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THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1926

### CAUSES OF FIRES IN AUTOMOBILES

#### ARE LESS FREQUENT NOW

#### Various Conditions Result in Blaze in Cars; Value of Insurance; How Best to Avert

(By H. Clifford Brokaw, technical advisor, New York City West Side Y. M. C. A. Automobile school.)  
Automobiles do not catch on fire now-a-days as frequently as they used to. Manufacturers have made them about as nearly fireproof as possible. Brick houses are also considered quite fireproof. Yet the average home owner doesn't care to take a chance on insurance protection. He knows that such houses do sometimes burn. The wise automobile owner realizes that there is a possibility of his car burning up and gets insurance protection. For when a car does burn the destruction is apt to be complete. Yet motor car fire insurance is inexpensive.

#### Amount Received

However, when a brick house burns down the owner receives the full amount for which it was insured. This is not true of the automobile. flames gets a sum which represents the actual market value of the machine at the time the loss took place. Such an arrangement is really fair, for on any other basis, whenever the owner of an insured car got tired of it and found he could not possibly sell it at the price he paid for the machine, all he had to do was to stimulate a convenient fire. This would enable him to recapture whatever loss he had sustained through depreciation.

The most general cause of an automobile fire comes from back-firing. And the principal reason for back-firing is too lean a mixture fed to the cylinders. When there is a back-fire, a sheet of flames comes from the air intake of the carburetor. If there is anything inflammable near by, it is very apt to catch on fire.

#### Keep Drip Pan Free

Gasoline vaporizes so quickly that if there is gasoline in the drip pan there is apt to be a sufficient mixture around the carburetor to make trouble. The idea is to keep the drip pan free from gasoline. See that there is no leak in the supply pipe or in the connection to the carburetor. Also see that there is no overflow coming from the carburetor due to poor seating of the float valve.

Operating a car at high speed for a long distance may cause the exhaust pipe to become hot. If it is next to any wood, this may cause a fire, especially if there is an accumulation of grease and oil in the woodwork. To minimize this danger do not drive continuously at top speed and keep the woodwork free from grease and oil.

#### Exhaust Pipe

The exhaust pipe also heats up when the engine is run with a greatly retarded spark. Sometimes it will become red hot and set the woodwork on fire. Fires have also been known to catch by opening this muffler "cut out" in starting up. This danger is greater inside the garage than out of doors, since there is usually spilled grease and gasoline on the garage floor.

Another cause of fire comes from short-circuiting of the ignition or lighting system when a storage battery is used. A short circuit may heat one of the wires red hot and burn off the insulation. If there is

### START DEEP TEST IN COLORADO PROPOSITION

C. E. Puckett and associates are starting a deep test with standard equipment on Sec. 30-20-43, near Baxter, 6 miles east of Pueblo, 2,400 feet southwest of Baxter No. 1 drilled several years ago, which encountered a saturated 33-foot sand in the Morrison at 2,105 feet and another sand believed to be the Sundance, at 2,940 feet, but which were lost in shooting.

The above article appeared in a recent issue of the Pueblo Chieftain, Pueblo, Colo. Deerfield and Highland Park capital is invested in this proposition.

Some folks think that every family should have two homes, and about half the folks already have the same, one of them being an automobile.

Home is declared to be the best anchor, but in the case of many of the young crowd, you can't get them at home long enough to let the anchor down.

No use forbidding the girls to bob their hair, but you might accomplish something by telling them it is wrong not to do it.

### MERCURY AIRPLANES INTO THE NINETIES

#### Exceptional Temperature Record Here Tuesday and Wednesday, Reported

With the mercury ranging away up into the nineties for several days this week it is scarcely news to comment on the hot weather at this late date, but just to keep the record for coming generations to refer to, it is stated here that on Tuesday the thermometer registered 93 in the shade in Highland Park and on Wednesday at 1 o'clock it was up to 92. That thermometer was in the shade where a strong west breeze fanned it. Others in points sheltered from the wind had higher readings, and those in the sun went the limit.

The mosquitos in the Adirondacks were not reported to be objecting to the arrival of the large number of people who follow the president around.

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