

Scientific Advances Mark 1960 Line of New Automobiles

Washington—(Science Service)—Many Americans will ride in scientifically improved cars in 1960.

Details of many major makes are still under wraps in Detroit, but available information indicates:

Ford's six-cylinder, 90-horsepower Falcon will offer fuel economy of 30 miles to the gallon under normal driving conditions.

General Motors' Corvair, competing in the small-car market also, will feature its air-cooled engine, mostly aluminum, in the rear. This is said to help maintain a 40 per cent to 60 per cent weight distribution ratio on the front and rear wheels, respectively, for high stability. The engine's six cylinders are arranged to work in a horizontal position. Cuts Instrument Glare

New electroluminescent lighting on Chrysler and Imperial dashboards will cut instrument glare at night. In the new type of lighting, said to last 10 times longer than an ordinary incandescent light bulb, an electric current is made to flow through phosphors on glass to produce a soft glow of easily visible instrument readings.

Oldsmobile bodies will be suspended from "nodal points" on the frame to create smoother rides for passengers. This

grew out of a hobby of Lowell Kintigh, an assistant chief engineer, who likes to analyze and control vibrations in his spare time. He found that there are nodal points on an auto frame where vibrations are minimum. By mounting the body on the frame at those points, minimum road vibrations and noise are transmitted to the passengers.

Softer Rides

New tire treads made of a rubber derivative of petroleum, called styrene butadiene, are aimed at giving a softer ride in new Chevrolets. Tread life is increased 10 per cent to 20 per cent, the company said. Squal is reduced by the new material also.

Trim on the Ford line will stand up better against the sun's heat, salt spray and heavy humidity because of recent corrosion research. Better trim, the company said, will result from up to 50 per cent more nickel for electroplated zinc die-cast and steel parts, better control on the plating process during manufacture. A new aluminum alloy provides high luster, despite heavier anti-corrosion anodized coatings.

Checks written on Sunday are valid in almost all of the states, contrary to widespread popular belief.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



DRESS-UP DRIVE

Kampala, Uganda—(UPI)—The African Technical Institute near Kampala has protested against the presence of "half-naked Europeans" on its sports fields. In a letter circulated to all householders in the area, the principal said: "It does not add to the tone of the Institute to have Europeans, stripped to the waist, practicing golf on our playing fields."

India's five-year plan includes irrigation for an additional 20 million acres of productive land.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Did You Know These Interesting Facts?

Spiders have a blood-pressure about equal to that of a human being. This may account for the fact that a spider, under extreme conditions of torment or agitation, will completely "blow her top." They occupy a peculiar place in the realm of living things as they are neither bug or insect. Bugs have six legs, the spiders have eight.

Ants have been found suffering from tumors on their brains. Some have been discovered with leg-joints badly swollen by arthritis. Indigestion is common among them, and it is suspected that they may even be bothered by colds, fevers, and rheumatism. A bird's heart beats several times faster than that of a human's; some as high as 300 times per minute. Their normal body temperature of 110 degrees would be a fatal fever in man. The scales on the lower leg of all birds are said to be a carry-over from the far-distant past when their ancestors were reptiles.

Glow-Worm
The little glow-worm that has had all the singing done about him is not a worm at all; he is a form of beetle. The tiny insects that are often found in dry flour or meal, live their entire lives without once taking a drink of water, yet if you should crush one a generous amount of moisture will be present.

There is a common bug who lives in fresh water ponds that has perfect bi-focal eyes; the lower half, always under water, looks down; the upper half, always above water, looks at the same world as the rest of us.

A fish-hook of the finest steel will completely dissolve in a fish's stomach in about 30 days. A bone in the stomach of a dog will become soft and rubbery in a couple of hours.

Termites have been found that tunneled through six inches of solid concrete to get to wood that laid under or below it. Flies which have been treated with all the insecticides known have become so hardened to poison that to kill them they had to be starved to death.

One Kind
There is only one kind of meat in a turtle: the belief that there are always seven is only a superstition. But this creature, sometime in its far-distant past, did crawl inside its own ribs. Look at a turtle shell after the one kind of meat is removed and you can still see the ribs as a part of the upper shell.

Contrary to what has so often been claimed, a mother snake does not swallow her young to protect them from danger. Neither does a snake's tail wiggle until sundown, unless of course the snake was killed just before the sun set. Inasmuch as a snake cannot hear they are not charmed by music; and St. Patrick did not drive the snakes out of the Emerald Isle, for there never were any there in the first place.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

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Guardsmen Given Toll-Free Passage

Salem—(UPI)—Oregon National Guardsmen and their vehicles en route to and from encampment or maneuvers do not have to pay toll on the Astoria-Megler ferry or the Portland-Vancouver Interstate bridge, according to Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton.

State law provides for free passage of such military forces, Thornton said. Whether this same rule would apply to the Longview-Rainier bridge would have to be decided by the Washington attorney general, Thornton said, because the bridge belongs to that state and the toll station is on the Washington side of the Columbia river.

Commercial Farms Will Give Way to Business Proposition

Milwaukee—(Science Service)—Commercial farming in 1975 will be essentially a business proposition rather than a way of life.

Although there will be one-third fewer farms by that time the remaining farms will be larger, more productive and more specialized and serve a one-third larger U.S. population.

These predictions were made here today by Merton S. Parsons, agricultural economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, at a Society of Automotive Engineers meeting.

Trends Under Way
Farming of the future, Parsons said, will be affected largely by the same forces that have acted in the past. Most of the trends already under way, he said, are likely to continue for the next 15 to 20 years.

Among these trends are the decline in number of farms and farm population; the growth of the size, output, specialization and commercialization of the average farm, and increased mechanization.

By 1975, he said, the number of commercial farms, the group that produces nearly all

our farm products for sale, will be about 2,000,000 as compared with 3,000,000 now. The estimated 1958 U.S. population was 174,000,000.

The increase in production per farm, however, will be attained partly by more acres per farm, but primarily by wider use of improved methods to increase production per acre, per animal and per farm worker.

Could Double Output
Output per man-hour could more than double by 1975, Parsons said, if the trend of the last decade continues. This could result in a large increase in farm production with a farm labor force even smaller than at present. In fact, the number of farm workers for 1975 is projected at about 2,000,000 less than the current number of about 7,500,000.

The larger, more complex farms of the future will require investments in real estate, livestock and machinery about double the present level. The high capital requirements will create new problems in financing and in transferring farms from one generation to the next, and farming will become less of a "way of life."

Chemical Seen As Effective as Pruning Shears

Los Angeles—(Science Service)—Scientists have developed a chemical that may be as effective as pruning shears in keeping ornamental plants and hedges well-trimmed.

Chandler P. North, Dr. George F. Ryan and Arthur Wallace, horticulturists at the University of California, Los Angeles, have been experimenting with the chemical which is known as maleic hydrazide (MH).

Controls Growth
They have found that MH solution sprayed on such plants as pyracantha, eugenia and ivies, honeysuckle, star jasmine, and fuchsia will effectively control their growth for periods up to six weeks.

Best results have been obtained when plants are trimmed and new growth is allowed to re-cover the trimmed areas before the spray is applied. When new normal growth appears, spraying should be repeated at four to six-week intervals.

Effective MH concentrations in the solution have been worked out for a number of plants. These range from one to seven teaspoonsful per gallon. However, effective concentrations may vary with climatic regions,

Thornton Rules on Forgery Sentences

Salem—(UPI)—The 1959 Legislature's reduction of the penalty for forgery from 20 years to 10 years in the state penitentiary has no effect on prisoners sentenced before the change according to Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton.

The Oregon constitution vests in the governor the sole authority to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons after conviction, and there is no authority in the Legislature to reduce the judgment and sentence of a court after conviction, Thornton said.

The State Board of Parole and Probation requested the opinion.

and since excessive concentrations cause excessive leaf and fruit drop, the following procedure is recommended:

May Increase Concentration
Spray a small part of a plant with low concentration solution (0.005 per cent solution for herbaceous plants and 0.15 per cent for woody ones). Wait a week, if spray has stopped growth without excessive leaf drop, then spray the whole plant. If growth is not controlled, the MH concentration may be slightly increased.

Limited trials have indicated that MH may be used in conjunction with insecticides.

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Scraps-into-Aprons



by Alice Brooks

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