

Auto Industry Predicting Car Shortage During 1952

By DAVID J. WILKIE

AP Automotive Editor

DETROIT, (P)—In six and one-half years of postwar production the auto industry has built about 26,000,000 (M) new passenger autos.

That sounds like a huge volume of car output until you deduct 1,200,000 (M) shipped to foreign markets and break the remainder down into a yearly average.

The result is something less than what the industry experts have calculated as a normal yearly requirement and normal expansion needs.

It raises again the question of whether next year's indicated output of approximately 4,000,000 (M) new passenger cars will be sufficient.

Here and there in industry quarters the assertion is being made that a car shortage is inevitable.

At the same time you can hear that even with a higher level of motor car use a steady 4,000,000 (M) cars a year output for domestic consumption will be adequate for all normal market requirements.

Whether the car market may be termed back on a normal basis is something else. The auto makers know that few motorists wait until their cars wear out before replacing them.

It has been estimated the nation's car population now stands at more than 40,000,000 (M). There are also some 10,000,000 (M) trucks using the nation's highways.

QUICK WORK
SALEM, (P)—A Salem drugstore reported last night that a short-change artist duped the store cashier out of \$40. Police said they had reports that in similar operations an Albany theater lost \$40 earlier in the day and a Grants Pass establishment \$40 Friday.

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1247 Squares—The Elks square dancing group meets tomorrow night for the last time this year. Dancing will resume January 8 and every Tuesday thereafter. Otto Ellis is caller and instructor, and fundamentals of square dancing are taught at the sessions for beginners. Elks are urged to attend.

Distinguished—Don Zarosinski, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Zarosinski, Rt. 3, Box 353, has been named as one of 30 Oregon State college Air Force reserve officers training corps designated as distinguished military students. Zarosinski is enrolled in engineering.

Suburban Fire—Department's lady's auxiliary will fête the 54 volunteer firemen and the regular complement tonight at 8 in its first annual Yule party at the station house. The party is scheduled for the recreation room.

Neighbors of Woodcraft—Christmas party is scheduled for tonight at 7:30 p. m., at the KC hall. This will be an open meeting, members and friends invited. There will be a program and refreshments after the meeting.

Carnation Club—of the Degree of Honor will meet Wednesday night at the home of Dooly Cox, 2138 Wland. There will be a gift exchange between secret pairs. Instead of having a food basket this year it has been decided to have a household shower for a member whose home was destroyed recently by fire. Members are asked to take their gifts to Carnation club or leave them with Bertha Weatherholt, 420 Walnut or Jennie Buck, 6305 Siminier street.

Hasbina Club—Annual Christmas party, Friday at the Willard hotel. A banquet will be held in the gold room starting at 7:30 p. m., with exchange of gifts to follow.

Townsend Club—Meeting set for Tuesday, 8 p. m., at the Bernice McCracken residence, 500 N. 9th. Business, Christmas party and gift exchange all planned.

Ticket Sales—The annual Suburban fire department New Year's dance, scheduled for the Army New Year's Eve, has been programmed with the Morrison-McDonnell band to provide music. Firemen are selling tickets.

Hosken—Mrs. Marion Hosken will entertain the Art Needlework club Wednesday, 1 p. m., at her home, 133 Pine.

Kappa Chapter—Beta Sigma Phi, met December 11 at the home of Mrs. O. W. Nelson, with Mrs. John White as co-hostess. The program

on poetry and music was presented by Vera Gordon and Ruth McCollum. Mrs. Art Sutes and Mrs. Glenn Jewett will be hostesses for the Christmas party Tuesday night.

Don't Forget—the BPW Christmas party tonight, 6:30, Willard hotel. Gift exchange and program.

Pelican Post—No. 1383 VFW and auxiliary will gather for the annual Christmas party, Thursday, 8 p. m. in the city library. No gifts will be exchanged this year. Santa will be there and treats will be distributed to youngsters.

Party—The annual Christmas party for children of members of the Ambrieu club will be held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. F. G. Murphy, 2121 Etna. Because of the children the hour has been set for 6:30 p. m.

Called Away—Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Maaten, Olene were called over the weekend to Brookings by the death of a baby granddaughter, four-month-old Linda Clair Kerns, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kerns Jr., Brookings. The little girl, third child of the family, born September 28 had not been well since birth. Mrs. Kerns is the former Patricia Maaten.

Home—L. V. Shepherd, Bonanza has returned home from an extended trip to visit relatives in Iowa and other Midwestern points.

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (R) of Wisconsin is here for a brief rest and checkup of a sinus condition. He is the house guest of navy medical corps Capt. Adrian J. Delaney, chief of the eye, ear, nose and throat section at the San Diego naval hospital. Capt. Delaney said McCarthy is being checked for a sinus condition for which he was treated when Delaney was stationed at the Bethesda, Md., naval hospital.

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Ten years ago the totals were 29,500,000 (M) cars and 4,850,000 (M) trucks.

To some extent the registration figures are misleading; they include a heavy volume of vehicles immobilized in used car lots. There has not been any authoritative survey of used car dealers stocks recently. It is worthy of note, however, that dealers in second hand vehicles last year sold more than 8,000,000 (M) of them.

SALES DECLINE
Current indications are that this year's used car sales will drop considerably below that level, reflecting the decline in new car transactions from last year's record total. Used car stocks build up as new cars sales mount and sales activity on the lots goes up in about the same degree.

Right now the used car business is in something of a slump. Perhaps it's seasonal. In any event don't attempt to explain these trends excepting to say they are not unusual at this season.

The extent of the slump in new car sales is shown in the monthly report of R. L. Polk Co. auto industry statisticians. This shows that in October new car registrations dropped to 373,162. It was the first time since January, 1950, that new car registrations had fallen below 400,000 (T).

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