

Cars Outnumber Auto Mechanics

New York—There are only 750,000 auto mechanics to service the estimated 63 million cars on the road in the United States, according to a leading auto equipment firm executive.

Auto parts manufacturers are trying to alleviate this situation through special training programs and automated equipment, said R. A. Stranahan Jr., president of the Champion Spark Plug company.

"Roughly, there are 80 cars to one mechanic," Stranahan said. "In some states the ratio is as high as 126 vehicles to every mechanic, and automotive experts predict that this could well be the national average, with cars on the increase and mechanics on the decline."

Parts manufacturers have tackled the problem on two fronts, Stranahan said—mechanic training programs designed to speed up service and automatic service equipment that locates trouble more quickly and accurately.

As an example, Stranahan said, his company has designed a portable ignition

analyzer that enables the operator to quickly and easily determine the cause of ignition system malfunctions and ascertain spark plug condition without removing the spark plugs from the engine.

Stranahan said the company has made the analyzer available to about 3,000 schools with vocational shop classes and regularly keeps about 5,000 instructors informed through communication of ignition system developments and new test techniques. In addition, he said, company field representatives and service engineers conduct classroom demonstrations.

Scheduled Airlines Tell Flight Figures

Montreal—Scheduled airlines now operate approximately 150,000 flights a day, it is estimated by the International Air Transport association.

That's an average of about 6,250 flights per hour, more than 104 per minute, or five every three seconds.

Missing Prisoner Taken in Dunsmuir

Jesse James Gilmore, Medford, has been apprehended by Dunsmuir, Calif., authorities, the Jackson county sheriff's office learned Saturday.

Gilmore walked off from a work detail at the Jackson county farm home a week ago after complaining he felt ill. Monday night a report that a prowler had been spotted near the Lawrence McTivia home on Dark Hollow rd. led deputies to believe he might be in that area.

Deputies will probably return Gilmore to Jackson county this week on a fugitive warrant, it was reported.

CONSTRUCT DAM

Portland—Gov. Mark Hatfield rejected Interior Secretary Stewart Udall's plan for a federally-built High Mountain Sheep Dam. Hatfield said a private power firm should construct the dam.

Portland—Multnomah County Democrats re-elected Chairman Frank Roberts in close voting Friday night, but unseated two other officers.



BACK IN HOSPITAL—Sgt. Alvin C. York waves to newsmen at Nashville, Tenn., as he enters the same hospital from which he was released 22 days ago. This time the World War I hero will have an operation for prostate gland trouble. In his usual jolly way he quipped at the ambulance driver to "Take it easy, there's a man in here" when he was being carried to the entrance. (UPI)



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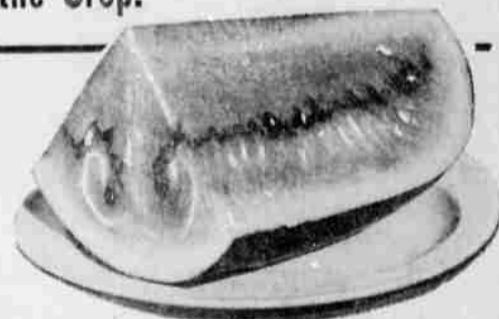


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