the trial speed to 136.

Faulkner was going into those turns like a man who was tired of living. But nobody could understand why he didn't pinwheel into catastrophe. Asked how he did it, Faulkner smiled and replied: "The Thing."

That's all they could get him to say. There were many and varied guesses as to how he kept his iron buggy from crawling.

Some figured it was due to design of his car and the cost most prominently mentioned was \$25,000.

Actually, "the Thing" was this \$39.50 gyroscopic balancing bar.

THIS REVELATION was made by Frank Spiller, a Cleveland racing equipment salesman, who is astounding the speed world with his demonstration of how the bar works. He'll take you in his car, cut loose on a wet road at 80 or 90 miles an hour, and then slam on the brakes with a fiendish vigor which prompts mental pictures of the morgue.

Then your eyes pop as his car grinds to a straight stop without that fishtail finish which gives you the highway horrors on rainy or icy days.

"This is 'the Thing' which permitted Faulkner to go into those Indianapolis turns faster than anybody else dared to," Spiller discloses. "The bar combats centrifugal force and gives traction to all four wheels all the time. It will be on every car in the United States some day."

THE BAR, which contains springs and a ball-bearing arrangement, is a life-time gadget which can be removed from your old car and installed on a new one. There is only one hitch. They are not in production now because of a scarcity of critical defense materials.

So Spiller's automobile is the only one with the bar attached, and his jalopy gets as much attention as the flashiest racing job on the beach. And the covetous way the racing boys eye it forces the little man with "the Thing" to keep a close watch.

Department Blasted For 'Wasteful Buying'

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — Rep. F. Edward Hebert, blasted the Defense Department Saturday with the declaration that House investigators are "working for the taxpayer" in exposing "wasteful" military buying.

The Louisiana Democrat, chairman of a House Armed Services Subcommittee which is investigating military buying methods, slammed back at what he called the Pentagon's "Propaganda Line."

Hebert's remarks were made as he announced his subcommittee would move to New York for hearings next Thursday and Friday.

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Wreck Victims Rescued From Alaska Island

KODIAK, Alaska — (U.P.) — Three men were rescued from isolated Afognak Island after being marooned three days and nights when their fishing boat was shipwrecked, but a 34-year-old woman died in the ordeal, the Navy said Saturday.

The men were brought to Kodiak hospital Saturday after being rescued by the crew of the Navy tugboat Mumfee. The Mumfee was sent to the island after the three men were spotted from the air by the crew of a Navy flying boat.

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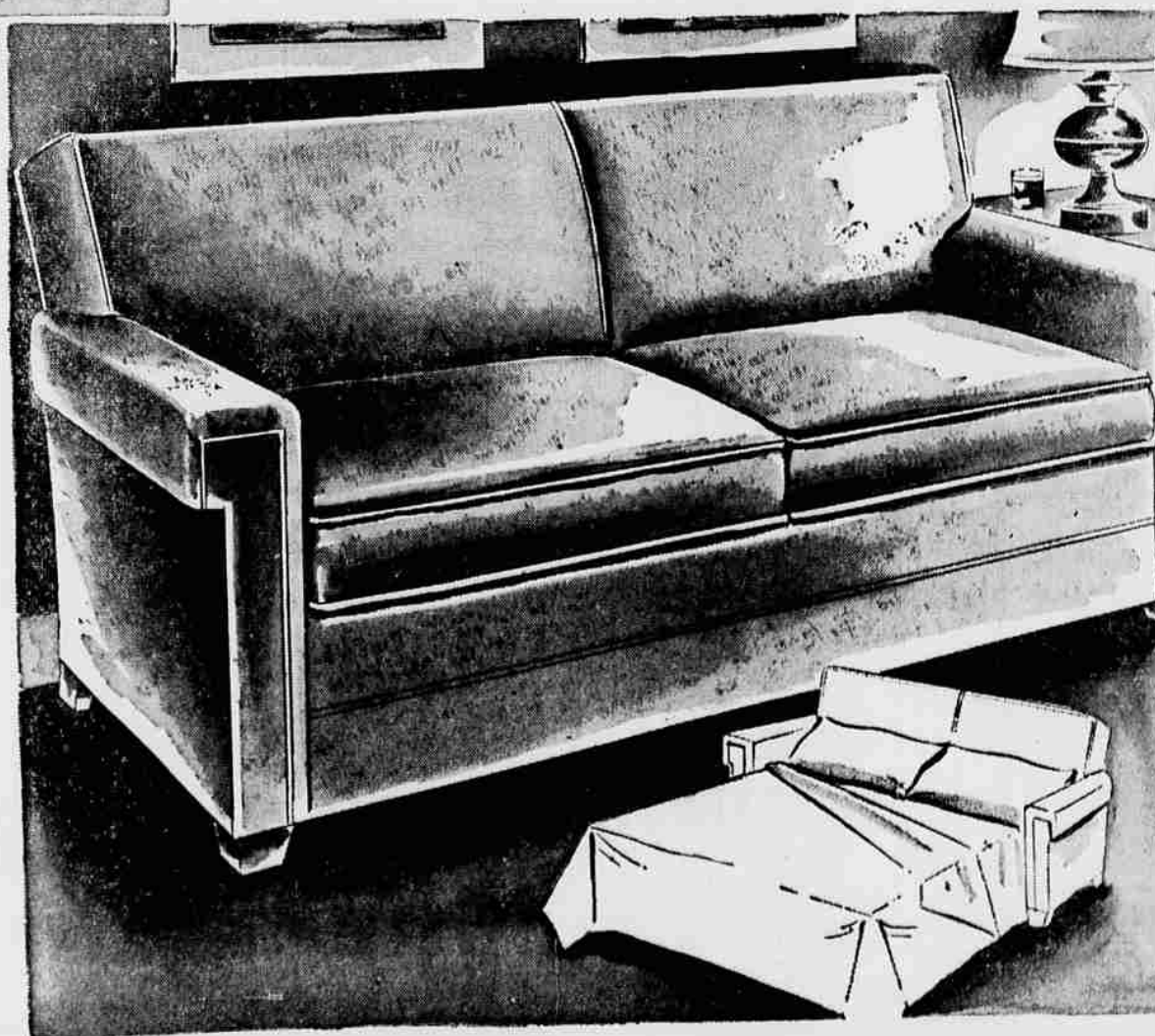
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