

Auto Survey Advises "Know Your Car"

If the results of a survey just released by the U.S. Department of Transportation are any indication, many motorists are deluding themselves about the safe mechanical condition of their cars.

Three quarters of the 14,500 motorists surveyed described their cars as "very safe," yet vehicle inspection reports show over half the cars on the road need repairs to restore them to safe mechanical condition.

Twelve percent of the motorists answering the D.O.T. questionnaire called their cars only "somewhat" safe.

The study, conducted by Intext, Transportation Research Division, Scranton, Pa., involved a representative sampling of car owners in 50 states. Purpose of the survey was to determine the attitudes and habits of the motoring public, as related to vehicle maintenance.

Safer Drivers Know More
Significant among the findings disclosed by DOT: people who are relatively knowledgeable about their cars report 1/2 to 1/3 fewer accidents or near-accidents due to mechanical trouble than those who are not. The report also shows that the more knowl-

edgeable owner is more likely to be conscientious about car care.

How do people feel about car care as it relates to safety? Eighty-six percent of those surveyed believed that regular maintenance helps prevent accidents. Ninety-one percent agreed that all states should have compulsory vehicle inspection.

Women's Communications
When asked where they obtained information about keeping their cars in safe mechanical condition, 36 percent said they draw upon their own knowledge. Twenty-eight percent relied upon their mechanics for their information. Twenty-two percent said their primary source was their owners manual.

Eight out of ten correctly answered all questions related to mechanical knowledge of the car.

Women appear to be more conscientious about regular car maintenance than men, and they reflect more concern for automobile safety, according to Dr. Harold L. Henderson, Intext's Principal Investigator on the study.

"While female respondents reported having their cars checked more frequently,

they did not rely on their own knowledge for these checks or for decisions on car maintenance. Their main source of expertise was service station and garage mechanics.

"If the general public could be successfully educated," he concludes, "then we could expect a considerable reduction in defect-related accidents among owners who, at present, lack adequate knowledge."

CAR PICTURES

If a photo is to be taken from a car, it is always best to shoot from a stopped vehicle. If impossible to stop, it is best to shoot through the front window. If you shoot out of the side window, the foreground of the scene will be blurry. Hold the camera as steady as possible (a rule in all situations) without bracing it against the car, as the vibrations will blur the picture.

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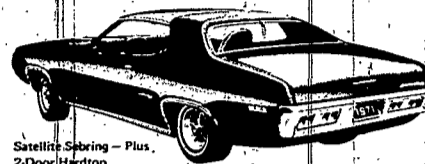
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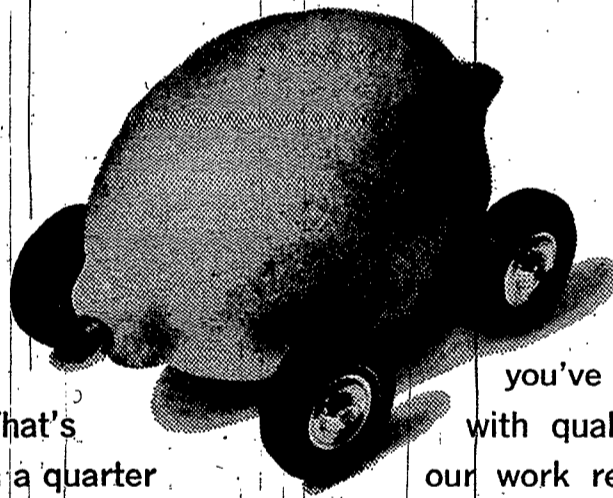
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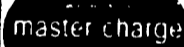
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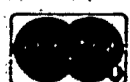
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