

## Guess how many lights in your car!



Checking condition of the lights is basic to safe driving and according to General Electric, there are 42 kinds of illumination sources in typical cars of today. They range from basics like head and tail lights to highly specialized lamps indicating improperly operating pollution controls. GE reports those 42 car lights are 17 more than found in the average home.

This 'cat' has only one life. It's the . . .

## Catalytic converter in '75 models designed to fight air pollution

There's one "cat" that doesn't have nine lives. That's a catalytic converter on 1975 model cars. Prolonged use of leaded fuel will kill the effectiveness of the pollution-fighting unit.

The converter's job is to change carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbon (HC) emissions into harmless carbon dioxide and water. Catalysts of ceramic beads and inert metallic pellets are used in the process.

Leaded fuel coats the pellet with lead deposits and renders them ineffective. As a result harmful emissions escape the muffler-like unit and enter the atmosphere. While the car would perform normally, pollution levels would exceed legislated levels.

Designed to function for a minimum of 50,000 miles, the converters also are expected to help improve gasoline mileage.

Unleaded gasoline is now available at most gas stations in the U.S. The gas is expected to be carried by outlets in Canada and Mexico, particularly in areas where U.S. cars frequently travel.

Should you be out of gas in an area where lead-free fuel is not available, then buy enough gas to get you to a station where the proper fuel is sold. A converter can tolerate an occasional usage of leaded fuel, since the heat of the oxidation will burn off lead deposits once un-

leaded fuel is reinstalled. The catalyst will then return to full efficiency.

To prevent inadvertent filling with leaded fuel, a smaller gas filler neck is found on 1975 cars. Thus nozzles at gas pumps will be adaptable for unleaded fuel, not for the leaded variety.



The job of the catalytic converter is to change the "dragon's breath" of HC and CO pollutants into emissions of harmless carbon dioxide and water vapor. In order to achieve this environment plus, converters must avoid leaded gasoline. 1975 cars equipped with catalytic converters are designed to run on unleaded fuel and gasoline filler apertures only can accommodate nozzles from pumps issuing lead-free gasoline.

## Exhibiting beat-up car focuses attention on need for service

Late last summer, a young Port Huron, Michigan, woman hit it lucky. Her first bit of fortune was finding a buyer for the 1966 model car she was selling.

Her second stroke of luck was being alive.

An official of the Car Care Council (CCC) happened to be looking for a car just like the one Susie Smith (not her real name) was driving. The CCC was seeking out a vehicle currently being driven, yet in such poor condition that it was a menace to the driver and other people on the road.

After purchasing the "accident going someplace to happen," the Council dubbed the vehicle "Calamity Jane," and used it to inaugurate a nationwide motorists education program.

Among the dangerous conditions plaguing the car were defective brakes, bald tires, misaligned

wheels, bad shocks, faulty steering — any one of which could have helped cause a fatal accident.

The car's exhaust system was rotted away, a condition made even more hazardous by the fact that body and undercarriage rust provided a tailor-made conduit for lethal carbon monoxide fumes.

The water pump was loose and leaking, headlights misaligned and the ignition system so badly neglected that starting the car was a major task.

A CCC spokesman remarked, "Jane was emitting so much pollution that the analyzing device couldn't even record the amount. Emissions knocked the needle clear off the dial."

The Council used Calamity Jane, with roof painted a luminous red for DANGER, as a center piece for Car Care Week in Port Huron. The car was towed

(not driven) to various locations to show students and other groups how neglected a car can be and still be allowed on the highway.

"Jane" also was the center of attention in an Emissions Check Lane program sponsored by the local Jaycees.

CCC reports that the week helped build interest in car care in the Michigan community. It also accomplished another aim.

One local observer put it this way, "It makes me shudder to think that a car like that was operating on our streets only a few months ago. And I bet there are a lot more like that one. When the (bleep) are we going to get compulsory vehicle inspection in this state?"

Michigan is one of 19 states that does not have a compulsory inspection law.

### BREAK IN TIRES

Tires need a break-in period when new. Keep well within the speed limit to help tires "adjust" to other tires on the car so they can function as an integral unit.

### CARS, DRIVERS ARE SAFER

While the current highway death rate of 4.5 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles is a grim statistic, it's a vast improvement over the 1930 figure. In that year, the rate was 16.5 deaths per 100 million miles.

### ALIGNMENT SAVES

Tests reported on by the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association showed that improper front wheel toe-in alignment of only 1/4" can cause about a 0.3 miles per gallon economy loss.

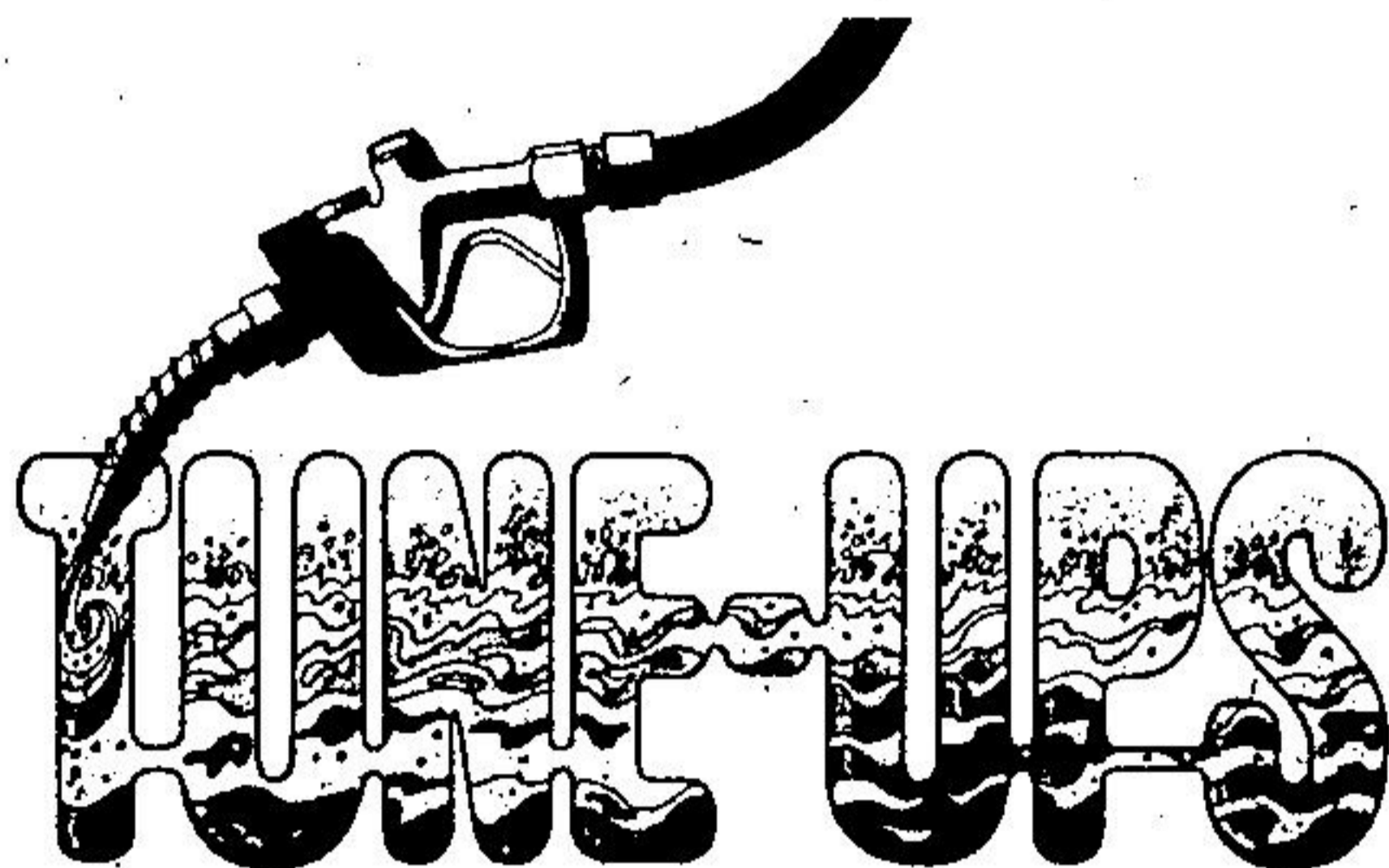
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# SAVE GAS.

A lot of it. In nationwide fuel economy tests, motorists' cars were tested before and after a tune-up. Results showed that a tune-up with new Champion spark plugs saved, on the average, a gallon of gasoline in every tankful. Considering that 3 of every 5 cars on the road need a tune-up right now, tune-ups alone could save us millions of gallons of gasoline each week.

Tune-ups benefit us in other ways, too. Quicker acceleration for safer passing. Dependable starts. Plus a substantial reduction in emissions.

See your mechanic regularly for a Champion tune-up. Once a year or every 10,000 miles.



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