

MOTORISTS AVERAGE 550 GALLONS YEAR

HUGE TOTAL OF GAS USED

More Than 20 Millions of Cars and Trucks Utilize More Than 11 Billions of Fuel in 1927

Each motorist during 1927 used an average of 550.9 gallons of gasoline and traveled an average of 7,437 miles, according to figures just announced by the national headquarters of the American Motorists Association, through the Automobile Club of Illinois.

The averages are based on a total gasoline consumption in the United States amounting to 11,563,490,000 gallons—an increase of 12.4 per cent over the gasoline consumption by the motorists of the country during 1926. Eliminating all re-registration figures, the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads places the total motor vehicle registration as of July 1, 1927 at 20,991,333.

Mileage Traveled
The mileage traveled is based on an average of 13.5 miles per gallon of gasoline. Using this figure, the Association places the total number of miles traveled by the 20,991,333 cars and trucks during 1927 at 1,561,071,150,000 miles.

One of the interesting things shown by the survey of gasoline consumption is the wide variation in the amounts consumed per automobile capita. For instance, the highest per capita consumption was in Georgia, the 260,079 vehicles averaging 739 gallons during the year, while the lowest was in Minnesota, the 607,725 vehicles using an average of but 359 gallons, or slightly less than half the per vehicle consumption in Georgia.

"Many things contribute towards the wide variation in the amount of gasoline used per vehicle in the various states," according to Si. Mayer, Vice-President of the Association and President of The Automobile Club of Illinois. "In the wide difference between the amount consumed by the average motorists in Minnesota and Georgia the primary reason is climatic conditions. In Georgia automobiles are used the year around, while in Minnesota they are restricted. Again, roads in Georgia are not as good as those in the Northern states and hence the gasoline consumption is higher," declared Mr. Mayer.

Additional Factors
Additional factors accounting for the variations, Vice-President Mayer points out, is that of population, gasoline consumption being heavier in thickly populated areas such as cities and industrial centers, while tourist account for a high per capita consumption. As an example, in the District of Columbia—where there is a large annual tourist movement—the average is 79 gallons above the general average. From an industrial standpoint New Jersey's per capita consumption stands out, being 88 gallons above the Country's average. Illinois per capita consumption was 550 gallons.

"The ration of good roads to gasoline consumption is not as marked as one would suppose, for the reason that in states where roads are good the mileage is more per gallon, and in most instances the states that have good roads are wealthy and one of the unique angles of per capita gasoline consumption is that in the wealthy states, where many owners own two cars, the per capita consumption is lowered by virtue of this fact," Vice-President Mayer points out.

"This is particularly true of California, which has excellent roads and an all year motoring climate. With these two factors one would suppose the per capita gasoline consumption there would be the highest, however, with a per capita gasoline consumption of 642 gallons California ranks fourth on the list. Following Georgia, Louisiana ranks second with 721 gallons and Alabama third with 697 gallons."

OLDEST ACTRESS TELLS OF FASHIONS OF 1874

Sensational changes of style in 1874 are recalled by Mrs. Thomas Whiffen, oldest actress in America, who, at the age of 82, is still on the stage. Mrs. Whiffen, who is writing her autobiography for the Woman's Home Companion, produces, as an illustration of the radical departures in styles of that year, a program for the opening of the Fifth Avenue theater, in New York, long since closed.

"Silk stockings are in vogue with new and peculiar shoes," reads the first fashion note on the old program. "Promenade skirts are to clear the ground by an inch," is another startling announcement, while others were: "The back hair is worn in a single braid, called a 'poodle';" and, "Some of the new bonnets are very small and are worn far back in the vicinity of the false hair."

The program also contains a poem, written expressly for the opening of the new theater by Dr. Wendell Holmes, and reproductions of the frescoes of the pretentious house were executed by the artist Gariboldi.

Much said about child welfare, and the kids say that free access to the cookie jar will create it.

WAR AGAINST INSECTS CENTERED IN AMERICA

This Country Especially Threatened by Bugs, In Opinion of Scientists

America more than any other part of the world is engaged in a war for its existence against insects, the natural enemy of man and their menace is greater than ever before, declared Dr. L. C. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology, in a startling interview with the American Magazine.

America is especially threatened by insects, continued Dr. Howard, because of its varied climatic conditions and large areas of vegetation planted contiguously and affording the best possible feeding grounds for parasites.

"Any farmer, or anyone who has a little garden in the suburbs and a few fruit trees has come to know that he cannot get a perfect or even near perfect crop without protective mechanical measures against insects," added the entomologist. "When one buys fruit, vegetables or cereal product an indirect toll is paid upon the insect hordes, which want exactly what human beings want and are trying to crowd us off the earth to feed their fabulously increasing families."

"Some idea of the extent of the cost of insects is shown from the fact that \$30,000,000 worth of wire screening is sold annually. Orchard growers of California alone spent \$45,000,000 annually fighting insects. The Bureau of Entomology spends about \$3,000,000 a year in field work and scientific investigation to determine what strategy to use against the enemies, but this sum does not include special sums to meet emergencies. The total actual cost of the insect warfare is conservatively \$60,000,000 a year.

"To put it more clearly, the damage wrought by insects every year in the United States nullifies the labor of 1,000,000 men. These material figures do not even touch upon the loss of life caused by the sixty-five well known types of disease carrying insects, which is beyond estimate."

WANT WAUKEGAN ROAD EXTENDED NORTHWARD

A committee of Lake county men recently conferred with Governor Small over the matter of extending Telegraph road from where it joins the Lake Bluff-Rondout (Rockland road) just west of Lake Bluff, northward to emerge at the Northwestern viaduct east of Gurnee. Presented to him was a petition signed by over 100 prominent Lake county residents, and by Mayor Thompson and State-Attorney Crowe of Chicago, was filed with the governor. The committee seemed to feel that he looked with favor on their request.

A COLLAR DAY KEEPS THE RAG BAG AWAY

"Wear a collar but one day at a time and keep the ragman away," is the advice of American linen manufacturers who have just finished a series of laboratory tests in New York.

On the other hand, they have discovered, the man who tries to squeeze an extra day's wear from a collar will find that it must be thrown away three times sooner than the one that is allowed to become but slightly soiled. Women's Home Companion experts, who participated in tests upon household linen, declare that the same proportion of wear obtains in towels, napkins and other articles. "Laboratory tests have shown that it is not ordinary washing and ironing that wears out fabrics," says the

magazine commenting upon the experiments. "It is the special scrubbing required to get out excessive dirt. A collar simply washed and ironed after only slight soiling could be worn fifteen times whereas a collar subjected to extra soiling wore out after five trips to the tub. It is false economy to use a soiled garment once more or to use the linen a little longer before sending it to the wash. Cleanliness, in addition to having other advantages, is true economy."

Newspaper men often complain about people who refuse to be interviewed, but those who are running for office do not usually offer any objections.

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