

Auto Industry Falls Short Of Goal, But Still Lists Second Best Year

DETROIT (AP)—The auto industry fell short of its goals in 1960 but still wound up with its second best sales year. Uncertainty apparently lies ahead.

Final figures will show sales of about 6.5 million passenger cars, 6 million of them American made. But dealers go into the new year with their largest winter supplies of unsold cars in history, a fair sprinkling of them 1960 models. Total inventories are only a fraction shy of all time records.

While the hoped-for sales explosion never came, things popped on several other fronts in the industry.

Chrysler, Ford and Studebaker-Packard changed top officers, Chrysler in spectacular fashion.

Anti-management forces sued Chrysler and most of its top officials, charging gross mismanagement. Chrysler, in turn, sued for libel.

Five new car names were introduced, all of them in the compact field. One old-line make, the DeSoto, was discontinued after years of rumors as to its fate.

Chevrolet ran away with the individual sales race after bowing to Ford in 1959. Imports dropped off for the first time since they made their original splash in the mid-fifties.

Production in the 1960 model

SETS SPEED RECORD

NEW YORK (UPI)—The great grandson of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow set an unofficial speed record flying a commercial jetliner from Miami to New York in 99 minutes and 50 seconds, Northeast Airlines said today.

Capt. Peter Dana, relative of the famous poet, set the record Thursday in a Boeing 707 jet. He clipped one minute and 10 seconds off the previous record.

EAT CHRISTMAS BULBS

BRISTOL, England (UPI)—Two-year-old twins Anne and Julie Meaden were fed cotton wool today on doctor's orders after they ate Christmas tree bulbs.

The wool is to cover the glass in their stomachs to prevent lacerations.

year totaled 6,011,287 passenger cars compared with 5,567,000 in 1959. Compact cars, three of which were first introduced with the 1960 model year, accounted for 26.2 per cent of all production. The year before less than 10 per cent were compacts.

The new ones at the start of 1960 were Falcon, Corvair and Valiant. They were joined in March by Comet. The 1961 model year brought Tempest, Lancer, Special and F-85. Calendar year production of these eight plus Rambler and Lark, the previous smaller makes, totaled about 2.5 million.

The economy trend was further emphasized by the increasing choice of six-cylinder engines instead of V-8s (43.5 per cent of 1960 models compared with 28 per cent in 1959) and manual transmission (up from 24.1 per cent to 27 per cent).

In management, Clarence Francis took over as chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Studebaker-Packard. Ernest Breech resigned as board chairman of Ford in July. President Henry Ford II added the job until November, when Robert McNamara became Ford president.

At Chrysler, William C. Newberg was elected president late in April, then was fired two months later in a dispute over conflicts of interest. L. L. Colbert took the dual job of president and chairman of the board. Newberg agreed to repay \$450,000 from his

profits in two firms selling to Chrysler.

Detroit attorney Sol A. Dann culminated two years of demands upon Colbert and Chrysler board members to resign by filing suit against the corporation and its executives, asking that a trustee be named to run the business. He charged gross mismanagement.

Dann filed three separate suits. Chrysler did some suing, too. It charged Dann with libel and it sued Newberg's business partner, Ben Stone.

None of the suits appeared near the trial stage as the year ended.

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