

LET CONTRACTS

Among the road construction contracts recently awarded on the basis of bids opened March 4 are: Paving 7.47 miles, Kirkland to Genoa, DeKalb county; 6.59 miles, west from Beardstown, in Schuyler county; 6.91 miles east from Meredosia, Morgan county, and a grade-separation job on routes 46 and 54, northwest of Melrose Park, Cook county. In all, they aggregate around \$550,000 worth of work.

Illinois highway officials will open bids, April 14, for almost \$6,000,000 worth of paving and bridge construction scattered throughout the state. There are fifty-four jobs in this letting. They total 135.86 miles of paving and widening, 41.72 miles of grading and 23 bridge-building jobs. The office of Frank T. Sheets, chief highway engineer, will supply detailed information upon request.

Skokie Motor Company to Show Sound Movies

Five reels of talking pictures of the remarkable engineering precision in the manufacture of the modern motor car will be shown this Saturday night at 8 o'clock in the Skokie Motor company showrooms at 435 Main street Wilmette. Measurements maintained within a few millionths of an inch by the Johansson gauges are a startling revelation. The pictures give an internal view of the reciprocating parts of the motor mechanism which cannot be seen in any other way. The program will be highly instructive and entertaining it is promised and the Skokie Motor company invites the general public to this unique showing. This will be a rare chance for the motorist to actually see what goes into the car he buys it is explained.

Packard Motors Keep Speedboat Record in U. S.

Back of the new world's speedboat record of 102.256 miles an hour established by Gar Wood at Miami, Fla., lies a story of gasoline motors that places American automotive engineering achievement to the forefront throughout the world.

The battle for speed supremacy on the water has been largely a battle of motors in recent years. Speed climbed as power was increased, with America remaining always ahead until last June when the late Major Seagrave wrested the world's speed record away from this country and gave it to England. World-wide interest in speed on the water grew also as the 100-mile-an-hour mark was approached more closely. Major Seagrave set the record at 98.76 miles an hour just a few minutes before his boat, Miss England II crashed, so injuring the intrepid English sportsman that his death resulted.

It was believed by motor boat men that not even Wood would be able to beat Seagrave's record, at least not for several years. However the speed possibilities of Wood's boat, Miss America IX were not fully known, for despite the records established by the two great 1100 horse power Packard engines in the craft, they had never been run "wide open." When Wood in the attempt to regain the record for the United States at Miami told his mechanic, Orlin Johnson, to give both engines everything they had, the coveted 100-mile-an-hour mark on the water was not only reached but passed.

Makes Two World Marks

The engines in Miss America IX have been racing for three years. It was the second time they had established an official world's speed record. They have twice won the famous Harmsworth international race against England and they have passed unharmed through two wrecks which in each case sent them to the bottom.

Both engines were designed and built by the Packard Motor Car company for Miss America VI with which Wood planned to defend the Harmsworth trophy against England on the Detroit River in 1928. Wood and Orlin Johnson were testing the Miss America VI, believed the fastest motor boat ever built. They were traveling at an estimated speed of more than 100 miles an hour when the boat hit an obstruction and dramatically went to pieces.

Wood was rescued uninjured. Johnson was seriously hurt and the motors were buried in the mud at the bottom of the St. Clair river. Drivers searched for the engines a week before they could be found and lifted to the surface. They were rushed to the factories of the Packard company and, after the mud and sand were washed out of them, were found to have been unharmed. Wood built a new boat, Miss America VII, and had it running with the same two engines in 10 days. With the var-

Improper Lights Are Called Serious Hazard

One out of four automobiles being driven on our highways is unnecessarily jeopardizing the lives of our citizenry through improper lights, declares the National Safety council. Is yours one of them?

"While that ratio may not hold true in every state, it was recently checked in Michigan," says the council. "The National Safety council has long recognized faulty headlights as a dangerous highway hazard. It is not only a direct violation of the law, it is a practice which helps to swell our annual total of traffic killings."

"Every motorist is aware of the hazard caused by the 'one-light' driver, particularly when that one head lamp throws a beam directly into the eyes of oncoming motorists. The hazard is especially bad in winter, when safe driving is none too easy anyway."

"May we urge you to check up on your headlights? And to be more courteous to your fellow automobile drivers? Such little precautions as this will go far toward reducing our national automobile toll which is now near to being a disgrace."

nish hardly dry he easily won the famous Harmsworth race. Two days later at the wheel of Miss America VII he established a new speed record of 92.862 miles an hour.

In 1929 Wood built Miss America VIII, installing two new Packard motors, duplicates of those in the earlier boat. With this craft he won the 1929 Harmsworth race, Miss America VII finishing second by not more than three feet.

Miss America VII then was sent to Venice, Italy, at the personal request of Premier Mussolini to race against Major Seagrave in Miss England. With Phil Wood, brother of Gar Wood, at the wheel Miss America VII was tearing through the water at high speed when she hit a floating object and was wrecked. Again the big Packard motors went to the bottom, this time in salt water. They were fished out and after being cleansed of mud and sand were found not to have been harmed.

The same two engines in 1930 were installed in Miss America IX and on Labor Day they again carried Gar Wood to victory against England in another Harmsworth race. They were the same motors that led the motor boat speed king to his latest achievement on the water.

Whether man can carry speed on the water to much greater heights has been a matter of speculation among motor boat men since Wood's new record was established. They point out that such speed on the water is far greater relatively than the recent automobile records made at Daytona Beach. Water at such speed becomes as hard as granite, they assert.

There are 50,200 public garages in the United States, according to the Chicago Motor club.

The automotive industry uses 82 per cent of all rubber consumed in the United States.

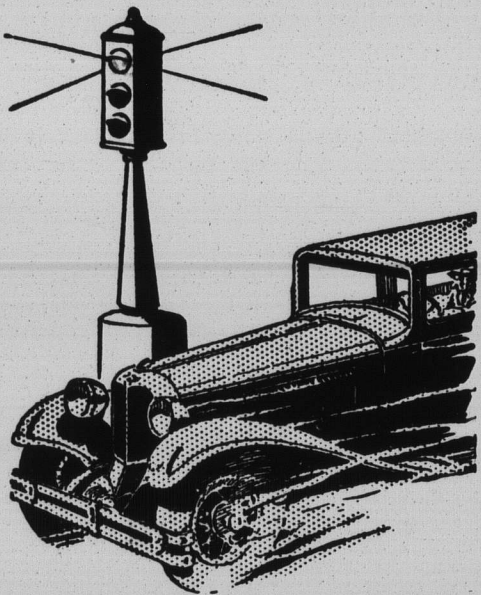
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