

Not Headlights But Dirty Windshield Cause of Trouble

Don't blame oncoming cars too much for their glaring headlights, George Barton, chief safety engineer of the Chicago Motor club, cautioned today. Your dirty windshield and eye glasses may be responsible for the trouble.

A film of dirt diffuses light rays and produces an illuminated screen of dirt before your eyes, he explained, limiting the driver's field of vision for several seconds.

"As glaring headlights were a factor in 4,150 deaths and injuries throughout the country last year, it is advisable to minimize their power by keeping your windshield clean," Mr. Barton suggested.

Real Estate Board Resumes Meeting with Dinner Sept. 12

The Evanston-North Shore Real Estate Board announces its special opening meeting to be held on Monday, Sept. 12, at the Shawnee Country club in Wilmette at 6:15 p.m. The meeting will be a dinner meeting with a round table, offering the members opportunity for exchanging their best exclusive listings. In addition to this, the brokerage committee has prepared for discussion several practical problems that have arisen this year.

Hempstead Lyons, Publicity Chairman

"Antlers" on Oak Trees Caused by a Fungus Growth

Urbana—Antlers on the head of a stag make the heart of a hunter beat high, but "antlers" on oak trees are only headaches for park superintendents, city foresters, and forest preserve officials in northern Illinois, according to reports received by Dr. L. R. Tehon, head botanist, Illinois Natural History Survey.

The dying of branches at the tops of oaks, a condition commonly known as staghead, is often caused by a fungus which makes its appearance above ground, usually in October, as a common edible mushroom, Dr. Tehon explains. Mushroom enthusiasts know it as honey mushroom or oak fungus. But to Dr. Tehon and Dr. J. C. Carter, assistant botanist of the Survey, this fungus is known much less favorably as the cause of the shoestring rot disease of trees.

"In our recent examinations of oak trees which show staghead,"

says Dr. Carter, who drives 12,000 miles a year investigating the causes of tree diseases in Illinois, "we have not failed to find the shoestring fungus. We have found it in both the northern and southern parts of the state, but the principal damage is in the northern part where oaks are more highly valued."

Dr. Tehon and Dr. Carter advise the necessity for keeping oaks in a continuous state of high vitality. If trees are kept healthy by proper care and feeding, the small black threads of the shoestring fungus have less opportunity of making their way from the soil into the roots and eventually causing death.

Seriousness of shoestring rot at this time, the botanists say, is explained in part by the drought years 1934 to 1936, which killed many oaks and reduced the vitality of those that survived.

Change of tree habitat is another common reason offered by Dr. Tehon and Dr. Carter for the inroads of shoestring rot. Forest grown oaks, they say, do not respond kindly to domestication. Many of these trees, after spending their early years in a natural habitat, are unable to survive when the land they occupy is used as a public park or pasture. City and county officials planning to make public parks of native timber tracts should leave the areas in a state that approximates natural conditions.

Shoestring rot may be suspected if the leaves of an oak begin to wither, burn in the sun, or drop to the ground, according to Dr. Tehon. Examination of the soil about the roots may reveal the network of black filaments of the shoestring fungus.

Inroads of the fungus upon a tree already attacked may be checked, Dr. Tehon says, and the lives of trees lengthened indefinitely. But the process is too complicated for anyone but a skilled tree expert to attempt. Before planning oaks, Dr. Tehon warns, property owners should make sure that the shoestring fungus is not already in the soil. Identification of this fungus and other tree enemies is made in the botanical laboratories of the Natural History Survey at Urbana.

Find Need for State Equalization Fund for High Schools

Springfield, Ill. — The valuation per resident high school pupil is more than 25 times as large in some school districts of Illinois as the valuation in other districts. The valuations range from \$3,602 for Christopher Community high school,

Franklin county, to \$78,000 for Colusa, Hancock county; while a similar figure for the non-high school district of Monroe county is \$91,253, according to a study of 1937 assessments and 1937 attendance data, issued today by the Research Department of the Illinois Education association.

Large differences in assessed valuation are shown within counties. According to the study, the assessed valuation per resident high school pupil for Lake county high schools for 1937 is as follows:

Non-High School District \$18,249	
LAKE	
Antioch Twp.	\$17,617
Fox Lake: Grant Com.	19,495
Highland Park	18,517
Gurnee: Warren Township	18,517
Deerfield- Shields	24,943
Lake Zurich: Elm Township	28,549
Libertyville Township	14,396
Wauconda Township	24,890
Waukegan Township	12,727

Low valuation per pupil usually means poor educational opportunities for high school pupils, in spite of high tax rates usually found in districts of low valuation.

With the exception of the emergency high school aid bill, passed by the Special Session of the Legislature, the high schools are supported entirely by the local property tax. A high school with a valuation of \$4,000 per pupil can raise only \$30 per pupil with a tax rate of 75c per \$100 of valuation, while a district with a valuation of \$78,000 could produce \$585 per pupil at the same tax rate, and a district with \$90,000 valuation could produce \$675 with the same tax rate. The average per capita high school cost for current expenditures in Illinois in 1936-37 was \$123.24.

Mr. Irving F. Pearson, executive secretary of the Illinois Education association, in commenting upon the situation said, "Our findings indicate very definitely the need for a state equalization fund for high schools similar to that now available to the elementary schools of the state. In addition thereto, in view of the increased demands upon high schools and greatly decreased local revenues, it may be necessary to have a flat-rate contribution to high schools, similar to the state distributive fund for elementary schools."

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Do You Know Illinois?

Q. What was the attitude of Stephen A. Douglas on the question of slavery?

A. He regarded it as a question within the control of the individual states.

Q. Did Douglas ever own any slaves?

A. In 1848 Mrs. Douglas' father died and willed her 150 slaves. Douglas was personally opposed to slavery and considered the owning of these slaves as a distinct liability.

Q. Did Douglas support Lincoln after the latter's election to the presidency?

A. He became a whole-hearted supporter of Lincoln and did much to rally people to Lincoln in the early, trying days of Lincoln's first administration.

Q. When was Douglas a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court?

A. 1841-1843. He resigned to go to Congress.

Q. Who was in charge of military stores at Springfield during the Civil War?

A. John J. Taylor.

Q. How many students are enrolled in higher institutions of learning in Illinois?

A. More than 70,000 are enrolled in Universities, colleges, and professional schools.

Q. Who is the dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Illinois?

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A. Joseph C. Blair, appointed June 15, 1938.

Q. What was the cost of the biologicals distributed by the State for the first six months of 1937?

A. Downstate, \$48,687.17; Chicago, \$32,428; Total \$81,115.17.

Q. What was the cost of the biologicals distributed by the Division of Communicable Diseases in 1936?

A. Downstate, \$46,818.52; Chicago, \$74,784.95; Total, \$121,403.47.

Q. What was the total value of the property of the Department of Public Welfare as of June 30, 1936?

A. Building, \$46,390,435.73; Land, \$4,476,932.49; Improvements other than buildings, \$2,998,610.24; Other property, \$7,930,986.84; Total \$61,796,965.30.

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